



MAGNET

Alexander's Meander

Happy 07'!

Gosh, I can't believe I am saying that! I feel like a time traveler; like only yesterday I was 13 years old and merely hopped into a machine that sped me forward a few of decades so I could see what my future would be like when I turned 43. Alas, I truly am 43. All in all that's a good thing! I wouldn't trade my experiences and the wisdom I've gained from them – even to be 13 again. Indeed, I look forward to who I will be when I turn 73 (he says, knocking on wood)! So, wherever you are in life, be grateful for who you are and resolve this New Year to take the who-you-will-become in the future more consciously into your own hands.

But this is not the point of this meander – only a stream of conscious (something into which we should all dip from time to time). The point of this meander is to introduce you to Small Group Ministry (SGM).

SGM is a program being introduced through the Membership Committee and will begin this Feb. It is designed for members of the congregation to have the opportunity to minister to, and to be ministered unto by, one another. I would like to encourage you all to consider joining a SGM. It basically runs as follows...

SGMs are co lead (we already have three teams in place). They are limited to ten people and meet once per month for a year and a half. Groups are assigned by the minister (for reasons to lengthy to explain here). The intent is to provide ministry to one another (*not* therapy and *not* social gathering). Thus, each meeting deals with a single theme upon which all members of the group reflect and share – to help facilitate the *ministry* emphasis of the

group. There is very little ritual and a fair amount of getting to know one another in user friendly, nonthreatening exercises such as reflection, reading, and voluntary personal sharing.

SGMs have been VERY popular in other churches, and especially in program size churches, as they provide additional pastoral elements that the minister alone hasn't the time to provide. They also do a great job at giving people confidence that each person has a gift to share, and, they also help newer people become more acclimated more quickly.

There is more to be said, so please be watching the Order of Service and listening to Sunday morning announcements to get more information. You may also speak with any of the following people in the meantime: Lisa Hayhow, Karen Maidment, Leslie Travis, Joni Tedesco, Alison Beland, and Helen Head.

Sign up sheets will be available in Adams Hall in the second and third week of January, or, you can email me at alexriegel@post.harvard.edu if you want to be sure to get in –there is only room for 30 people at this point (first come first serve).

Namaste, and Happy New Year!

Alex





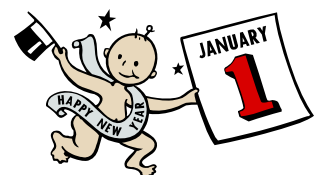
From the Director of Religious Education

Happy New Year! Part of my resolution this year is to fill as many buckets as possible, as I travel about my day. I don't know about you, but I've had my bucket filled many times here at church, thank you all.

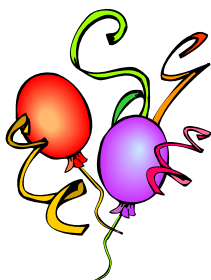
This year UUCF also did a grand job of filling the buckets of many others around Michigan and the World! The Chocolate Fountain Middle School fundraiser you supported last month raised \$100.00, which went to soldier's families in Alaska who were waiting for their soldier's return. Many of you have helped decorate our mitten tree, with hats, scarves and mittens; these will be taken over to Neighborhood House- so we can all eagerly await the snow together! Speaking of donations... our congregation really came through for the women and children of Women Arise! We had a fantastic party with about 100 guests! We raised enough money so that all 40 women were given a \$20.00 Target gift card. Our children and youth recycled enough of their toys so that every child left with something new! One of the highlights for me were the elves, Daniel and Kyle, who helped Santa distribute gifts to all the children! Ask them, or one of the other participating families for personal stories about how much joy we shared with these often forgotten families. Hopefully many of you have also been participating in Guest at Your Table at home, these collections are due on January 7th. (Below find some ideas to expand on this social justice project at home.) The most important thing to remember is that with all our generosity, the most important gifts we gave were love, respect and dignity.

