



## January 2009

Volume 54, No. 1

# News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

## From the Minister . . .

**JANUARY RECEIVED ITS NAME** from the Roman god Janus. He is the god of gates and doors, beginnings and endings. He is often depicted with two faces, one looking back to the past and one looking ahead to the future.



This image reflects our own behavior at this time of year. TV programs, newspapers and blogs are filled with the best and worst of 2008 in terms of dress, song, incidents and so forth. No doubt each of us may also be compiling our individual lists of what we'd like to see continue in 2009, and what we would be happier leaving behind.

As you move down your lists, I would like to suggest you include evaluating the following three questions.

1. *How is the vitality of your spirit?*
2. *How is the health of your connection with the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship?*
3. *What steps would renew your spirit and deepen your connection with us?*

I am also very interested in hearing your answers, if you would like a dialogue partner on these matters. If so, please call Nicole Luland, our Ministry Assistant, at 973-540-1177, and she will set it up.

When I meet with new members, we speak about what makes them want to connect with a congregation in the first place, and how they can sustain and enhance that relationship. People's responses are always varied. They may be seeking spiritually engaging worship, or religious education that opens the mind and expands the heart, or a group of friends with similar values and interests, or partners with whom to enact deeds of justice, love and compassion.

It is wise to think about these concerns when you join the Fellowship, and I would suggest they also deserve an annual review. What is it that you are seeking from your congregational involvement this year? How will you make time for these worthwhile needs?

A conversation on the topic of enhancing connections with the Fellowship with one of our longtime members, the Reverend Allen Wells, has led to an exciting

development. The Board of Trustees, Allen and I have come to a mutual agreement. Beginning in January, Allen will serve as an "Affiliated Minister" of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. UU Congregations around the country are developing similar relationships with community ministers working in varied settings, including hospitals, counseling centers, nonprofits and prisons.

This is a volunteer role, not a staff position, which recognizes Allen's prior professional experience in congregations and his current experience in the community. We hope this role will offer Allen and all of us in the congregation an opportunity to deepen our ministries together. He will be able to represent us at agreed-upon community initiatives and will play a supportive role in areas such as pastoral care and teaching. Those of you who are well acquainted with him are aware he does some of this already. Please join me and the Board in a special ritual of covenanting with him at our services on January 18. And you may read more about him on page 4.

In fellowship,

*Alison's office hours are Tuesday-Friday by appointment.*

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### Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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Director of Religious Education: Karen Brown

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Religious Education Classes: 9 a.m.

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Wednesday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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### *Mission and Covenant Statement*

**WE**, the members of the **Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives.

This is our pledge:

- To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal.
- To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence.
- To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian-Universalist movement.
- To work for social justice and the well-being of our planet Earth.

**Please E-Mail All NEWSLETTER Articles**  
**—both print and online versions—**

to editor **PAT BAXTER** at  
**melodylingers@verizon.net**

by the 15th of the month  
preceding the one in which they will appear.

Thank you!

### *Deeds Well Done*

The Fellowship board recognizes and thanks the following members and friends for their work at MUF and in the community:

**Bob Campbell** for coordinating MUF volunteers and leading another successful MUF co-hosting week for the homeless families at Interfaith Hospitality Network at Redeemer Church. Five families received our love and support.

**Judy O’Neill Goldberg** for effectively (and oh so quietly) coordinating MUF once-a-month Saturday night dinner services for all residents of Homeless Solutions.

**Nina & Ken Nemeth** for (oh so quietly) providing dinner for all the residents of Homeless Solutions once a month on their own, and for doing their traditional Christmas Day Brunch for them, too.

Special thanks to **Joe Uhrhane** for his creativity and fine workmanship in building a new MUF name tag holder

Heartfelt thanks to **George Aronson** for his diligent compilation of archive photos and his day-of-event photography expertise for Alison and David’s wedding reception on October 19.

**Donna Becker** for her workshop on Discipline and her consultation(s) for Sunday RE teachers.

**Elizabeth Bain, Kathy Burgess, Alison Miller, Garry Hodgson, Karen Burns-Rutigliano, Maggie Chilton, Ryszard Gliniak, Nicole Luland and Dr. Jim Blanton** for planning and being a part of the MUF Holiday celebration.

