



# Annual Report 2011

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Rockville

100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, Maryland

# The Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville

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## **Staff**

Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss, Minister  
Rev. Jack Young, Minister Emeritus  
Rob Keithan, Sabbatical Minister  
Deborah McGrady Kahn, Director of Religious Education  
Jennifer Rodgers Beach, Director of Music  
Justin Furnia, Pianist  
Jennifer Maschal-Lorms, Youth Coordinator  
Nancy Gregory, Church Administrator  
Ginny Scher, Religious Education Assistant  
Diana Chimes, Bookkeeper  
Thia Beach, Buildings and Grounds Manager

## **Officers**

Nancy Blum, President  
Marie Reed, Vice President  
Lisa Petrovich Smith, Secretary (for partial year)  
David Lorms, Interim Secretary  
Marianne Miller, Treasurer  
Eric Burch, Assistant Treasurer  
Dick Gilbert, Assistant Treasurer  
Bennett Rushkoff, Immediate Past President

## **General Trustees**

Carole Danielson  
Terri Fritz  
Andy Moore

# **Annual Report 2011**

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## *Vital Statistics*

**Membership:** 360

**RE Enrollment:** 143

**New members from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011: 28**

*Marja Abenchuchan, Michele Ali, Ray Ali, Diane Baillie, Matthew Beyers, Polly Campbell, Alex Chauche, Thomas Conway, Rosemary DeRose, Marlene Deal, Theresa Dellomo, Robert Eagen, Jennifer Argabright Greenbaum, Joel Greenbaum, Glenn Griffin, Quentin Groves, Stephanie Kreps, Anthony Malana, Martha Malana, John McIlwaine, Melissa Rael, Jason Reed, Pat Reuther, Ted Reuther, Jr., Julie Robinson, Michael Shanker, Tracy Shanker, William Simmons*

**Members off the Roll from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011: 31**

*Elaine Allen, Christine Barbour, Michael Berman, Bill Childers, Phyllis Childers, Jim Cooney, Susanne Cottrell, Susana Hall, Elizabeth Hedges, Jill Hertzler, Janice Impara, Hollie Michelsen, Kjell Michelsen, Garrett Moran, Gail Owens, Chris Pascal, Martine Palmiter, Pam Rasmussen, Sarah Rubin, Christopher Schaupp, Lisa Schaupp, Edward Scheiderer, Alba Schofield, Roz Silver, Betsey Singh, Jane Smith, Mark Smith, Amy Stevens, Greg Stevens, Ling Tang, Jan Tommila*

**Members changed to Friends from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011: 9**

*Frieda Bacha, Thomas Lipp, Bill Moran, Sue Moran, Claire Oyler, Stan Swope, Rolanda Tinney, Craig Wright, Ann Wright*

**Members Moved out of Town: 1**

*Niki Davis*

**Child Dedication: 5**

*Julian Jason Becker Cook, Jocelyn Annie Becker van Dam, Aidan Mitchell Malana, Preston Holmes Malana, Natalie Sofia Shanker*

**Deaths: 4 Members, 1 Friend**

Members:

*Charles Braun (July 5, 2010)*

*Rita Fleisher (December 4, 2010)*

*Mead Karras (August 17, 2010)*

*Stephen Webber (October 30, 2010)*

Friend:

*Lakshmi Mishra (February 21, 2011)*

## **Report from the President** —*Nancy Blum*

The Board of Trustees establishes policy and provides governance and discernment over the direction of major church programs, hiring of senior staff, financial and strategic planning and major expenditures.

This year the Board made the following progress toward our 2010-11 goals:

Goal 1: The Board will lead the congregation through the process of developing a five year strategic plan with measurable ends that work toward achieving our mission and are in line with our vision. The strategic plan will be ready to put before the congregation for a vote by a November 2011 congregational meeting. The strategic plan will include an annual implementation plan for year one with identified milestones on the way toward achieving the five year ends.

Progress: The Board crafted new vision and mission statements for UUCR which were affirmed by the congregation at the November 2010 congregational meeting. A strategic planning leadership team (SPLT) was appointed consisting of the president, vice president, past president, chair of the Committee on Ministry and chair of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. The SPLT developed an initial planning structure and timeline and then hired a consultant to develop and guide us through the planning process. Three focus areas were identified for UUCR and three focus area planning teams were recruited. These teams were open to all members of the congregation and many opportunities for communication to and feedback from the congregation were provided, including a retreat, post-service meetings, coffee hour discussions and *Quest* articles. Each team was charged with developing five year goal statements, measurable five year objectives, and annual milestones. Teams were also asked to identify leadership for all programs and activities included in their plans and estimate resources required, if any. An outline of the draft strategic plan will be shared with the congregation at the annual meeting. The outline will be developed into a working document by a writing task force over the summer. Over 75 people have provided input to the strategic plan to date.

Goal 2: The Board will provide strategic guidance to the Canvass Committee as they establish the FY2012 canvass goals.

Progress: The Board met with the Canvass Committee early on and requested that the goals include 100% dues to the UUA and JPD.

Goal 3: The Board will identify areas where policies need to be developed and will provide a list of such recommended policies to the incoming Board in June 2011.

Progress: A number of new policies were approved, including policies governing the use of current restricted funds. Additional new policies needed were discussed, including a revised Fundraising Policy. A new Policy on Public Artwork was drafted by the Board and sent to the Aesthetics Committee for feedback. An entire list of policies to be developed was created and will be given to the incoming president and Board at the May 2011 meeting.

Goal 4: The Board will continue its own leadership development by reading and discussing *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss and other selected texts.

Progress: The Board read and discussed together Chapters 1-6 of the Hotchkiss book. Although we didn't finish discussing the whole book, most Board members have read the entire book and

Hotchkiss's guidance and terminology positively influenced Board discussion and strategic planning throughout the year. It has been recommended to the incoming president that the Board continue discussing the remaining chapters.

The 2010-2011 Board of Trustees budget is \$2,000 of which \$786.16 has been spent.

Board of Trustees for 2010-2011: Nancy Blum (President), Marie Reed (Vice President), Lisa Petrovich Smith (Secretary from May 2010 – November 2010), David Lorms (Interim Secretary from February 2011 – May 2011), Marianne Miller (Treasurer), Carole Danielson, Terri Fritz, Andy Moore, and Bennett Rushkoff (Immediate Past President).

### **Report from the Vice President and Chair of the Program Council—*Marie Reed***

The Program Council is responsible for coordinating and supporting the programs of the congregation and for overseeing the church calendar (per bylaws and Church Covenant).

Major accomplishments:

- Developed and agreed to Covenant for the Council, including agreement on purpose of Council, responsibilities of members, and a commitment to being attentive to our communication skills.
- Made significant progress in note-taking responsibility (revolves among clusters), a recommendation made in the 2010 Annual Report.
- Sponsored and implemented the Activities Fair in September, providing an opportunity for members, friends, and visitors to discover program and volunteer opportunities and to discuss them with representatives from all the clusters. The objectives are communication, fellowship, and recruitment of new members to committees and other activities.
- At the Board's suggestion, members of the Council agreed to rethink the fall fundraiser (Bizarre Bazaar) to reduce leadership and volunteer time demands for this fundraiser. A subgroup is working to restructure this event.
- Provided opportunities for those desiring approval of new initiatives (e.g. Green Sanctuary) to educate leadership and spread the word.
- A suggested focus for the coming year would be identifying and recruiting leaders and volunteers for committees such as Denominational Affairs and Publicity/Communications.

The 2010-2011 Program Council budget is \$400 of which \$200 has been spent.

Program Council for 2010-2011: Chair - Marie Reed. Cluster Leads include: Judy Rayner, Membership and Communications; Ken Sandin, Lifespan RE; Celia Young, Spirituality and Caring; Mike Holmes and Karen Malley, Worship and Music; Antonio Carrillo, Social Justice; Nancy Klag, Buildings and Grounds. There is currently no lead for the Fellowship Cluster.

### **Report from the Treasurer—*Marianne Miller***

The Treasurer has overall fiduciary responsibility for church finances, including the church financial records. Primary responsibilities include:

- overseeing spending from UUCR's operating funds as well as restricted accounts;
- overseeing the bookkeeper's monthly reconciliation of the church's financial records;
- providing monthly financial reports for the Finance Committee and the Board;
- overseeing UUCR's investments, making financial transactions with the UUA, and rebalancing funds between the church's checking and investment accounts;
- ensuring that UUCR's fiscal policies are followed; and
- serving on the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee.

In November 2010, I updated the church's Health Spending Accounts Plan, to conform our plan to 2010 changes in the U.S. tax code. For the past several years, the Finance Committee and skilled volunteers from the congregation have made significant progress in organizing and improving church records, including both paper and electronic files. The church hired a part-time bookkeeper early in this fiscal year, which has further strengthened our accounting procedures. The Finance Committee arranged for an internal independent review of church records in January 2011. While we have room for improvement, the review team found no significant problems locating the records they wanted or confirming their accuracy.

Having better records and financial reporting capabilities will improve UUCR's position in 2013, when we must renegotiate our sanctuary loan with PNC or a new financial institution. In addition, hiring a part-time bookkeeper has made the volunteer treasurer position more manageable, which should reduce the problems the church was having in recruiting candidates to serve as treasurer.

### **Report from the Minister** —*Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss*

I conclude my 6th year as parish minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville with deep gratitude for the gift of sabbatical time. I am grateful to the many volunteers who stepped up to help make the sabbatical meaningful and successful for the congregation. I applaud the work that the Worship Committee has done and also those who have led the strategic planning process. I thank the staff for carrying on church programs so well in my absence. And I thank everyone who has reached out to those in need of pastoral care.