Along with these gifts, I've learned UUCF youth have a lot of other qualities to share. If you made it to either of the services on Christmas Eve, you'd have recognized these- talent, public speaking, patience, thoughtfulness, drama and creativity! Christmas Eve Morning four high school youth told us the story of the Christmas Truce of WWI, as well as an opportunity to share the story, it was a great moment of learning and reflection for them. More learning and reflecting also happened that evening. With no intent of following the pattern of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, we ended up with a theme of Past, Present and Future. Hmm, wonder if it had anything to do with the fact Charles Dickens was a UU? We began by recognizing the gifts given to us by famous UU's of the past, James Pierpoint, Dr. Charles Follen, Susan B. Anthony, Ray Bradbury, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Robert Fulghm and Beatrix Potter. We created a paper chain, including the gifts we each bring to life in the present, people wrote things such as peace, justice and religious tolerance. Rev. Alex lit candles as I read the names of babies born this year; hopeful for the gifts they bring to our future. And what a gift for all of us to have been publicly introduced to the newest born on the list, Emerson at only four days old! I can't wait to see what he and Layne have in store for us!

In Peaceful Song and Stories, Jennifer



Happy Membership Anniversary!!

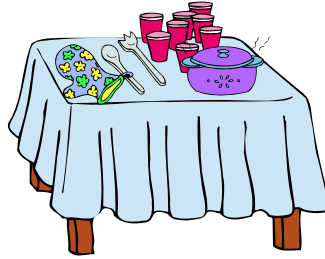


	Yrs of Membership	Date Joined
Esther Friedrichs	50	1/10/1957
Robert Christie	46	1/10/1961
Jane & James Alstrom	44	1/10/1963
Joan & George Ramsay	37	1/20/1970
Virginia Slotnick	37	1/20/1970
John Lightner	22	1/13/1985
Carol & Al Carpinelli	21	1/19/1986
Hannah Donigan	14	1/13/1993
Terry & Orrin West	13	1/09/1994
Sarah Radke	12	1/15/1995
Tim McIntyre	12	1/15/1995
Shannon Snideman	1	1/15/2006

In February, Alex will begin his sabbatical. We will miss his inspiring sermons, at the same time though, this is an opportunity for us to hear from other ministers and stimulating lay speakers. Watch for the February Magnet for a list of February speakers.



Daytimers



On December 21 twenty UUCF members and friends attended our yearly Daytimers Christmas potluck party at the church. Besides seventeen Daytimers regulars, we had three visitors: Priscilla Fleming's daughter, Judy, who is here for the holidays from her home in Switzerland; State Representative, Aldo Vagnozzi; and a new UUCF friend, Barbara Tucker. All three joined in on our Christmas gift exchange game that Nancy Hayden volunteered to run. The gift exchange game was a lot of fun, as usual. Thanks, Nancy, for handling this annual game.

Both Barbara Tucker and Priscilla Fleming's daughter, Judy, told the group about themselves. Judy also told us quite a bit about the country of Switzerland that has been her home for many years. We're happy you both could come to our party, and it was also nice to see Aldo again.

Joanne Monier read us a selection from a book about more meaningful gifts to give at Christmastime. Thanks for sharing this with us Joanne.

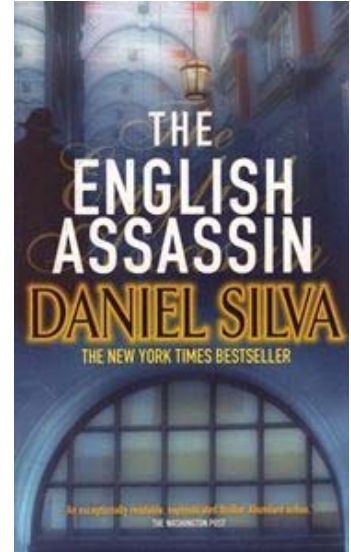
We had a delicious meal with lots of different foods brought by the Daytimers members and friends. Thank you all for participating. I believe everyone had a good time at the Christmas potluck party.

Afterwards, Beverly Manheimer was the "crew chief" to clean up the kitchen. Beverly ran the automatic dishwashing machine. Because we mainly used regular dinnerware and silverware for twenty people, there was a big cleanup job afterwards. Many helped Beverly. A few that I'd like to thank especially are Joanne Monier, Toni Davis, and Judy, Priscilla Fleming's daughter. I'd also like to thank Priscilla who pitches in after just about every meeting to get the dishes washed and the kitchen cleaned up. Thanks to everyone else who helped clean up after our Christmas party.

Our next meeting of the Daytimers, the seniors social group at UUCF, is Thursday, January 18. Joan Larson volunteered to bring the dessert for the January meeting.

The Mystery Book Club will meet on Monday, January 22. The book we will be discussing is *The English Assassin* by Daniel Silva.