**Elizabeth Bain and Kathy Burgess** for decorating the Fellowship for the holidays.

**Gabor Kiss, Homer Hansen, Lilly Keating and Carol Todd** for organizing all of the crafts for the holiday party.

**Allen Wells and Geri Silk** for organizing Caroling for the Holiday Party.

**Karen Burns** for making seasonal centerpieces for the dining room.

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### **Upcoming Board and Network Meetings**

Meetings are at 7 p.m. and open to all Fellowship members. This month’s meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees January 14

Administrative/Program Networks January 21

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the most recent meetings have been approved and are posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website. (Go to the Members Area and scroll down to the “Board of Trustees”; or from the homepage, click on “Congregational Leaders” and then scroll down to the Board and click on “Board Meeting Minutes.”)

***Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!***

## The President's Corner

For me, New Year's is a time of renewed hope and new beginnings. I have been blessed with finding this incredible place that has positively changed my life. My hope is that others can also experience the positive feeling of community. Since New Year's is also a time for resolutions, here are some ideas that my family came up with to strengthen our MUF community.

Renew an old friendship.

Let go of your negative feelings and remember the joy and the power of your experiences and your extended family at MUF.

Feed your soul. At the same time, feed your stomach. Coffee hour is a great time to strengthen relationships.

Invite a newcomer to join you for a cup of coffee after the service.

Share positive experiences you had at the Fellowship with others.

Remember that you're never alone.

Learn the name of someone you've been seeing at the Fellowship for a while, but whose name you don't know.

Give brownies to a visiting alumnus (contributed by my recent Youth Group graduate).

Join a covenant circle to build new friendships.  
Participate in an adult RE class to meet new people and new ideas.

Host a potluck with five of your MUF friends, to which each of you invites someone to attend that others may not know as well.

Volunteer for a committee, social justice cause or event that you would not normally be involved with.

Give your committee work the day off on Sunday mornings. Talk about family, friends or your thoughts about the service instead. Give others that day off, as well.

Mentor a Coming of Age participant.

Give someone the gift of truly listening to them.

There are so many ways to build a community and this is but a small sampling of ideas. The important part is to strengthen our relationships and help us to joyously receive the gift of community.

What are your ideas?

In hope and new beginnings,

Mary

Mary Hodgson, President

## Our Financial Health

(Figures may not add up exactly due to rounding and/or truncation.)

	Nov 08	year-to-date	Annual Budget
Pledge Income	\$32,896.17	\$174,344.32	\$412,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$52,578.39	\$215,735.66	\$543,300.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$42,435.26	\$194,388.63	\$536,129.00
Difference	\$10,143.13	\$ 21,347.03	\$ 7,171.00

-- We are tracking well against the annual budget in terms of both revenue and expenses.  
-- The "Closing the Gap" campaign, in which we asked for \$100 in additional contributions per member, has raised about \$16,000 per date, putting us more than halfway toward a balanced budget for 2008-2009. If you haven't done so, please pledge what you can.

Tony Rutigliano, Treasurer

## Faith Developments

**EVERY YEAR** around this time I think about days gone by. Time really does fly. There was a time in my life when I itemized all that I wanted to accomplish for the New Year – the proverbial New Year’s Resolution list. On that list were my hopes to lose weight, exercise more, develop a spiritual practice, get up earlier, study more..... You get the picture.



For a child, writing out the resolutions might just be the first steps in developing a religious sense of growing personally, spiritually and emotionally. A first attempt at journaling? I posted the resolutions on my bulletin board as a child. As a young mother, I posted my resolutions on the refrigerator along with my children’s school pictures and crafts.

Throughout each year it occurred to me that I never lived up to my New Year’s Resolutions. And it became a source of failure. I liked the idea of writing my resolutions down, but I had no way of incorporating them into my life. I lacked the discipline necessary to accomplish what I had written. They had become fixed in stone. Year after year I repeated the same ritual of writing down my resolutions. And year

after year I met with the same feeling of failure. And then I stopped writing them down entirely.

It was at a Wisdom Circle Retreat many years ago that I discovered a different way to set my intentions for the year. Instead of writing the things we wanted to accomplish, we wrote down the things we wanted to let go of. A small epiphany had occurred. “This is much easier to accomplish,” I thought to myself. We tied our “letting go” writings onto sticks and sent them floating down the White River as part of a letting-go ritual. It was lovely. We watched them go down the winding river in the presence of all that beauty.