This year we experienced a full 5 month sabbatical for our minister for the first time in recent memory at UUCR. This significant event marks a transition toward a long settled ministry at UUCR. And this is good news for the health and spiritual maturity of the congregation.

As the congregation carried on with all the events of the church year, my sabbatical time was focused on writing and reflection. I submitted poetry to Skinner House Press and I am waiting to hear if my work is accepted for a UU meditation manual. I have also been working on memoir writing. Both writing projects focus on my working class roots as well as class concerns for our liberal faith. I attended a UU ministers institute at Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey, California and participated in leading worship and an intense class by Gary Dorrien, social ethicist and professor at Union Theological Seminary.

In May I was part of a team leading a theological conversation for UU ministers titled "Whose Are We?" I also led worship for my colleagues there. I also attended a class at Pendle Hill Quaker Center near Philadelphia entitled "Midrash and Creativity."

On many Sunday mornings, I attended worship services at local churches, both Unitarian Universalist and Christian. I met many area clergy colleagues and hopefully sowed some seeds for outreach to our local faith community. It was a rich experience and one I highly recommend.

Also in May, my husband Dave and I traveled in Europe. I visited many churches, cathedrals and chapels. Sabbatical time has allowed me to visit family in the Midwest and to spend more time with my grandchildren locally. And of course, I have read many, many books, attended several concerts and plays, and lived life in more ordinary time. It has been restful and renewing to my spirit.

Early this year we were honored to celebrate ordination services for two of our ministerial interns. In October, we ordained the Reverend Elizabeth Marsh and in November, the Reverend Seanan Holland. We continue our commitment as a “teaching congregation” when we welcome next year’s intern in mid-August. Nathan Ryan, a student at Meadville Lombard, comes to us from a staff position at the UU Church of Dallas, Texas. Nathan has experience as a youth coordinator, a director of religious education, and as director of lay ministry. His wife, Lauren, will be with him next year as she pursues an audiology internship at Children’s Hospital in Washington.

I anticipate my 7th year of ministry at UUCR with joy and with a renewed commitment to grow this church. May we grow in size, in spirit, in service, and in love.

Blessings, Reverend Lynn Strauss

## **Report from the Sabbatical Minister —*Rob Keithan***

The primary goal of my position was to provide some consistency of ministerial presence in worship, pastoral care, and congregational life generally. Rather than evaluate my own performance—which is ultimately your responsibility!—I will comment on the most relevant question to my role: has the congregation adequately prepared for the sabbatical? From my perspective, the answer is a resounding YES! Lay leaders and other staff members have stepped up, roles have been clear, and systems have worked. In the rare cases where something came up that was not foreseen (it’s impossible to have a plan for everything), the situations were resolved with skill and grace.

### **Worship**

The sanctuary is beautiful; the music program is excellent; and the Worship Committee provides consistently effective leadership and support. In my sermons I sought to shed new light on old or uncommon topics, as well as to address what I see as our collective mission and calling as Unitarian Universalists.

### **Pastoral Care**

I participated in two memorial services during my time with you. In early February, I led the Celebration of Life for Rita Fleisher held at UUCR. Later that month, I attended the memorial service for Lakshmi Mishra organized by his family. The congregation was clearly important to both of them, and they are missed.

### **Congregational Life**

As I was led to expect by Rev. Lynn Strauss, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville is a solid, healthy congregation with strong lay leadership and competent staff. My hope is that the strategic planning process will help you use this foundation to intentionally build an even more vibrant,

multi-cultural, multi-generational congregation that makes a difference in the lives of its members and the larger community.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your sabbatical minister.

## **Report from the Director of Religious Education—Deborah Kahn**

Overall focuses for the year: Providing Resources for the Unitarian Universalist Journey; Communication, Connection, Interfaith, Multiage, Multicultural, Social Justice

We celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the merger of Unitarians and Universalists in 2011, as well as the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UUCR. Among goals for this 2010-11 celebration year were the minister-and-DRE-shared goals of moving our congregation toward clearer articulation of what it means to be Unitarian Universalist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and a shared focus on peace and immigration, environment, theological education, and multigenerational worship.

My objectives under each of these areas were:

### **Peace and Immigration**

\*Support moving outdoor peace pole; peace action to be part of plan for peace pole; support/help recruit on-going peace group to be ready for peace goals for 2011-12 – I am happy to have almost finished multi-age recruitment for this group and we plan to have our first meeting before the end of the church year.

\*Coordinate common read of *The Death of Josseline*—I was pleased with how many of us read, and were impacted by, the book and appreciated the discussion led by Rob Keithan.

### **Environment**

\*Support youth on Environmental Action Group (EAG), support Environmental Action Group as ongoing group to be ready for environmental goals for 2011-12 – Talked with some of our interested youth; they are committed to environmental actions but schedules prevented attending meetings of the group. EAG has now become Green Sanctuary Group and has strong support of Lifespan RE Program Cluster, Children's Worship Committee, children and youth. Our summer RE program is environmental theme and we are interested in identifying environmental justice work for one of our RE social justice focuses for this summer and the coming year.

### **Theological Education**

\*Teach adult ed winter/spring – *What Moves Us*, recruiting co-leaders who will also lead Sunday class next church year—One of the highlights of the year was working with the co-leaders on this new 12 session UU Tapestry of Faith Adult Ed class. Inspiring to learn more about (or consider again) historical Universalists and Unitarians and contemporary Unitarian Universalists, to be challenged by their experiences, thoughts, and lives—especially in this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Unitarian Universalism—and to participate in the rich discussion during each class. Class attendance was not as large as we hoped, ranging between 4 (one time low) and 12 (one time high). Still, the positive feedback was so strong and the interest expressed by people, who had conflicts, for the class to be offered at another time next year, have us looking for an optimal time to offer the class again—maybe Sunday mornings as we had initially planned or maybe an alternate time next year.

### **Multigenerational Worship**

\* Follow up from discussion with Jon Langsam to offer storytelling workshop – Jon Langsam, whose profession and expertise is in special needs behavior management in classrooms, will offer a session for the fall teacher training and will participate in presenting a storytelling workshop.

\*Look for a storytelling workshop in the area to attend with youth coordinator and recruited adults and youth – from last year’s experience and this year’s, I found that members rarely attend any of the trainings or workshops in the area that we encourage; so, I have revised this goal and am looking for a presentation on storytelling that we can host at UUCR and that everyone, including families, can be invited to attend. I have reviewed my notes from previous storytelling workshops I’ve attended and am reclaiming the joy of the story. I particularly appreciated feedback on stories for pageant Sunday, Christmas Eve, immigration story with Len Taylor, and Thunder Cake story with Laura Kelsey Rhodes, Allison Kuentz, and Children’s Worship Committee.

### **Children & Youth RE Committee & DRE Shared Goals**

\*Strong 2010 summer program using new curriculum – New curriculum very successful! Many thanks to all summer teachers and helpers.

\*2011 add youth summer program – adding five Sunday mornings for youth with environmental themed movie and discussion plus a social Sunday.

\*Strong start-up – follow up teaching team meetings and additional training in January – both were strong and included excellent presentations by Len Taylor on classroom management.

\*Teach Activism and Youth Power class for senior high and re-vision Youth Adult Committee – one of the highlights of the year was being with the youth and hearing their impressive insights and good ideas.

\*Offer UU parent discussion on Michelle Richards UU parenting book in late winter/early spring – books are almost sold out; discussion will begin in a couple of weeks using the Internet.

\*Recruit youth to fill Board and Council youth representative positions – youth schedule challenging for attending these meetings; considering if there is a technological possibility for next year, Skype?

\*Send two youth reps to GA 2011 – cost and adult sponsorship still a challenge since UUA stopped subsidized youth housing and requires adult sponsors in same hotel as youth; one youth is attending this year with parent.

### **Additional Highlights**

\**The Response* film showing and discussion – the most diverse group, in the most different ways, I’ve seen in the sanctuary and one fulfillment of our hope to provide a safe and respectful place for the greater community to discuss issues of concern and meaning to all of us; also proud of our youth participation in this program and Adult Ed co-sponsorship.

\*Strong, enthusiastic teachers and helpers; positive feedback on curricula, and stories from parents of all ages about their children choosing church on Sunday mornings; many thanks to all teachers, helpers, and parents!

\*Professional Development: challenging and inspiring fall Liberal Religious Educators (LREDA) conference in New Orleans on social justice, reading list on ministry to families in the 21<sup>st</sup> century from district LREDA study group, interesting reading about new church dynamics from Alban Institute and Lewis Leadership Center.

\*Working with delightful committees in Lifespan Religious Education Program Cluster and Children’s Worship Committee, UUCR staff, and congregation!

With appreciation and blessings, Deborah

## **Report from the Director of Music—Jennifer Rodgers Beach**

The music program at UUCR is healthy and continues to grow. The Adult Choir grew slightly to 53 active members (up from 50 the previous year) and is a warm, open and strong community within the congregation. Two major events took place in the spring of 2011 – a joint UU choir event in March that involved 14 congregations and over 230 singers. UUCR had a large contingency there and I was a core member of the organizing group of directors. On May 21-22, our Music Sunday expanded into a music weekend. The choir joined with the UU Congregation of Fairfax Chorale and the Vienna Choral Society to present a concert featuring the *Requiem* by Clif Hardin (the director of music at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation) along with several other works, including a featured piece by the UUCR Adult Choir. A portion of the proceeds (on behalf of the two UU congregations) was given to The Washington Home and Community Hospices. The *Requiem*, performed with orchestra, was then also presented as the Music Sunday service.