The English Assassin features Gabriel Allon, the appealingly melancholy art restorer with a double life as an Israeli secret agent. Gabriel faces two adversaries: a powerful group of men who would do anything to bury the past forever, and a hired killer who's planning a spectacular murder. *The English Assassin* balances fascinating characters, authentic-sounding historical detail, and plenty of glamorous international intrigue on the edge of a knife-keen plot



We will meet for dinner at 5:30 at Panera Bread (12 Mile and Halsted) and at 7:00 at the church for the book discussion. If you can't join us for dinner, come for the book discussion. Contact Helen Head if you have any questions.



Bardic Night

Singers, musicians, poets and storytellers—come forth and share your art at the Bardic Night, hosted by Forest Waters (our new CUUPS group). No professional experience required! This family event will take place on Saturday, February 3, at 7 pm, in Adams Hall. Look for the sign up sheet in Adams Hall. Bring a friend, bring a new visitor. Come to perform or applaud, or both. Complimentary refreshments (bring a snack or dessert to share, if you wish). Questions?

Call Kim at the church.

RE? Who Me?

YES U, U!

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED...

(A special message from your Director of Religious Education)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS

Needed February - June

9:30 service- Preschool & Elementary

11:30 service- Elementary

The curriculum is easy to follow, and engages the children. A brief training will be held at the end of January. Consider teaching at one service and attending the 2nd worship service.

Contact me for more info, and to volunteer. Thanks.

RE COMMITTEE

We have some great ideas about making the RE Committee more productive and less time intensive. In order to do this we'll need to know what skills you have and how you're interested in helping. Hard working, consistent RE members are needed to move forward, we also need more of you to help just in specific areas or with specific projects. If your not interested in serving on the full committee, maybe a sub-committee is right for you.

Please let me know how you'd like to be included in our program planning. Thanks.

BABY HOLDERS

With two new babies and often visiting babies and toddlers we are looking to expand our toddler care to include babies. As attendance is currently inconsistent we are not looking to hire another caregiver, but are looking for occasional "baby holders".

If you would like to sign up for one or more Sundays, please contact me. Thanks.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY PROJECT

Patrick Linkler worked very hard and quickly to come up with an estimate and proposal for the playground mulch project. He has the info, and we have the money, now all we need is the help. We plan to resume this project in the Spring, however would like to get our team together now. (Not having enough volunteers is what postponed it to the Spring).

If you can help, please contact me. Thanks.

SECRET PALS

In February we will continue with this UUCF yearly intergenerational event. To build and better relationships between children and adults in our congregation the RE Committee will pair children with adults for a month of "secret" note writing and gift giving. In March we will have a special brunch to unite Secret Pals for reveling of identity.

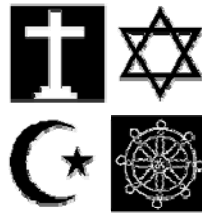
If you'd like to be a secret pal to a child, please contact me for more details and to sign up.

One of the things that has most impressed me at UUCF, is how much the RE program is valued. I look forward to hearing from each of you and helping you discover your best fit in RE.

Peace, Jennifer Teed, Director of Religious Education

dre@uufarmington.org, 248-478-7272

Many Paths Program



In January, we will hear from Rabbi Hornsten of the Temple Israel at one service at 10:00am . The Many Paths Program is designed to increase our understanding of the other Faith communities in our area and to help us build connections with these communities. Rabbi Hornsten will share insights of Judaism with us. In addition to Rabbi Hornsten's 10am service on Jan 7, the Many Paths Program will offer:

- Jan 7 – Evening Potluck at 5:00pm at UUCF with Rabbi Hornsten joining us.
- Jan 12 – Shabbat Service at Temple Israel – meet in UUCF parking lot @ 6:15 to carpool
- Jan 16 – Tour of Temple Israel – meet in UUCF parking lot @ 6:15 to carpool
- Jan 21 – Evening Potluck at member's home at 5:30
- Jan 28 - Evening Potluck at member's home at 5:30

Look for signups in Adams Hall for these events. See Mary Smith or Barb Eglinton if you have questions.



The **Welcoming Congregation Committee** will meet at 6:30p.m.on Wednesday, January 17, 2007. This committee focuses on making our GLBT members, friends and visitors welcome and on informing the entire congregation of GLBT oriented events at church or in the larger community that they might find of interest. We will be planning our calendar for the year, including possible workshops, movie nights, and participation in local Pride events. All UUCFers are invited to participate in committee meetings. For more information contact Millie Foss or Terie Spencer at the church.