There is something else I discovered over the years in the process of growing in spirit. I didn’t need to wait until the New Year to set new intentions, to become more forgiving, to express gratitude, to find balance in my life, and to strive toward living in the present. I discovered that I need time everyday to journal, meditate, read something inspiring, light a candle, pray and, yes, exercise – just a little bit each day. My dog thanks me for the exercise part of my ritual!

May your New Year be set in the best of intentions, and may you and your family find personal time for developing rituals that will deepen your days throughout the year.

Karen

### The Rev. Allen Wells, Our Affiliated Minister

Allen was born of Irish/English parents in Charlottesville, Va., under the shadow of Monticello. His great, great-grandfather was a friend of Thomas Jefferson. But Allen didn’t find out that Jefferson was a Unitarian until after he had converted from Presbyterianism to UUism, during his college years.

Allen first served as minister of UU congregations in Weymouth, Mass., Hollis, Queens, and at The First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn. Later he served as Director of Religious Education for the UU Congregation of Monmouth County and at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship ca. 1978-82 .

In 1987 he opened the Allen Wells Center for Psychotherapy and Healing, a holistic mind/body spirit counseling center, in Morristown, which he directed for 12 years. Two years ago, he completed a four-year term as Consultant Minister of The First Unitarian Society of Rockland County, N.Y.

He holds a graduate degree in counseling from the University of Chicago, and a postgraduate degree in counseling from the Institute of Religion and Health in N.Y.C. Formerly a therapist of the DiMele Center for Counseling and Psychotherapy in mid-Manhattan, he is currently training in an intensive year-long Integrated Study Practice Program at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies in Barre, Mass.

As a UU Buddhist psychotherapist, he specializes in the new field of Contemplative Psychotherapy.

Allen’s lifelong interest has been in bridging the internal, personal, psychological world, which we commonly call spiritual, and the external political, social, economic, environmental world, which we usually consider material. Allen finds himself at home on the picket line or on his zafu, teaching meditation. He acknowledges that he hasn’t written any books, because he says, he would rather spend the time ballroom dancing.

## *The Banners Come, the Banners Go - It's Up to You*

Many months ago Karen Burns and I hung two banners in the Terrace Room and one on the stair landing. At the end of the "Hanging of the Greens" party Toby and I took down the banners in the Terrace Room and hung four holiday ones. All of these banners are meant to be temporary/seasonal in the places they are now. My wish is that people will feel free to move the banners, replace them, or use them in the Meeting Room for Sunday services. The Folk Project is happy to leave our banners hanging during their concerts; the frame banners leave enough space for the F.P. banner to also be displayed.

So if you have any thoughts about what you would like to see displayed, or if you would like to design and/or make more banners, please let me or Donna Becker know your ideas for helping to make sure our spiritual home is easily identified as a Unitarian Universalist congregation.

*Annette Tyler*

### *Wheel of Life David Morris, Adrian Meyer*

A memorial service is planned at MUF for Saturday, February 14, at 11 a.m., for longtime Fellowship member David C. Morris, who died December 8. Our thoughts go out to his family and to his friends at GAAMC.

Rev. Alison Miller officiated at the memorial service of Adrian Meyer, who died on December 19. Adrian and his wife Doris signed the membership book almost 50 years ago; they had been married for 59 years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Doris and her family.

## *Senior High Youth Group Sponsors Two Special Events*

**January 17** – (Time to be announced.) Its second annual Dinner and a Movie night at MUF, with dinner prepared by the youth group (under the guidance of Ken Nemeth!). We'll have two movies – one for the "kids" and one for more grown-up tastes (movie choices not yet decided). Tickets will be on sale on Sundays starting in January.

**February 14** – Mad Agnes returns to MUF for a special Habitat for Humanity/Valentine's night fundraiser concert. Tickets will be on sale at the Box Office in January.

**Mark Your Calendar**  
MAD AGNES IS COMING TO MUF ON VALENTINE'S EVENING.  
Benefit Concert for MUF Habitat for Humanity Build  
Includes "Intermission Dessert Café" in Admission Price!