Cynthia Thurston continues to direct Sonaria, which has also added to its numbers by a few and sings at several events and services throughout the year. Barbara Weis and Julie Graf continue to co-lead the Children's Choir and find opportunities for youth music throughout the year. The Children's Choir is generally a little larger than last year, but remains unpredictable. The youth ensemble, when it comes together, numbers about 8-10 participants. Justin Furnia will remain as the pianist for UUCR in the next year having graduated from Hood College.

The music budget is carefully managed and has covered a range of appropriate expenses this year, including new choral music, music to replace old Xeroxes and fill in quantities, music notation software, professional musician honorarium and support of music events.

Looking ahead, the congregation will need to consider some conditioning work for our beautiful grand piano in the sanctuary to keep it healthily maintained.

## **Report from the Youth Coordinator – Jennifer Maschal-Lorms**

The overall mission of the youth coordinator is to support the spiritual growth of our youth and to coordinate and encourage fun, exciting, and meaningful youth programming at UUCR.

2010-2011 was a busy year in the youth program. We began with summer social programming for our 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade class -- thanks to Barbara Weis and Mark Stiles for helping coordinate! Over the summer, we also hosted the 2010 Joseph Priestley District Youth Steering Committee's summer conference, CON-a-Boat. The CON was attended by youth group members from all across the JPD.

Our Junior High class (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) sponsored a well-attended Heritage Dinner and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Unitarian and Universalist merger to help support the bi-annual Heritage Trip. We visited the Boston area in April to learn more up close about our UU history. On our trip, the group members led worship for each other and began to internalize how we as Unitarian Universalists live our faith. We studied *Heresy Apparent* in the classroom, learning about our UU founders and the evolution of our faith.

Our Senior High class explored whether or not there is such a thing as a selfless act while planning and executing their annual worship service for the congregation. They studied more about being a UU, first through discussing our values through poetry then through the curriculum *A Place of Wholeness*,

focusing on actions and living our UU faith. They put some of these values into practice at a “Cardboard City” service event in June 2011. We had three youth experience their first Joseph Priestley District Conference (CON) and they have continued to attend district level events for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. This summer, UUCR will be hosting the JPD Summer CON for the second year. *Our Whole Lives 10-12* sexuality education was offered to a class of ten students in the eligible grades.

## **Report from the Church Administrator – Nancy Gregory**

We welcomed two new staff members this year and both have made a significant impact on the church’s office and facility operations. Diana Chimes, our part-time (15 hours per month) bookkeeper, began her duties last August. With a background in banking and many years of experience working with both the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation and the Washington Ethical Society, Diana’s expertise has been a real boon to the work of our volunteer finance team, especially as the church approaches the required refinance of its building loan in 2013. In September, Thia Beach started work as UUCR’s part-time (15 hours per week) buildings and grounds manager. She took over Sunday morning facility management duties and has been a reliable and helpful presence each Sunday, easing the load of both staff members and volunteers. In addition, Thia is highly skilled in building maintenance and landscaping and has made numerous repairs and improvements throughout the buildings and grounds over the course of the year.

Last September, we also hired a new office assistant to fill the position left vacant by Judy Eisenhower’s departure last spring. Unfortunately, the UUCR position turned out to not be the best fit and, in consultation with Rev. Strauss and the Personnel Committee, I decided to let our assistant go at the end of her probationary period in December. With assistance from Ginny Scher, Religious Education Assistant, I’ve performed the office assistant duties since December. This summer, I’ll make a thorough review of all the church’s current and anticipated administrative and facility management needs, especially in light of the strategic planning initiative, and work to develop the best personnel approach to meeting them. I can’t thank Ginny enough for all the extra time and effort she’s given the church during this staff transition time – and all with great spirit and good humor.

Also possessing great spirit and good humor in abundance is our part-time contractual custodian Jay Stewart. Recently, a long-time member of UUCR told me that Jay is one of the best custodians the church has ever had. Though I didn’t know the others, I’m certainly grateful for Jay’s reliable, steady and friendly presence in our community.

I’m glad to report that the church’s rental program has continued to grow and we’ll collect \$29,000 in other (non-preschool) rental income this fiscal year. In addition to the welcome extra income, many visitors come to UUCR thanks to rental events. I was especially happy to host the Insight Meditation Community of Washington for two large yoga and meditation events this year and to welcome back the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation for its annual Gerald May Seminar, this year with Father Richard Rohr. Both groups are so appreciative of our beautiful sanctuary and grounds and both have already booked events at the church next year. We also welcomed an Al Anon 12-step group to UUCR this year. It had been meeting at another church in Rockville for twenty years but had to relocate when the rental space became unavailable. Al Anon has been meeting at UUCR each Wednesday night since January and is grateful for our space. Currently, UUCR hosts three weekly 12-step groups and one monthly caregivers support group for free or nominal rent.

Every day I'm reminded of the fact that UUCR would not exist without the commitment of time, energy, creativity and passion by its many volunteers. I have the great pleasure of working with some on a regular basis and I am so grateful for their expertise and generosity – Bill Newhouse, Karl Irikura and the Webteam; Jo Wilson, Barbara Harrison, Sue Hedges, Nancy Klag, Dan Pierce, Jay LaMarche and the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Power Tool Gang; Karen Malley and the Worship Committee; Kent Hancock, Marianne Miller, Eric Burch, Dick Gilbert and the Finance Committee; Alberta Maschal, Phyllis Leonard, Beth Irikura, Elizabeth Sullivan, Louise Friedenberg and the *Quest* mailing crew; Allison Cox and the Membership Committee; Paulette Campbell, Barbara Neumann and the Caring Committee; Irene Eckstrand, Jill Asman and the Canvass Committee; and Ken Sandin, who simply does whatever needs to be done – my most sincere thanks.

## **Committees Reporting to the Board**

### **Committee on Ministry**—*Fran Lowe and Marie Reed*

The Committee on Ministry (COM) supports and advances the mission and ministry of UUCR through support to our called staff and by serving as a communications link between the congregation and the called staff, by assessing the ministry of the church, and by modeling right relations behavior.

This year the COM fully supported the vision and mission work of UUCR and the strategic planning initiatives. We began by planning and facilitating the Vision Summit in June, capturing the results and presenting them to the Board and the congregation. We also ensured that these results, as well as those of the 2010 Lay Ministry Assessment were understood and considered by the strategic planning teams. Many of us also supported the strategic planning initiative by participating on the task force and/or providing input to the teams.

The COM supported Rev. Lynn Strauss's sabbatical in a variety of ways, including publicizing the questions for the congregation she asked us to ponder during her sabbatical in *Quest* and asking Small Group Ministry, the Worship Committee, and RE to include these questions in their work.

We are also creating a Committee on Ministry booklet to provide history and organizational memory for the future work of the COM.

Noting the importance of right relations and covenanting, we reviewed, revised and affirmed our COM covenant.

Committee members: Cynthia Bauerle, Steve Eckstrand, See Lam, Fran Lowe (Co-Chair), and Marie Reed (Co-Chair). Rev. Lynn Strauss and Deborah Kahn regularly attend the COM meetings.

### **Personnel Committee**—*Crispin Taylor*

No report available.

## **Sabbatical Committee—*Jill Asman***

The purpose of the Sabbatical Committee is to support UUCR minister's sabbatical, which occurred December 6, 2010 through June 4, 2011.

The sabbatical period has gone smoothly, as we had hoped it would, and Rob Keithan has consistently met or exceeded the congregation's expectations in his role as sabbatical minister. The Worship Committee (Karen Malley, Chair) has done an excellent job and Sunday attendance has been good. The Pastoral Visitors (Paulette and Bob Campbell, Co-Chairs) and the Caring Committee (Barbara Neumann, Chair) provided outstanding, compassionate service. As predicted, the sabbatical proved to be an opportunity for everyone in the church community to support each other and discover new strengths.

We also want to recognize the support of our Director of Religious Education, Deborah Kahn; our Director of Music, Jennifer Rodgers Beach; and the extra efforts of our office staff (Nancy Gregory and Ginny Scher) during this time. And a special thank you to Karla Timmons who put on our two major receptions.

The committee is grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone involved in the sabbatical program. It has been an exciting and enriching experience.

Major accomplishments:

### **Preparation for Sabbatical**

- Assisted minister and Board in selection of sabbatical minister (Rob Keithan) and establishment of contract.
- Prepared and distributed Sabbatical Guide with basic information on how various tasks and functions were to be covered during the sabbatical.
- Prepared a notebook for staff and others providing additional operational details.
- Established a web page and communicated with congregation through meetings, *Quest* articles and other media.
- Established an email address to receive comments and questions throughout the sabbatical time.

### **Special Events**

- “Send-off” reception for Lynn, December 5, 2010
- “Welcome Back” reception planned June 5, 2011
- “Appreciation Lunch” for sabbatical minister and church staff planned May 23, 2011

The Sabbatical Committee budget for special events and sabbatical gifts is \$300.

Committee members: Jill Asman (Chair), Bob Campbell, Ginny Folsom, Peggy Jones, Bennett Rushkoff (liaison to the Board), and Rev. Lynn Strauss (advisor).

## **Congregation-Chartered Committees**

### **Comprehensive Planning Committee—*Ted Sherr***

No report available.

### **Nominating Committee—*Dan Pierce***

The Nominating Committee is a congregation-chartered committee charged with presenting a slate of candidates for church officers, Board of Trustees, the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC), and the Nominating Committee.

We attempted to identify candidates with demonstrated leadership and creativity and who reflect the general make up of the congregation. We found candidates for seven positions: vice-president, Board of Trustees (at large), secretary, treasurer, CPC, and two Nominating Committee positions. We found excellent candidates and thank them for agreeing to run for office. We also thank Lee Blue for formatting the candidate bios for publication in *Quest*.

Committee members: Dolores Barnes, Jon Landenburger, David Lorms, Dan Pierce (Chair), Karen Pittleman, and Liz Zerby.

