

News from St. Lawrence District Congregations, January, 2008

Members and friends of the **First Unitarian Society of Schenectady** have been invited to add stories and notes about milestones, events, joys and sorrows to the timeline posted in the Great Hall during January and February. Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer, religious education consultant, will reflect on the congregation's living history project in a service at the end of February.

The **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs** is holding a series of four seminars in January and February on sources of conflict, conflict avoidance, and conflict resolution techniques. The series was prompted by the Board's adoption of a conflict resolution procedure and a Covenant of Community.

The fourth annual Spiritual Arts Fair is planned for the **Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta** in April. The fair will feature workshops on topics such as guided meditation, Reiki, and flower essences, along with vendors of related products and lunch made by church members.

The **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua** sponsors a Cooperative Dining Group whose members share a meal each week of an eight-week cycle. Members reduce their energy use while they enjoy the company of others in the congregation.

Members of the **Hornell-Alfred Unitarian Universalist Society** hold silent peace vigils before and after their Sunday meetings in Hornell.

The **Chautauqua Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** is raising funds for a UU House on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, where the fellowship offers a full program each summer. The house would offer rooms to Chautauqua visitors and house other activities during the summer season.

The **Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua** and the **First Unitarian Society of Schenectady** have been accepted as candidates for Green Sanctuary accreditation by the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth.

The **Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo's** Green Sanctuary program sponsored a small appliance exchange during January, with congregation members bringing in used but usable items for the first three Sundays and choosing needed appliances at the end of the month.

At the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst**, Eagle Scout candidates installed several birdhouses in the memorial pet garden and built a fence around the area.

The **First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany** is holding a series of conversations – at church and over dessert in members' homes - where members can reflect on our UU Principles and Purposes. Results of the conversations will be forwarded to the UUA Commission on Appraisal, which is conducting a review of the Principles.

This column is compiled from congregation newsletters and the reports of District Board cluster liaisons. Items for future columns may be sent to easprooth@rochester.rr.com.