Thank you. Millie



Nietzsche's Nook will meet
on Sunday, January 14th
to continue our discussion
of philosophy and feminism.

We will be discussing Naomi Wolf's
book *The Beauty Myth*

February we will discuss
Baumgardener and
Richard's book *Manifesta*

Nietzsche's Nook meets every
second Sunday of the month

at 12:45 in

the Marge Brown Room.

Everyone is invited to the
discussion and no prior
knowledge of philosophy
or feminism is required.

Dr. Jim Berry

and

Dr. Maureen Linker
will lead the discussion.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Please return GUEST AT YOUR TABLE
boxes to church on Sunday, January 7th.

Be sure to put your name and address on
the bottom of the box.

You may become a member of the UU
Service Committee by contributing the
following amount:

\$40—General Membership

\$20—Senior (age 65 or older)

\$10—Student (High School and up)
and youth

Your contribution of \$75 or more will be
matched by a church at Shelter Rock in
Manhasset, N.Y.

Please return coins or a check or bank
money order made out to the UU Service
Committee.

Thank you,

Pat Blackard

Representative,

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee





All women are welcome to join the Women's Group

on the 2nd Friday of each month.

The first meeting of the year will be
January 12th @ 7:00 PM in the Marge Brown Room.

The group meets each month for friendship and camaraderie. Things we have done in the past include, drumming, dinner out, card making, brunch and exchanging ideas.

For more information contact: Joan Ramsay @ 734-261-3437
or Mary Smith 734-420-1572.

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has many listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2007 directory, please send a check for \$20 (or \$25 and your e-mail address for both the book and a year's access to the website) to *UU're Home*, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.



Announcing the 2007 UUSC Holiday Card Design Contest!

Creative Unitarian Universalists of all ages are invited to submit festive original designs for UUSC holiday cards for the 2007 holiday season.

Each year, UUSC holiday card sales help support our worldwide work for human rights. One of these cards could be designed by you!

Create an original design that reflects the joy of the holidays, as well as the spirit of justice, equity, and compassion.

Please visit www.uusc.org/ia/holiday_cards/2006/contest2007.html for submission guidelines and to the 2006 award-winning card.

Submissions must be received on or before April 27, 2007.

Mail submissions to:

UUSC Holiday Card Contest, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

E-mail submissions to:

volunteerservices@uusc.org



Guest At Your Table- Activity for Families

With young children, read the story, *The Little Red Hen*. Ask the children if they ever felt like they needed help and didn't get it. How did it feel? How did the little red hen feel? Have they ever refused to give help when asked? Why didn't they help? Was it fair for someone else to do all the work? Explain that "The Little Red Hen" is a story that everyone understands because we have all felt the need for help, and sometimes were asked to help and didn't want to. But everyone needs help sometimes and we all need to be helpers sometimes. We can be helpers at home, school, and all over the world.



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IN OTHER NEWS



CAMPBELL LABELS REMINDER



Just a reminder to keep those Campbell Labels for Education coming in for the Farmington Community School Early Childhood Education and Head Start. We'd appreciate it if you would submit just the front part of the label, showing the name of the product; save the UPC code from bags (such as stuffing) and boxes; and save the lid from Prego Pasta Bake Sauce and pasta sauces 46 oz. or larger. We suggest you put them in a quart size zipperlock bag, which will hold many labels, keep them flat, and take up little space in a kitchen drawer (and make it much easier for the School's volunteer tote person to count the points)..

Any CAMPBELL product qualifies, including SOUP, V8, other JUICES; GRAVY; CHILI; PREGO; FRANCO AMERICAN; PEPPERIDGE FARM and SWANSON (broths only). .

Christmas and New Year's are coming up. Are you cooking turkey? Consider Pepperidge Farm Stuffing moistened with Swanson Chicken Broth; add Broth to your basting mixture; add Broth to your gravy. Use Campbell Gravy. Making hors d'oeuvres? Go South of the Border with Pace products and Campbell's Chili. Use V8 juice for a gazpacho base. Additional ideas are welcome.

For more information contact me or visit www.labelsforeducation.com. The collection box is usually in the entryway during Sunday services, otherwise at the foot of the stairs on the Adams Hall level, on top of the chest for Neighborhood House donations. It has pictures of Campbell products on it.

Millie Foss

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Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Next Magnet Deadline:

January 28, 2006