## **Worship and Music Cluster**

### **Worship Committee—*Karen Malley***

The Worship Committee plans and carries out Sunday morning worship services led by lay worship committee members, guest ministers or outside guest speakers, one or two times per month; provides a worship associate to assist in the pulpit, a worship steward to prepare the sanctuary for a service, and a chalice lighter, every Sunday and as needed for special services; and acts as liaison between the minister and the congregation to ensure high quality worship services

This year we hosted six guest UU ministers (Reverends Heather Janules, Leslie Westbrook, Mary Katherine Morn, Louise Green, John Crestwell, and Bill Murry), and three outside guest speakers (Bill Rice with the Hiroshima Drawings from All Souls Unitarian Church, Mitchell Ratner of the Still Water Mindfulness Practice Center, and Mike Tidwell of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network). Rev. Don Robinson of Beacon House was scheduled to preach in late January, but the service was cancelled due to heavy snow and a subsequent power outage. Don has been rescheduled for late summer 2011, when there is less chance of snow.

There were seven completely lay-led services, with themes of Reading Emerson, Environmental Justice, Labor Unions, Agnosticism as a Valid Spiritual Response, A Word for the Year, New Beginnings, and A Celebration of Growth. The Sangha meditation group and the Environmental Action Group helped with two of these services.

Karl Irikura and Jack Eisenhower posted sermon text and audio on the website. Reverends Lynn Strauss and Elizabeth Marsh provided guidance and mentoring which was crucially important in understanding our work and being able to prosper during the sabbatical period. Lynn also helped by preaching more Sundays than usual and contacting guest ministers for the sabbatical period. Jennifer Rodgers Beach, Director of Music, was a steady, skilled resource for music planning and advice. Deborah Kahn, Director of Religious Education, preached a summer service, coordinated the Christmas pageant and kept an experienced eye out for problems.

The committee thanks the congregation for making it possible for us to have Rob Keithan as sabbatical minister. Rob was essential; he planned and preached eleven excellent services plus Christmas Eve. He was very good to work with and we were fortunate to have him.

Finally, the committee expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Nancy Gregory, Church Administrator, for preparing the Order of Service so beautifully week in and week out. Nancy has been our rock; a faithful, talented partner who always brought sensitivity, intelligence and a sense of humor to the process.

Looking forward: The church needs a new pulpit. The one we have has large vertical splits in the wood and is not adjustable in height. We are researching a new one. Also, committee members were not able to get away from other commitments to go to the JPD Music Arts Festival or General Assembly, or even to visit other church's worship services. We hope to have more time for this in the future, or to find other ways to bring in fresh ideas.

The 2010-2011 Worship Committee budget is \$2,625 of which \$2,185 has been spent (estimated total expenditures, assuming no heavy snow in late June).

Committee members: Jim Carleton, Steve Eckstrand, Bill Hurlbut, Mark Lewandoski, Karen Malley (Chair), Lakshmi Mishra, Jan Popp, Luci Roberts and Cynthia Taylor.

### **Children's Worship Committee—*Dolores Barnes***

The Children's Worship Committee provides meaningful worship opportunities for all ages through planned services and rituals, which parallel our adult services and connect us to the larger Unitarian Universalist community of faith.

The committee meets monthly and is responsible for planning Children's Worship services for preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade, which are held in Founders Hall two to three times a month. The committee also coordinates with the Worship Committee and the minister in planning the beginning 15 minutes of the worship service on the two Sundays a month during which the preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grade join the full congregation before going to RE classes (First Fifteen). The committee also provides input and feedback on intergenerational worship services.

This year the Children's Worship Committee continued its social justice project of food collections for Manna. We had a special kick-off in October with the children, and have donated over 2,000 pounds to date. The children help to monitor our chalice barometer poster of donations. The committee also coordinated with the Religious Education Committee to support the towel collection for the Humane Society.

In planning for Children's Worship and First Fifteens, the committee selects the topics for presentation, trying to match any seasonal, holiday or event themes at the time. We research our topics, prepare the message, and sometimes recruit other church members to give the message on topics we select.

Highlights of presentations this year have included:

September 2010: Opening Ritual in two parts: (1) Lighting candles for each of the UU and (2) Dedication of room and explanation of the rituals, and introduction of new "Principles" song; Tashlich ritual at the stream for Yom Kippur.

October 2010: Manna Food Collection Kick-off and puppy visit to support the Humane Society's towel drive; homelessness discussion with youth Cardboard City participants; question and answer session during First Fifteen with sabbatical minister Rob Keithan.

November 2010: First Sunday of Advent and Hanukkah presentation and parent meeting for holiday Pageant; disabilities awareness, with advocate guest and church member, Mary Caroline Colletti.

December 2010: Questions for Reverend Lynn Strauss about her sabbatical during First Fifteen; Mitten Tree presentations during First Fifteen; coordination of holiday Pageant.

January 2011: New Year's Ritual service of burning our regrets and making resolutions; First Fifteen recognition of UUCR founders and charter members to celebrate UUCR's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary; guest artist Marian Osher.

February 2011: Immigration story during First Fifteen; founding/charter members visit to Children's Worship and special founding members' photo dedication; recognition of Hosea Ballou, founder of Universalism.

March 2011: Prayer vigil recognizing the victims of Japan's earthquake; 6<sup>th</sup> grade led service.

April 2011: Earth Day theme and skit; Partner Church recognition and presentation; Children's Worship music Sunday.

May 2011: Maypole celebration; Closing Ritual and gift presentation to children.

### **Highlights:**

- Christmas Pageant – This was our first true use of the entire sanctuary space. We felt the intergenerational production was very meaningful, and a positive experience for those involved.
- Prayer vigil for Japanese earthquake victims – special service allowing children to participate and respond to a current event/tragedy.
- Maintaining quality and integrity of annual rituals valued by the children.
- Manna Food Drive – Proud of the congregational response - new record of over 2,000 pounds of food collected to date.

### **Improvements for next year:**

- Opening Words and Principles Posters updated with new and improved graphics;
- Inclusion of more musical pieces in Children's Worship services;

- Spanish translations of some Children's Worship rituals, exploration of different media uses during services.

The 2010-2011 Children's Worship Committee budget is \$775 of which \$566 has been spent.

Committee members: Dolores Barnes (Chair), Wendy Buzy, Deborah Kahn (DRE), Dainia Langsam, Jason Reed, Steve Rosen and Gwen Rowe.

### **Music Committee—*Mike Holmes***

The Music Committee supports the choir and the Director of Music in the use of music to enhance the life of the church, both in Sunday services and through benefit concerts that support the social justice goals of UUCR and provide an outreach to the larger community.

This year we welcomed three new members to the committee (Gaynelle Campbell, Billie Jordan and Phil Lowe).

We have run two successful benefit concerts so far. The first, which featured Jennifer Rodgers Beach and our church pianist Justin Furnia, benefited the Manna Food Center (in August 2010). The second, which featured Trio Galilei, benefited Fisher House (in January, 2011). Sue Richards, a longtime friend of UUCR, is a member of Trio Galilei. Fisher House provides visitation housing for family and friends of hospitalized U.S. military personnel. A third benefit concert, featuring Brian Lee on flute accompanied by Justin Furnia, will take place on Sunday, May 15 for the benefit of Beacon House. The Music Committee has relied on the Social Justice Committee to suggest beneficiaries for the concerts, and also to help with refreshments and hospitality at the events. This continues to be a very successful area of collaboration between the committees. At the Trio Galilei concert, we solicited information from attendees about how they heard about the concert, in an attempt to evaluate our publicity efforts. Tentatively, it seems that most people heard about the event either through the church or from the performers' contacts.

We held our annual Tuxedo Junction event on April 2. This is a fundraiser for the Ethier Fund, which we use to help pay for musicians and special music scores for larger musical works at the church, such as the Hardin *Requiem* that will be performed at the May 22 music service. This year the Tuxedo Junction event was a dance; in years past it has been a performance event featuring members of the choir. We feel that the quality of the event was excellent; however turnout was low, possibly because of the new format. Nevertheless, we raised over \$2,000 (our goal was \$2,500). We plan to return to the performance format for next year at least, and we will be soliciting input from the choir about the format going forward.

For next year's benefit concert series, performers are already lined up. All three will be evening concerts, and a greater diversity of musical styles will be represented (a gospel group, a jazz combo, and a classical guitarist).

The 2010-2011 Music Committee budget is \$4,000 of which \$2,650 has been spent.

Committee members: Jennifer Rodgers Beach (Director of Music), Gaynelle Campbell, Mike Holmes (Chair), Gretchen Jones, Billie Jordan, Phil Lowe and Cynthia Thurston.

## **Decorations Committee—*Holly Meyer***

The Decorations Committee provides floral decoration in front of the sanctuary every Sunday and manages the annual poinsettia sale at Christmas. This year, the committee also purchased the evergreen wreaths which decorated the outside of the sanctuary during the holidays. We try to use what is in season, sometimes from the church property.

This year, Branka Kienstra arranged decorations on the first Sunday of each month, Sue McCall on the second Sunday, Holly Meyer on the third Sunday, Mary Caroline Colletti on the fourth Sunday, and Carolyn Pooley on the fifth Sunday and at Christmas. Pat Reuther was a substitute this year. Summer services were covered by Carey Gellman, Stephanie Kreps, Paulette Campbell, Elaine Perino, Eunice Moe, Carolyn Pooley, Mary Caroline Colletti, Pat Chapin and Marge Holmes.

The 2010-2011 Decorations Committee budget is \$250 of which \$250 has been spent.

## **Ushers—*Joe Goss***

Ushers welcome congregants and maintain the dignity and spiritual atmosphere of the Sunday service.