WHEN	TICKETS
Saturday February 14 2009	\$20 in advance, \$25 at door.
Start time - 8:00 pm	Tickets available at the
Doors open 7:30 pm	MUF Box Office or via
	karenburns@casassex.org

This trio brims with experience and sophisticated musical gifts...funny showmanship and the most agile, rambunctious harmonies.

### *New Members*

Please welcome **Keara and Eben Gordon, Elaine Boucher and Mindy Schmitt, and Denise and Ian Murphy**, who deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in December.

## *Upcoming Events*

### ***Blackwell Street Artists Holiday Exhibit*** ***Now through January 17***

MUF friend Annette Hanna's work is included in this exhibit at the Morris County Art Association, 10 Catherine Lane, Morristown, until January 17. It is also open during First Night. The Association's hours are 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on weekdays except Wednesday, and during class hours starting January 12.

Hanna will also be showing work at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park from January 5-April 20, and is included in the Portrait Society of America exhibit in Bernardsville, at the Bernardsville Library from January 3-31.

### ***First Monday Book Group*** ***Monday, January 5, 7 p.m.***

We will be discussing *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards. Next month we will read *The Devil in the White City*, by Erik Larson; our March book will be *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak, and in April our selection is *Soul Catcher*, by Michael C. White. The books are subject to change according to the wishes of the group.

I hope you will make it your New Year's resolution not to miss this month's meeting. New members and visitors are always welcome. Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at [nlmclure@msn.com](mailto:nlmclure@msn.com).

### ***Crafts Group at MUF***

#### ***Friday, January 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m.***

Do you need an artistically painted chalice to brighten up your home? Or perhaps an originally designed flower pot? Come join us and paint your own terracotta flower pot to be used as either. Feel free to bring some snacks to share. Please register by contacting Donna Becker at [writeme79@juno.com](mailto:writeme79@juno.com) so that there will be enough materials for you. There will be small charge to cover the cost of materials.

### ***Home of the Brave Film***

#### ***Sunday, January 18, 1:15 p.m.***

Documentary on the only white woman murdered in the civil rights movement. Guest speaker Larry Hamm; post-film refreshments and conversation. Info from Seeds of Peace.



### ***New Dinners for 8 Forming***

If you're looking for an interesting, fun dinner group, sign up for Dinners for 8. Two more people are needed to set up a third group. If you are interested, please contact Judy Oehler at [judithoehler@verizon.net](mailto:judithoehler@verizon.net), or Kathy Burgess at [kathyb.41@verizon.net](mailto:kathyb.41@verizon.net). The deadline to sign up for this third group is **Sunday, January 18**. After this date, no additional groups will be formed.

### ***Personal Finance Course Offered***

Are you writing your New Year's Resolutions yet? Is one of them about personal Finance? MUF can help!

The Finance and Adult RE Committees are sponsoring a new program, Financial Peace University. FPU is a life-changing program that teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money. You'll be empowered with the practical skills and confidence needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace! This program has 13 lessons that include how to save money, live on a budget, eliminate debt, find bargains and experience the joy of giving.

FPU is a program developed by Dave Ramsey, a noted financial guru and a dynamic speaker who has a daily radio program and a weekly TV show. For additional information on FPU, go to [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com).

Free half-hour previews on Sundays, January 4 and 11, 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., and Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 p.m.

Dates: Thursdays at 7 p.m., beginning January 15, 13 sessions

Materials cost: \$100 per household (couples encouraged to attend together)

Contact: George Hays, [george.hays@verizon.net](mailto:george.hays@verizon.net)

Deadline to register: Monday, January 12 (signup with the MUF office, materials fee due with registration)

Minimum: 8 households, Maximum: 12 households

***Give, Host, Bid, Buy: The Annual MUF Service Auction 2009***  
***Saturday, January 24; Sundays, January 25 and February 1***

**There are 3 ways you can be involved** in our highly anticipated, always popular ***Annual MUF Service Auction***, one of the strongest community-building efforts we experience together:

**Provide a service:** Can you cook a dinner for a group, lead a tour, teach others how to bake pies or play chess? Tell us. When will you conduct this activity? How many people are you willing to do it for? What is your suggestion about a minimum price? Be creative, and be a part of the action.