Major accomplishments:

- Four new ushers were recruited last spring through the *Quest*, Order of Service announcements and a Sunday sign-up table, allowing some long-serving ushers to retire their posts.
- A new usher training session was held in August.
- The two Christmas Eve services were each staffed by four ushers, including several substitute usher volunteers. No other non-recurring services required ushers during the year.

Ushers: Susan Beach, Tina Berger, Elaine Diamondidis, Pat Einhorn, Steve Einhorn, Joe Goss (Chair), Linda Hartley, Nancy Klag, Alberta Maschal, Anne Oyler, Bob Oyler, Louis Paulson, Jan Popp, Robbie Reasoner, Ken Sandin, Burt Smith, Ellen Swinford, Karla Timmons, Patty Walker and Elizabeth Zerby.

## **Life Span Religious Education Cluster**

### **Children and Youth Religious Education—*Karen Whitesell***

The Religious Education Committee plans and coordinates Religious Education classes and activities for nursery – Senior High children and youth.

During this church year, the Religious Education Committee has enjoyed many successes!

We had a successful summer RE program using curriculum entitled “Heart Talk for Kids - Compassionate Communication Creating Peace.” We had two groups of students: preschool -1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Jr. High. We had 26 students attend on average. We had several social activities for the Senior High group over the summer. We also sponsored many of our youth to go on a Habitat for Humanity work week in August of 2010.

We have also had a very successful RE program during the main church year. We had 143 students enrolled in our classes which range from nursery - Senior High. We continue to utilize the new Tapestry of Faith curriculum provided by the UUA with great success. We had several social justice projects, including the 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade class having a bake sale for the victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. For their service project, the sixth graders had a clothing collection for the Interfaith Clothing Store, a towel and blanket collection for the Humane Society and a bake sale to raise funds for the two organizations. We participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Our youth participated in an interfaith Cardboard City event held at our church to increase awareness of the homeless in Montgomery County. They also have participated in several CONs--UU youth conferences for youth in our district. Our committee had a presentation from the Green Sanctuary Team and unanimously supported the Green Sanctuary project. Furthermore, we planned our 2011 summer RE program to be based on the environment in support of this endeavor. Summer 2011 will include an environmental movie curriculum for the Senior High students. We bought a fire pit to be used by all of our members, and have used it for the church solstice celebration and for youth overnights.

Social events that were sponsored by the Religious Education Committee were: Getting Ready for the Holidays in December, the Heritage Dinner/Lunar New Year celebration, an Easter egg hunt for the small children, receptions for the Teacher/Helper Recognition Day and the Bridging/Coming of Age ceremonies. The committee conducted two teacher/helper training sessions this year which were well attended. Our Jr. High class went on their Heritage Trip to Boston and had a transformative experience.

The Religious Education Committee has a 5 year plan that was initiated in 2009. We met or revised over 50% of our goals for this year. We will spend our May and June meetings continuing to revise our plan for 2011-2012. Our 5 year plan has been a good guideline and focus for the committee and has been a working, dynamic document that is ever-changing. Overall, 2010-2011 has been a very enjoyable year for the Religious Education Committee with productive meetings, great rapport with the director of religious education and the youth coordinator, a large attendance of children in all classes, and many committed teachers and helpers. Our mission of building religious community with kindness and compassion has been realized once again!

The 2010-2011 Religious Education Committee budget is \$5,050 of which \$3,237 has been spent to date. We have some major expenses that fall late in the budget year and usually spend our entire budget.

Committee members: Doris Lee, Shannon Mayhew, Jason Reed, Ellen Rohan, Jeremy Shaffner and Karen Whitesell (Chair).

## **RE Teachers and Helpers 2010-2011**

### **Summer 2010 – *Compassionate Communication Creating Peace – “Heart Talk for Kids”***

Nursery: Rachel Cox-Rosen, (paid summer staff); Sally Davis, Pat Einhorn, Lisi Irikura, Clarice Julka, Doris Lee, Melissa Perkins, Karen Pittleman, Ellen Rohan, Abby Uffelman

Preschool – Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Len Taylor, Bryan Riley, Marlena Wilson; Jane Christianson, Herenia Doerr, Terri Fritz, Colleen Jenkins, Chris & Clarice Julka, Barbara Kawamura, Jeremy Shaffner, Anne Spicknall, Deb Stahl, Richard Stolz, Leah Wilson

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Karen Whitesell, Cynthia Bauerle, Antonio, Suzanne and Claire Carrillo, Martin and Valerie Haber, Sean Hickey, Chris Julka, Jenn Maschal-Lorms, Samuel Mejia, Elaine Perino, Emmy and Rosie Popp, Lisa Reed, Barrett Smith, Bennett, Jacob and Rebecca Rushkoff, Pamela West and Noah Beyers

## **September 2010 – June 2011**

### Nursery: *Loving Care*

Team Leader: Ellen Rohan, Kevin Beins (paid staff); Allison Cox, Pat Einhorn, Jane Klag, Anthony and Martha Malana, Doris Lee, Karen Pittleman, Marla Riley

### Preschool: *Chalice Children*

Team Leader: Barbara Kawamura, Teacher and Schedule Coordinator: Mike Larsen; Teachers: Alice Larsen, Shannon Mayhew, Marlena Wilson; Helpers: Melissa and Neil Perkins, David Wilson, Martha Malana

### K-1<sup>st</sup>: *Treasure Hunting*

Team Leader: Len Taylor; Teachers: Carey Gellman, Bryan Riley, Gwen Rowe; Helpers: Francesca Atkinson, Herenia Doerr, Clarice Julka, Alberta Maschal, Neil Perkins, Tom Rowe

### 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: *Free to Believe*

Team Co-Leaders: Colleen Jenkins and Elaine Perino; Teachers: Karl Irikura, Dainia and Jonathan Langsam; Helpers: Dana and Karim Alzouma, Brad and John Carnes-Stine, Andrea Usiak, Clarice Julka, Eden Santa Cruz, Tracy Shanker, Pamela West, Heidi Crabtree

### 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: *Windows and Mirrors*

Team Leader and Teacher: Karen Whitesell; Teachers: Jane Christenson, Laura Kelsey Rhodes; Helpers: Karim Alzouma, Connie Bertka, Luca Brigatti, Martin and Valerie Haber, Richard Stolz, Deb Stahl, Bennett Rushkoff

### 6<sup>th</sup>: *The Questing Year*

Team Leader and Teacher: Mark Stiles; Teachers: Cynthia Bauerle, Steve Ouimette, Helper: Becky Linkletter

### Junior High: *Heritage Year – Heresy Apparent*

Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Maschal-Lorms; Teachers: David Lorms, Mylene Ouimette; Helper: Jason Reed

### Senior High: *Exploring Our Values Through Poetry*

Team Leader: Tom Rowe; Teacher: Matt Beyers; Helpers: Chris Julka, Jenn Maschal-Lorms, Jennifer Mascardo, Shannon Mayhew, Margie Henry, Julie Gellman

### 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> OWL: *Our Whole Lives*

Co-Leaders: Jenn Maschal-Lorms, Judy Rayner; Irene Eckstrand, Thomas Lipp, Dan Pierce, Dennis Wellnitz.

## **Adult Religious Education and Activities Committee—Ken Sandin**

The Adult Religious Education and Activities Committee plans and coordinates a variety of religious educational, entertainment, and social programs for members, friends and the community at large.

The committee coordinated the scheduling and presentation of 34 Wednesday evening programs, including: religious education (17), social justice (10), book discussions (4), and entertainment (3). Programs were initiated and coordinated by committee members and others in the congregation; some program presenters were guests from outside the congregation. Participation/attendance ranged from four to 40, average 12.

Some particularly notable examples were: a 10-part UUA series, *What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology, A Tapestry of Faith Program for Adults*; a dramatic performance, *The Underground Railroad*, performed by Candace Ridington; poetry and music evenings (fall and spring); and *Islam 101*, with Haytham Younis. The committee sponsored the Saturday afternoon showing of the film, *The Response*, coordinated by Lisa Reed.

We publicized our programs internally through UUCR website listings; *Quest* and Order of Service articles; monthly flyers; and fall, holiday, and spring brochures. External publicity was through calendar listings on the Rockville Living website, owned by UUCR member Helen Triolo, and various listservs.

The committee also sponsors the monthly Socrates Café Rockville, which this year attracted 8-16 participants (from the congregation and outside the congregation—through Meetup.com), suggesting and exploring topics such as “What is a ‘right’?” and “Is it good to forgive an unforgivable act?”

Committee members: Deborah Kahn (DRE), Maude McGovern, Ken Sandin (Co-Chair) and Celia Young (Co-Chair), with the strong support of Ginny Scher, Religious Education Assistant.

## **Social Justice Cluster**

### **Partner Church Committee—Louise Friedenberg**

The mission of the Partner Church Committee is to help build a religious community with the Unitarian Church in Magyarzsakod, Transylvania, to facilitate the exchange of people and ideas, to assist in economic development, to support modern education, to increase knowledge about the roots of Unitarianism, and to foster mutual tolerance and respect among ethnic groups.

Our committee continues email communication with our partner church in Magyarzsakod, Transylvania, Romania. This partnership began in 1992 with the Rockville arrival of Rev. Jack Young from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Rev. Sandor Kovacs is the current minister of Parohia Unitariana Jacodu, effective September 1, 2008. Jacodu is the Romanian name for the Hungarian village of Magyarzsakod.

The Partner Church Committee participated in UUCR’s Sunday worship service on April 10, 2011. Louise Friedenberg, assisted by Bill Newhouse, presented a photo show program of our partner

church. Everyone was invited to Founders Hall after the service for a special photo display and reception. There was also the opportunity to contribute to our scholarship fund to help support students from our partner church. \$2,415 was contributed, which will be used for scholarships in academic year 2011-2012. Our scholarship students this year include Timea-Gabriella Pall, who is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We sent her \$300 to help defray her transportation costs. Renata Hegedus and Kinga Szell are both in their first year of college, and we sent them \$1,000 each for their education expenses.

The 2010-2011 Partner Church Committee budget is \$650 of which \$650 has been spent. In addition to this money budgeted in the church operating fund, the committee raises funds to support student scholarships and other church projects in Magyarzsakod, Transylvania, Romania, as described in the narrative above. The amount from the church operating fund is for the annual minister's stipend (\$500) and our UUCR annual membership fee to the UU-Partner Church Council (\$150). An additional \$300 was contributed by Audrey Koch, earmarked for Rev. Sandor Kovacs to supplement his stipend, since he has had a 25% decrease in his regular salary due to difficult economic times in Romania. Audrey and Reiny Koch hosted Rev. Kovacs in their Rockville home in 1993, when he visited Rockville for a week.

Committee members: Fred Beckner, Jeanine Braithwaite, Lou Cerny, Lana Cerny, Joan Fox, Louise Friedenberg (Chair), Branka Kienstra, Ed Kimball, Audrey Koch, Herb Neumann, Barbara Neumann, Marge Olson, Fred Olson, Jan Popp and Eva Tolgyesi.

### **Social Justice Committee---*Antonio Carrillo***

The Social Justice Committee works for human rights, economic and environmental justice. The committee is the principal coordinating body for social justice activities at UUCR and is composed of those who lead groups, those who represent UUCR at allied organizations and at-large members. We discern congregational priorities and provide leadership in implementing those priorities and encourage exploration of emerging issues. We work in coalition with UU and other social justice organizations to have a greater impact in making the world more peaceful and just. The committee coordinates the work of the following groups and local and regional social justice organizations providing opportunities for direct service, education, advocacy, witness and community organizing: Hunger Relief, Beacon House, Action in Montgomery (AIM), Peacemaking, BGLT (Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender), UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ), Community Ministries of Rockville (CMR), Interfaith Works (IFW), UU Service Committee, OpenDoor Housing Fund and the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD).

The Environmental Action Group, rejuvenated by Mary Lanigan and Terrie Barr along with several members, has moved forward in helping UUCR become a Green Sanctuary as well as educating the congregation on environmental issues. Adriana Brigatti initiated a new immigration effort. As part of the effort to begin educating the congregation on this issue, Adrianna organized a screening of the film *9500 Liberty* with a panel including Ana Sol Gutierrez, State Delegate for Maryland District 18, David Strauss, and Rob Keithan, Sabbatical Minister. Rob also led a discussion based on the book, *The Death of Josseline*. We are continuing to look for leadership to support Adrianna in this very important UUA issue. As the church moves forward in its strategic plan, we continue to explore ways to become a more public church and to increase congregational participation.

## Accomplishments:

- We allocated \$100 of our funds to support Peace Action Montgomery and were host to their annual meeting.
- We participated and allocated \$500 of our funds to be a sponsor for the annual Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless Shelter Walk.
- In FY2009-10, we raised over \$5,700 to sponsor a room at the newly opened Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic in Rockville. In FY2010-11, we raised an additional \$5,000 for the clinic.
- We organized congregants to provide a week of meals in June for the Women's Community Based Shelter as well as providing several meals in the fall and summer.

Committee members: Terrie Barr, Adrianna Brigatti, Antonio Carrillo (Chair), Chuck Fenimore, Linda Hartley, Stephanie Kreps, Mary Lanigan, Alberta Maschal, Bob Oyler and Ken Sandin.

## **Social Justice Committee Groups:**

### **Beacon House—*Alberta Maschal***

The purpose of UUCR liaison to Beacon House is to keep the congregation informed about activities, needs, and volunteer opportunities at Beacon House.

Beacon House Community Ministry is a Unitarian Universalist community ministry founded by Rev. Donald E. Robinson in 1991. Beacon House is a neighborhood-based organization supporting youth and families of the Edgewood Terrace community located in Northeast Washington, D.C. The primary goal of Beacon House is to provide at-risk youth with opportunities for positive educational and culturally-rich programs; to assist at-risk children and youth to identify and pursue their educational objectives culminating in college or vocational training and to prepare them for productive involvement in their community and society.

Our activities included financial support for scholarships for Camp Leap, the summer day camp sponsored by Beacon House which serves about 200 children for 8 weeks; the Back to School drive during the summer; and the Christmas gift collection for children, youth and seniors at Edgewood Terrace in November and early December.

Beacon House is supported by all of the members and friends of UUCR who contribute to the Back to School drive during the summer, who donate new unwrapped gifts for the children, youth and seniors at Edgewood at Christmas time, who make financial pledges to UUCR, which enables support for Beacon House to be funded as part of the Social Justice Committee budget, and who volunteer their time. Community service hours are available to our Senior High youth who wish to participate in Beacon House activities.

### **Hunger Relief Task Force—*Chuck Fenimore***

The Hunger Relief Task Force engages the congregation in actions to relieve hunger, study its causes and advocate for measures to reduce and end it.

Our major accomplishment this year was to engage our congregation in collecting and delivering contributions of food and money for area feeding organizations. Our engagement is in the worship services, Sunday coffee hours and at service projects. Our projects bring members together to work for Manna, the Gaithersburg Soup Kitchen, and other hunger relief-related groups. Participation in service projects generally holds high interest for UUCR's members. The projects raise the profile of our congregation in the community since we generally work with members of other faith and community groups.

Manna, Montgomery County's central food bank, continues to provide a focus for our work on hunger relief. It is featured in several of our worship services and is a regular part of Children's Worship. During this church year, we set a goal to contribute 2,000 pounds of food to Manna. As of May 1, we've already delivered 2,400 pounds to Manna. Dolores Barnes and the Children's Worship Committee lead this project. In August, twelve of our members staffed a "Manna Pavilion" at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair for a day. We provided information on Manna for potential clients and contributors and received cash donations.

Many of our youth, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up, serve meals at the Gaithersburg Soup Kitchen. This year we had 20 youth participants plus several parent helpers. Dolores Barnes and Chuck Fenimore lead this project.

At our Thanksgiving service, the entire congregation donated a total of 800 pounds of food. Four hundred pounds each was delivered to Manna and to All Soul's Church Unitarian in Washington for distribution to needy families. Our members also provided a dozen large Thanksgiving baskets, which we delivered to Community Ministries of Rockville.

UUCR also supported Rockville HELP with a contribution of \$200. HELP provides emergency and supportive services to the elderly and needy members of our community.

The 2010-2011 Hunger Relief Task Force budget is \$1,000, all of which has been spent.

Group members: Dolores Barnes (liaison from Children's Worship Committee), Pat Einhorn, and Chuck Fenimore (Chair). Many UUCR members, friends and youth participate in our activities.

### **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Task Group—*Stephanie Kreps***

The mission of the GLBT Task Group is to advocate, educate and witness for the rights of LGBTQQI persons in our congregation, our community and our world. Our main activities this year had to do with Rainbow Youth Alliance and Equality Maryland.

The Welcoming Congregation poster was located and posted in the corridor. The Rainbow Youth Alliance (RYA) workshop was presented by Cynthia Thurston, Ryan Logue, JJ Vera and Stephanie Kreps at the UUA General Assembly in Minneapolis in June. In the fall, we did a search for Ryan Logue's replacement as RYA Coordinator when he left for another position. From a large field of more than ten qualified applicants, with the help of Rev. Strauss, we selected Shane'a Thomas as the new coordinator. Shane'a began work in December, 2010. A disappointment this year was the disbanding of Rainbow Young Adults, which folded after months of zero participants. The RYA Valentine's Day dance brought a record 101 teens to UUCR. The RYA Thank You Spaghetti Dinner fed over 60 people. We also had a booth at Youth Pride. Our upcoming Baltimore Men's Chorus concert will be held on a Saturday evening this year, June 4.

Patty Walker, Cynthia Thurston and Stephanie Kreps spoke at the services of three area UU churches, Sugarloaf, Silver Spring and Paint Branch. These congregations shared their offering with us to support RYA. Proceeds brought several hundred dollars total. In addition, our grant application to Brother Help Thyself netted \$7,900.

The GLBT Task Group's work with Equality Maryland consisted of a campaign to send messages to legislators supporting equal marriage rights and transgender civil rights bills. Some of us attended the Equality Maryland Lobby Day in Annapolis. Others worked phone banks and post carding the public for support of the bills.

The 2010-2011 GLBT Task Group budget is \$450 of which \$300 has been spent.

Group chair: Stephanie Kreps

RYA Steering Committee: Cynthia Thurston and Patty Walker

### **Environmental Action Group**—*Mary Lanigan*

The Environmental Action Group (EAG) provides leadership and coordination of environmental activities at UUCR inspired by the 7th Unitarian Universalist principle, respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

The Environmental Action Group was rejuvenated in July 2010. In addition to conducting environmental activities, a major focus of the group has been to explore UUCR becoming a Green Sanctuary (UUA certification program). The group meets on the second Sunday of the month after the service in Room 52.

Activities conducted/coordinated:

- Two environmentally-themed worship services: 1) Lay-led "Environmental Justice" service on August 1, 2010 and 2) "Climate Change: The Moral Test of Our Time" on April 3, 2011 with guest speaker Mike Tidwell, Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN).
- Adult Education: 1) Wonderful Wednesday September 29, 2010, environmental film and discussion of *Poisoned Waters*, 2) Wonderful Wednesday October 13, 2010 "Wind Power 101" with Kristen Schultz, Clean Currents.
- Outreach (public event): Forum on "Offshore Wind in Maryland" – presentation by Keith Harrington, CCAN on Sunday, January 16, 2011 after the service. Attendees included Maryland State Senator Jennie Forehand, Delegate Kumar Barve, and Delegate Luiz Simmons all from District 17.
- Earth Day activity: Publicized and collected sign-ups for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth (UUMFE) 40/40/40 Earth Day project regarding sacred waters.
- Obtained Rev. Lynn Strauss's approval for UUCR to join the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GW IPL) as a partner, joining 16 UU congregations and at least 68 other churches.