**Come to the Service Auction Kickoff Dinner on Saturday, January 24**— music, food, drink and live Auctioneer (Tony Rutigliano in “encore” gig)! Enjoy dinner 6:30-9ish, with wine bar, light hors d’oeuvres, salad, lasagna (meat & vegetarian), and gourmet vegetarian chili with cornbread, tempting desserts/coffee (lovingly prepared by Service Auction Committee members). This is your chance to bid on choosing the topic for one of Alison’s services, and other highly sought-after prize items/services. The Live Auction is full of adrenaline...and you can be caught up in the evening’s fun.

**Be generous and “buy” lots of donated services/fun** from MUF members during the auction evening and in the Terrace Room Bidding Gallery between and after Sunday services on January 25 and February 1.

By now you should have received a letter to your home, and you will receive a call from the MUF Fund Raising Committee asking what exciting item or service you are generously offering for all of us!

Don’t forget you can also arrange for gift certificates from your favorite nail salon, hairdresser, restaurant, movie theater, playhouse, gift store, etc. You’d be surprised how willing many are to donate. So put on your thinking caps and make that deal. It’s all for a good cause—the Fellowship!  
 The exciting “Service Auction Catalogue” deadline is January 14. Be in it!!

**For more information, to donate an item or service, or just to help out with the auction itself, contact:** Kathy Burgess at [kathyb.41@verizon.net](mailto:kathyb.41@verizon.net). Tickets for the Dinner are \$13 in advance at the Box Office and \$20 at the door.

***Visiting Stewards Needed***

Last year we re-introduced the Visiting Steward Program. It is a great way to get to know other Fellowship members while helping with the Annual Budget Drive. During the Drive we were able to meet with over 60 members. This year we would like to double that number. We have gotten positive feedback from the Visiting Stewards and the visited members. We will not send you out cold; there will be a training session this winter. Please contact Franklin Heller, Beat Barblan or the MUF office if you would like to participate.

## *Social Justice Council - January 2009 Update*

### *Helping Neighbors in Need*



#### ***Introducing ... "Pathways to Work" Interfaith and Multicultural Initiative***

**Morristown's Community Center for Casual Laborers**

***Sunday, January 18- 12:15 pm***

**Panel Moderated by Rev. Alison Miller, Chair , Morristown Clergy Council**

**Panel: David Walker, Exec. Dir., Morristown Neighborhood House; Rosa Chilquillo, Community Organizer (PTW) ; Stuart Sendell, MUF, Community Foundation; Caryn Maxim, Grupo Cajola**

Come learn about the start-up of a workers' center – a program of the Morristown Clergy Council and Morristown community partners which will help immigrants and citizens in our area connect with temporary employment. Based on models across America, this collaborative, community-sponsored center will match up day-labor needs of businesses and residents with a group of workers who have been registered with Pathways to Work ... and who earnestly need work. Both skilled and unskilled laborers will be available. Join us to find out more about this important effort, which has involved Fellowship Members Karen Burns, Cecilia Cosca, Jim Deak, Susan Oxman and Stu Sendell, as well as Alison Miller. Light brunch fare will be offered.

***Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 19 –Annual MLK Community Breakfast Tickets –Headquarters Hotel - 8 a.m. - Advance Tickets \$ 15 - Sign up list also at Box Office.***

***Social Justice Council Meeting – Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., MUF Dining Room- Special Guest: Toby Tyler, MUF representative to NJ UU Legislative Network. Also, Quarterly MUF Collection Allocation meeting. All MUF members are welcome to join us in putting UU values to work in Morristown area and beyond through supporting our MUF Social Action groups and in special initiatives. Just show up to learn more. Contact: Christine Reynolds: reynolds@nac.net or Karen Burns: karenburns@casaessex.org.***