- Developed information on switching to wind power as a clean energy source and provided sign up information at information table after the service.
- Worked with Buildings and Grounds Committee and church administrator to update list of facilities improvements made that also address the 2007 GWIPL energy audit.
- Publicized and attended the following:
  - UUSJ Environmental Summit at All Souls, Saturday, November 14, 2010 "Beyond Green Sanctuaries - Energizing and Mobilizing UUs to Make A Difference on Climate Change."
  - WIND VISION 2010: A Maryland Citizen's Conference on Offshore Wind, December 5, 2010 in Annapolis. (5 attendees)
  - Rally for Wind Power, Annapolis, March 21, 2010. (5 attendees)
  - Workshop on "Cash Incentives for Energy Efficiency Improvements for Faith Based Organizations," April 2, 2011 sponsored by GWIPL. (2 attendees)
- Green Sanctuary (GS): Developed power point slides and list of sample GS projects from other UU churches; briefed the Board, Council, and major church committees about the GS program. Identified liaisons from committees not represented on EAG. Developed Green Sanctuary Team Charter and obtained Board approval on March 28, 2011. If the congregation votes to pursue GS candidacy at the May 22, 2011 Annual Congregational Meeting, the GS Team will proceed to the next step of facilitating completion of an environmental assessment.

Group members: Terrie Barr, Jim Carleton, Wayne Crump, Ed Kimball, Jon Landenburger, Mary Lanigan (Chair), Alberta Maschal, Martine Palmiter, Jan Popp, Carol Reinsberg, Lucy Roberts, Eva Tolgyesi and Herb Winkler.

## **Social Justice Committee Affiliations:**

### **Amnesty International, USA—*Roald Schrack***

Amnesty International, the worldwide human rights organization based in London, is unaffiliated with any government, church, corporation, or other organization. AIUSA Group 82, while independent of UUCR, continues to benefit from the use of its facilities for meetings. The group was founded in 1975 by Parson Bill Moors and the late Dan O'Connel, a member of the church. About one third of the group's members are also members of UUCR. The co-leaders are Zana Miller and Cathy Knepper. During this church year, Group 82 has continued to hold its monthly meetings on the third Sunday at noon in Room 52. UUCR members and friends have a standing invitation to attend these meetings as observers or potential members.

AI Group 82 cooperated with the church in the publicity and participated in the presentation of the movie *The Response*. Group 82 publicized the event on its website and, with the cooperation of the Washington office of Amnesty International, arranged for publicizing the movie to all local Amnesty

groups. Group 82 had a table manned by two of our members at the movie, promoting the work of Amnesty International on behalf of prisoners of conscience. During the year we had two meetings solely devoted to the writing of cards to prisoners throughout the world. In all, 200 cards were sent. Our website is [www.rocknet.org/Community/Amnesty](http://www.rocknet.org/Community/Amnesty). We announce our monthly meetings and show directions to UUCR on the website.

### **Action in Montgomery (AIM)—*Terrie Barr***

AIM is an interfaith, cross-class, multi-ethnic and multi-racial grassroots organization whose purpose is increasing social integration and power in civil society and for making civic, county and state-wide changes for social improvement. At last count, 128 Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations are members of Congregation-Based Community Organizations (CBCOs)—10% of our UU congregations.

AIM does not currently have a chair but the Social Justice Committee allocated \$2,400 in support of AIM from the UUCR operating budget.

AIM celebrated its 10th anniversary on May 18, 2011. UUCR is a founding member of this community organizing group that has over 30 member congregations. AIM members identify county priorities in thousands of face-to-face conversations with neighbors, fellow parishioners, colleagues and family members. AIM members meet with county officials to share the resulting agenda of issues and hold meetings where citizens turn out in large numbers to challenge our elected officials to support grassroots issues.

**Affordable Housing:** \$228 million for affordable housing since 2003. These funds have been used to build and refurbish thousands of rental and for-sale housing units.

**MD Dream Act:** AIM leaders received public assurances from County Executive Leggett in front of hundreds of AIM members that all high school graduates, regardless of their immigration status, could pay in-county tuition rates at Montgomery College. Then they successfully worked with their sister organizations in Howard County, Prince George's County and Baltimore to pass the MD Dream Act, enabling immigrants to pay in-county tuition throughout the state.

**College Access Counseling:** Doubled county funds for College Tracks, a college access program that works with youth at-risk for not attending college. This means 250 additional youth will be served.

**Health Care:** Increase of \$500,000 to county budget to provide primary health care for those without insurance. These funds enable the county clinics to provide care to 23,000 county residents who do not have health insurance.

### **Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD)**

—*Ken Sandin*

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) works directly with legislators and in coalition with other faith and interest groups to advocate for legislative action. UULM-MD's selection of issues to work on and positions taken are guided by UU principles and purposes. During the 2011 legislative session, UULM-MD supported legislation on offshore wind energy, health care reform, marriage equality and transgender anti-discrimination. None of these bills became law.

The UUCR Social Justice Committee supported and participated in UULM-MD's efforts by: affiliating with UULM-MD and contributing \$100; attending UULM-MD's annual agenda-setting meeting (three UUCR members); becoming contributing members (five UUCR members); publicizing UULM-MD issues at an information table after worship services and asking church members to sign and write letters to state legislators in support of UULM-MD's 2011 legislative agenda – this included organizing UUCR's response (about 30 members) to UULM-MD's appeal to send *Standing on the Side of Love* thank-you cards to state legislators supporting the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Bill (SB116/HB175); participating in UULM-MD's Annapolis rallies in conjunction with Equality Maryland and Chesapeake Climate Action Network lobby days (several UUCR members).

### **Community Ministries of Rockville—*Antonio Carrillo***

Community Ministries of Rockville (CMR) is an interfaith coalition of twenty-one Rockville congregations founded in 1967 to serve those in need in Rockville and Montgomery County. UUCR is represented by two CMR Board members and contributes financially. This year, UUCR contributed \$2,100 to CMR – \$200 directly to the Chase Men's Shelter and \$400 towards the Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic (MKHC).

CMR is an advocate for the underserved and supports several programs to serve the needs of its citizens. These programs include an emergency assistance program (REAP), Latino Outreach Program, Elderly Ministries to enable frail elderly to remain in their home, the MKHC for uninsured adults, and the Chase Partnership House for homeless men, Jefferson House and Hope Housing – transitional housing for homeless men and women. UUCR members bring meals to the Chase Men's Shelter and many UUCR members participate in other CMR programs, such as making several Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in the Rockville community.

This past year, the congregation contributed over \$5,700 to sponsor an examining room for the MKHC. Rev. Strauss attended a ceremony that recognized UUCR, along with other businesses and congregations, for their commitment to funding the clinic. In response to the need of supporting the clinic, the Social Justice Committee submitted a proposal to raise \$5,000 for the continual operation of the clinic for this year. As of this report, we have reached this goal.

CMR served a total of 3,516 individuals in all its programs this year. Volunteer services alone contributed over 5,209 hours and \$1,330,808 (40% of the total budget) as in-kind services. Program highlights include the MKHC which provided 1,948 patient visits, but that number is expected to double this coming year. The clinic also now serves the homeless women in Montgomery County and men at the Chase Partnership Shelter.

CMR has many challenges for the upcoming years. This includes continual funding for the MKHC. Financial and volunteer support through the member congregations is crucial for the survival of CMR. UUCR, as a member of the Rockville community, has an obligation to support CMR to its past historic levels. More detail about the programs and budget is available at [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org) and through the CMR annual report.

CMR Board members: Antonio Carrillo and Roald Schrack.

## **OpenDoor Housing Fund** —*Terrie Barr*

OpenDoor was created through a merger in July 2007 of the UU Affordable Housing Corporation and the Washington Area Housing Trust Fund, a Council of Governments organization. It is the largest locally-controlled loan fund at \$17 million.

OpenDoor helps to create economically strong and diverse communities by providing short-term money to affordable housing developers for pre-development, acquisition and bridge financing. It makes loans not made by traditional financial institutions and is critical to creating and preserving affordable housing. The 5 year goal is to provide loans to support 5,000 homes for working families and those with special needs in the metropolitan area.

Open Door is a nonprofit lender that channels resources from socially responsible investors and donors to community-based developers of affordable housing. Many faith-based institutions, including UU congregations, and most local governments provide operating support because OpenDoor is not yet self-sufficient. OpenDoor's investors, lenders and grantees include more than 150 individuals, government, more than 25 faith-based institutions and banks. All investors have been repaid on time and in full. The UU Interfaith Advisory Committee assists the OpenDoor Housing Fund in staying true to its faith-based roots and UU connections. The website is [www.opendoorhousingfund.org](http://www.opendoorhousingfund.org). Terrie Barr and Brian Sullivan represent UUCR on the UU Interfaith Advisory Committee.

UUCR maintained its institutional investment of \$10,000, maximizing the UUA matching amount. This investment earns 3% interest. The Social Justice Committee contributed \$350 this year for operating expenses. Eleven UUCR members hold individual investments in OpenDoor and additional people make annual donations, some through the Combined Federal Campaign.