#### ***Thank You for Successful Third Annual MUF Holiday Fair- Gifts of Conscience!***

***\$22,652(!!!) was raised for local charities and fair trade artisans by MUF members and friends. This is 1% more than last year, in a time of serious economic contraction – This is a phenomenal outpouring! So many of your friends and relatives will have received these special holiday gifts this year...and so many of our poorest brothers and sisters here and around the globe will be the beneficiaries of your thoughtfulness. Thank you to all our Fair patrons and helpers including: Kathy Burgess, Susan Oxman, Christine Reynolds, Anne Gaynor, Sharon Glickman, Ken and Nina Nemeth, Judy Oehler, Jackie Mulcey, Dan Byrd, Judy Hahn, Miriam Congdon, Diane Koslow, Eljborg Berkencamp, Elizabeth Bain, Carol Todd, Susan Spencer, Stuart Sydenstricker, Diana Mejia, Pat De La Fuente, Tony Rutigliano, Donna Becker, Jim Burchell, Paul Snellgrove, Miriam Pogash. Of course, profound thanks for Social Action Table Coordinators – Michelle Kunz, Debbie Rice, Jo Sippie Gora, Linda DeLap, Caryn Maxim, Kathy Murphy, Gloria Jackson and all the Jr. High and Sr. High kids and parents, all!***

<b>MUF Holiday Fair 2008</b>			
<b>10,000 Villages</b>	<b>\$ 8,924</b>	<b>Heifer Project</b>	<b>\$ 3,580</b>
<b>Children on Rez</b>	<b>\$ 510</b>	<b>Green Earth Min</b>	<b>\$ 468</b>
<b>Eric Johnson House</b>	<b>\$ 800</b>	<b>Wind of Spirit</b>	<b>\$ 1,165</b>
<b>Grupo Cajola Coop.</b>	<b>\$ 982</b>	<b>ICHF Hospitality</b>	<b>\$ 620</b>
<b>Soup Kitchen</b>	<b>\$ 945</b>	<b>Prison Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 678</b>
<b>Habitat/Sr.High MUF</b>	<b>\$ 1,642</b>	<b>Peaceworks</b>	<b>\$ 1,291</b>
<b>Seeds of Peace</b>	<b>\$ 1,048</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 22,652</b>

*(continued on next page)*

## *Social Justice Council (continued)*

### *Upcoming Dates:*

***Eric Johnson House – MUF Monthly Dinner Teams*** – Next Hostings: Wednesdays, January 7 & 28 – (5:45-7 p.m.) Join other MUF members/friends in hosting family-style dinner for 10-14 current residents – plus aftercare alumni of AIDS/HIV restorative home. Join in conversation/hosting/or helping prepare part of the meal to share. To help, contact *sespencer@optonline.net*.

***Morristown Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting: Tuesday, January 13*** - Thanks to MUF members for cooking wonderful soups and casseroles. The lines are long, the people hungry and the weather cold. To help, contact: Michelle Kunz at *mbkunz@gmail.com*.

***Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner – Saturday, January 10 – 4:45-7 p.m.*** – If you are an adult, or a family with Jr. High or older children that you can accompany, help prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents. Contact: *judyoneil@optonline.net*.

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### *Yes We Can – Lighten Our Energy Footprint!*

Thanks to the efforts of MUF's staff, the Beautification and Preservation Committee (B&PC), and Green Earth Ministry (GEM), approximately 20 broken window panes have been repaired, making our spiritual home better looking and more energy efficient. Your own household can lighten its energy footprint. To get started, try to locate your electricity and natural gas bills and a record of gallons of fuel oil purchased (if any), plus miles driven and miles per gallon for 2008. Look for more information on the Energy Champion program, coming soon from GEM.

This item is a compilation of a lot of good ideas from several people on our committee.

*Linda DeLap*

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### *Successful Cleanup Day*

Thanks to Bruce Daggy, Linda DeLap, Steve Gruber, Steve Rice, Matt Rath, Lauralee Arnold, Ida Picker and Wendy Landau for coming out on December 6 for the second cleanup day. Steve and Matt did some exterior work, but we mainly focused on cleaning the interior – baseboards, rugs and carpets, and glass; and polishing wood surfaces. For those who missed out – we'll be at it again in February!

*Beautification and Preservation Committee*

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### *Endowment Fund Takes More Conservative Tactic*

A priority topic at this quarter's meeting of the Endowment Committee on December 18 was to review the Endowment Fund's investments during this period of financial uncertainty and ensure both proper, prudent management of its assets and preservation of its principal – the base funds that generous donors have contributed over the past few years.

Toward these objectives, we recently adjusted the Fund's investments to reflect a more conservative investment strategy – to an allocation of 67% fixed income (bonds), 32% equities (stocks) and 1% other from 31% bonds, 52% stocks and 17% other. This shift is expected to continue the preservation of principal while retaining some exposure to growth opportunities that stocks can provide and retaining our commitment to socially responsible investing.

*We appreciate your continued support of the MUF Endowment --- building a foundation of financial security for oUUr future.*

*The Endowment Committee*



# Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

To assure the privacy of our members and friends, we have removed all other “Joys and Concerns” and personal telephone numbers from the online newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter in the Members Only section of our website includes the complete information.

## *Tell Us Your Joys & Concerns*

*Be sure to send your Joys and Concerns to [melodylingers@verizon.net](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net) so they will reach all members of the Fellowship.*

*Contributions to the Endowment Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, or the Celebration of Life Fund are special ways of honoring family and friends. Your gifts will be acknowledged and appreciated.*



## Upcoming Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Details
NOW through January 17	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Blackwell Street Artists Holiday Exhibit	p. 6
Monday, January 5	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Saturday, January 10	7:30 p.m.	<i>Home of the Brave</i> film	p. 6 
Thursday, January 15	7:00 p.m.	Personal Finance Course, 13 sessions (Three free previews January 4, 6 & 11)	p. 6
Friday, January 16	7:30-9:30 p.m.	Crafts Group	p. 6
Saturday, January 17		Youth Group Dinner and a Movie	p. 5
Sunday, January 18	12:15-1:00 p.m.	"Pathways to Work"	p. 8
Saturday, January 24 Sundays, January 25 & February 1	6:30-9:00p.m. 10a.m.-1 p.m.	Annual Service Auction	p. 7
Sunday, February 1 Monday, February 2	12:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Transylvanian Photo Exhibit	<a href="mailto:gabor@gaborkiss.com">gabor@gaborkiss.com</a>

### *Camp Unirondack Comes to Jersey* Sunday, January 25

Camp Co-Director Dan Gottfried and prior attendees of Camp Unirondack - a UU Summer Camp in Lowville, NY - will visit New Jersey to talk about the camp and answer any questions you may have. Refreshments will be available. The first visit will be at the Unitarian Society in Plainfield with breakfast at 8 a.m. and the session at 8:45 a.m. The second visit will be at the Unitarian Church in Summit at 12:15 p.m.

For more information, contact Marty Rothfelder at [mrothfelder@rothfelderstern.com](mailto:mrothfelder@rothfelderstern.com) or 908-301-9215. Information on the camp is available on the web at [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org) and by contacting the co-directors at [director@unirondack.org](mailto:director@unirondack.org).

### *Visiting our Neighbor's Mansions: Part II* *Macculloch Hall and the Thomas Nast Collection* Sunday, January 25, 1:30-3 p.m.

**Snow date: Sunday, February 1**

Macculloch Hall, built from 1810-1819, was home to George Macculloch, father of the Morris Canal, and five generations of his descendants. Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was a genius political cartoonist and a leader in shaping public opinion during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. He created the images of the Democratic donkey, the Republican elephant, Tammany Tiger, Uncle Sam, and today's image of Santa Claus. Macculloch Hall's collection of Nast's drawings, prints, photographs, letters and unpublished illustrations is unequalled in the United States.

This gem of a museum is brilliantly maintained and exemplary of restoration mixing with contemporary usage of a historical building. The tour will be professionally led, and geared to our particular needs and interests.

**RSVP a must:** Geri Silk at [gerisilk@yahoo.com](mailto:gerisilk@yahoo.com)

\$6 entrance fee, children under 12 free.

Ten minutes from MUF. Carpooling is an option.

**The Transylvanian Photo Exhibit**, originally scheduled for December 21-22, has been rescheduled for February 1-2, at the hours shown above.

**Morristown  
Unitarian Fellowship**  
21 Normandy Heights Road  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611

If you no longer wish to receive this mailed Newsletter, e-mail [admin@muuf.org](mailto:admin@muuf.org) your name and address and a request to "Stop the mailed Newsletter."

**TO ASSURE PRIVACY** of our members and friends, all "Joys and Concerns," personal telephone numbers and home addresses are removed from this *public* online newsletter. The Members Only copy includes the full information.



## January 2009

Volume 54, No. 1



Dated Material – Mailed December 31, 2008  
Deadline for the FEBRUARY issue is

**JANUARY 15**

### Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m. unless specified



*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**January 4      Peaceful Resolutions**

**January 11      Biology of the Spirit**

Is human spirituality the result of brain architecture that evolved during early human history, or was it a neurological accident? We examine recent discoveries in evolutionary biology which may suggest that the separation of science and religion – the convention for most of the 20th century – was a false one. Special visuals and music complement the service.

*Presented by George Aronson*

**January 18      A Day On, Not a Day Off**

Remember, Celebrate, Act! Members and friends of all ages are invited to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by responding to the call to serve in our own time.

*Rev. Alison B. Miller and Karen Brown*

**January 25      It's Not About You (or Me)**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

## *SCAN Cabaret to Benefit Central America* Saturday, January 31, 7:30 p.m.

The Service Committee Action Network's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Concert for Humanitarian Aid for Central America comes to MUF on Saturday evening, January 31. The evening is packed with great music and storytelling entertainment, including singer *Jean Rohe*, the indie music band *Matt Kanelos and The Smooth Maria*, the jazz band *Tyler, Schmidt and Spirig* and storyteller *Martin Dockery*.

Jean Rohe, who grew up in New Jersey singing folk music with her family, is welcomed back as an exciting soloist singing jazz and blues. A graduate of the New School Jazz program and its undergrad liberal arts division, Eugene Lang College, Jean has sung in venues throughout New York City, including the Birdland, Sweet Rhythm, the Cornelia Street Café, Detour, Barbés, and others, as well as venues on the west coast, in Canada, Cuba, and Brazil. In 2006 she won 2nd place as well as the audience choice award in the Shure Vocal Competition at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

Matt Kanelos & The Smooth Maria have recently emerged as an exciting and distinct voice in New York City's indie music scene. Kanelos' songs and singing (intimate in a way calling to mind Neil Young and Will Oldham) are the guiding force for a band with an uncommonly wide musical and emotional palate. With disarming grace, The Smooth Maria carries audiences through abstract yet vivid lyrical and musical landscapes. They perform regularly at acclaimed New York music venues like the Living Room, the Rockwood Music Hall, and Barbès. Matt released his first EP, *Children Love to Dance*, in 2005. He and the band (Joe Adamik of Califone, Ben Gallina, and Kyle Sanna) are currently working on their first full-length CD due for release in early 2009.

Tyler, Schmidt and Spirig is a trio composed of Josh Tyler, a singer/ songwriter/ guitarist and drummer; Robin Schmidt, guitarist; and Bernhard Spirig, bassist/ trumpeter. They play an assortment of standards and original compositions of high energy jazz, blues and funk.

Martin Dockery has recently completed a run of his extemporaneous monologue *Wanderlust* at the

Barrow Group in New York. He is a frequent performer in New York City's storytelling scene, appearing on the stages of *Speakeasy*, *Talkingstick*, *Mouthpiece*, *The Liar Show*, and is a seven-time finalist in *The Moth's* bi-annual *Grandslam Storytelling Championship*.

The Fellowship's Music Director, the inimitable Jim Blanton, will host the evening's entertainment.

While the Fellowship is transformed into a festive



cabaret, Jim Burchell, the quietly passionate Director of PeaceWorks, will just have returned from Nicaragua and will be on hand to relay the urgency and seriousness of the help needed. PeaceWorks, one of the organizations supported

by the concert, is a New Jersey-based nonprofit organization that collects and ships humanitarian aid to Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. Its most crucial work raises funds for groups in Nicaragua that work directly with street children in the city of Managua. PeaceWorks also supports efforts to reforest areas devastated by logging, protect declining watersheds, empower women through literacy and promote food security.

The annual concert, sponsored by the Fellowship's Social Committee Action Network (SCAN), also supports Doctors in Volunteer Service in Nicaragua, Peaceworks, Amnesty International and other nonprofit organizations.

The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. and the entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages are included (BYOB), and a 50/50 raffle will also support the cause. Tickets are \$20 in advance for unreserved seating, \$25 if purchased after January 25, and \$30 for reserved Patron seats. Tickets for the concert and the raffle can be purchased by contacting Michelle Kunz at [mbkunz@gmail.com](mailto:mbkunz@gmail.com).