## **Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice**—*Terrie Barr*

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ): Inspiring Ideas, Sharing Resources, Working and Celebrating Together

UUSJ connects social justice leaders in over 20 area congregations to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world. Working with allies like the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), ensures our social justice work has a bigger impact in the region. For 11 years, UUSJ has provided regional leadership and congregational support for effective social change in the Baltimore-DC-NOVA region. UUSJ is supported by congregations and individuals deeply committed to UU religious principles of human dignity, justice, and compassion. UUSJ offers grants of up to \$500 to encourage collaboration. We believe that working for justice is an expression of our liberal religious faith.

This year UUSJ advanced the social justice work of UU congregations in three focus areas – GLBT equal rights, immigration, and the environment – through three educational and networking programs. UUSJ partnered with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network for our program on the environment, and with immigrant advocacy groups for “Immigration as a Moral Issue” and with the UUA Washington office and PFLAG on “Supporting GLBTQ Youth.” The environmental program was the same day as the Bizarre Bazaar so only one UUCR person attended. The March immigration program was attended by our sabbatical minister and 3 others. The GLBTQ youth program was planned with the help of Stephanie Kreps; 5 attended and RYA coordinator Shane’a Thomas presented.

Five UUCR members and friends attended the Third Annual Social Justice Awards Gala, a fundraiser for the UUSJ Collaboration Fund. UUCR's Rainbow Youth Alliance won the regional award for "Most Innovative Social Justice Program." The UUSJ website, [www.uusj.org](http://www.uusj.org), has information on social justice activities throughout the region and was used by UUCR, along with the e-newsletter, to publicize the UUCR programs.

UUSJ has a "fair share" financial support system; UUCR met its fair share of \$1,638 to pay for the UUSJ's two 1/3 time staff members, Rev. Terry Ellen and Rev. Cynthia Snavelly, and other operating expenses. UUCR made a contribution of \$600 from the operating budget. In addition to the church's institutional membership, UUCR members and friends made contributions to maintain individual memberships.

UUSJ exhibited at the Green Festival for the 7<sup>th</sup> year. This outreach effort introduces environmentalists to Unitarian Universalism and shares information about area congregations. Other denominations learn about our Green Sanctuary Program.

Terrie Barr is the UUCR representative on the Board of UUSJ for a third and final three-year term. Terrie is serving her last year as co-chair of UUSJ, a three-year term.

### **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee—*Bob Oyler***

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is the official organization through which UUs can support outreach efforts nationally and internationally. This year, we raised \$425 for the UUSC through Guest at Your Table donations and \$822 through merchandise sales (primarily holiday cards). The total raised was approximately \$14 more than last year.

The 2010-2011 UUSC Committee budget is \$200 of which \$200 has been spent.

## **Membership and Communications Cluster**

### **Membership Committee—*Allison Cox***

The Membership Committee creates a welcoming environment for visitors, members and friends, while encouraging newcomers to learn more about UUism and our church. We welcome new members and help them to become involved in the life of this congregation. We participate in the annual roll review and help with tracking our membership.

The Membership Committee promotes congregational growth. UUCR's membership is currently 360. Between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011, 28 people signed the Membership Book.

We now have a new and improved welcoming center in the corridor outside Fellowship Hall. It holds our nametags with room to grow.

We provide greeters at the visitor center and main entrances each Sunday and on special occasions. We send personal notes to visitors and hold fall and spring classes of Path to Membership, including

serving lunch to participants at the second class. This year, we changed the format to make the material more lively and engaging. New members are recognized during two services and we provide two all-church receptions to welcome them. We display photos and short biographies to help everyone recognize and get to know our newest members. We now also have a binder in the workroom where we will continue to add photos and biographies of new members.

In discussions with Rev. Lynn Strauss and other church leaders, it appears UUCR could do more to reach out to the local community, support new members after the recognition and reception and to support visitors and newcomers between the fall and spring Path to Membership classes. Determining how best to do this will be a goal for the coming year.

Committee members: Paulette Campbell, Allison Cox (Chair), Jewell Golden, Ralph Golden, Phyllis Leonard, Susan McCall, Judy Rayner, Steve Rosen and Pat Wilson

### **Greeters—*Jewell Golden***

Greeters welcome new and long-time members and friends each Sunday. We also assist in helping newcomers fill out an information card for our database. Each greeter serves once a month on the Sunday of his or her choice. We hope to have at least three greeters each Sunday. The only requirement is a warm smile. Greeters are part of UUCR's Membership Committee.

Greeters: Marion Higgins Bort, Bob Campbell, Paulette Campbell, Judy Eisenhauer, Jewell Golden, Lynne Goss, Karen Heilman, Robert Heilman, Nancy Klag, Phyllis Leonard, Tonya Lira, David Lorms, Sue McCall, Carolyn Pooley, Christy Shannon, Mark Shannon and William Simmons.

### **Quest Newsletter—*Alberta Maschal***

*Quest* provides information about church people, church activities, programs, and major decisions to UUCR members and friends. It's published in three formats: mailed paper version, postage-saving email (in color) and the web version appearing on our website.

Editing, producing, and delivering *Quest* is the work of teams: Alberta Maschal, Beth Irikura, Elizabeth Sullivan, and Phyllis Leonard are the editors on a rotating basis; UUCR administrative staff – Nancy Gregory and Ginny Scher – layout, proofread and reproduce each issue and distribute the email version; Louise Friedenberg is the Wednesday collating and mailing crew coordinator, Margaret Chalkley, Nancy Grissom, Branka Kienstra, Joan Fox, and Gwen Rowe are the regular crew. Substitutes this year were Jo Wilson, Fred Beckner, and Herb Field. We were very sorry to lose our long-time faithful member Niki Davis, who moved to Santa Cruz, California, in December, but it was wonderful to have her rejoin us for a collating session recently, when she was in Rockville to finalize sale papers on her Rockville home. Karl Irikura posts *Quest* on the website. Thanks to all for the reliable and efficient operation.

## **Webteam—*Karl Irikura***

UUCR's website ([www.uucr.org](http://www.uucr.org)) is built and maintained by UUCR volunteers, and includes some home-made software. The site receives about one million hits per year (as reported by Webalizer). Our webhosting provider is UUism Networks ([www.uuism.net](http://www.uuism.net)).

During the past year, the website has been maintained routinely, without significant new features. However, a new site is under development, based upon the Joomla ([www.joomla.org](http://www.joomla.org)) content management system. Some of the reasons to develop a new site are (1) to allow many people, such as committee chairs, to update the website directly if they wish; (2) to modernize the appearance of the website; (3) to take advantage of advanced features that we cannot duplicate with home-made software; and (4) to reduce the burden on the volunteer Webteam. We expect the new site to be more effective at our primary task of attracting new visitors to UUCR. Secondary goals, such as enhancing fellowship within the congregation and facilitating communication, will also be improved. Much of the new site has been developed, but migration from the old to the new is waiting for some decisions that are being made by a committee.

## **Financial Cluster**

### **Finance Committee—*Kent Hancock***

The Finance Committee assists the Board with setting the church's annual operating budget each year and develops financial policies for Board approval. With Board direction/oversight, the committee also negotiates loans, nursery school leases and other contractual agreements. It serves as a resource to other church groups on financial matters.

Major accomplishments:

- Formalized policies governing UUCR's 17 restricted funds which total \$400,000 on the church's balance sheet. The three largest funds (with 80% of the total - \$325,000) are the General Endowment Fund (principal restricted), the Site Beautification Fund (principal restricted), and the Capital Improvement Fund. The Board-approved restricted fund policies are to be posted on the church website.
- Completed an independent financial review of the church books and submitted findings to the Board. In general, UUCR financial practices are sound. The Finance Committee will address next fiscal year certain areas that could be strengthened.
- Negotiated a new, 5-year renewable lease with the Rockville Cooperative Nursery School (RCNS) which the Board approved on April 25, 2011. RCNS previously had a non-renewable lease that terminated in 2012. The new lease runs through June 30, 2016.
- Conducted an all-church data call to develop the canvass budget. When the pledge drive fell short of its goal, assisted the Board to develop a balanced operating budget for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Committee members: Eric Burch (Assistant Treasurer - Deposits), Dick Gilbert (Assistant Treasurer - Disbursements), Bob Gilfrich, Kent Hancock (Chair), Barbara Harrison, Dave Marks, Marianne Miller (Treasurer), Bill Newhouse and Victoria Williamson.

## **Canvass Committee—*Irene Eckstrand***

The Canvass Committee manages the annual UUCR pledge drive to raise about 85% of the church's operating budget. In addition to raising funds, the annual canvass brings attention to how much we value our church community and what it takes to support our outstanding staff, programs, activities, and worship. The pledge drive is also an opportunity to update the church membership rolls and check in with members we have not seen in a while.

The Board set the 2011 pledge drive target at \$550,250 or 3.6% above the amount raised in the 2010 pledge drive.

The theme for the 2011 pledge drive was "Path to Our Promise," which the committee felt would integrate well with the Board's strategic planning initiative. Congregation members contributed pictures to the church's Picasa website and wrote poems reminiscent of Burma Shave signs. The committee made a special effort to involve the RE parents and classes, especially in writing poems. Signs and pictures were hung in the RE buildings, corridor and Fellowship Hall; others became part of a photo slide show that was shown at the canvass table and at the Fellowship Dinner.

The committee held "Canvass Conversations" to introduce canvassers to their role and to invite discussion about successful canvassing at UUCR. Posters and brochures summarized key points and explained why pledging is important to the church. Jennifer Rodgers Beach wrote a canvass song based on the Muppets' *Movin' Right Along*.

The canvass campaign culminated in the Fellowship Dinner on March 5 and Pledge Sunday on March 6 with Rev. Mary Katherine Morn in the pulpit.

The No Pledge Left Behind effort was a substantial endeavor, involving organizing canvassers to contact people who did not pledge at church and tracking pledges as they came in.

As always, the canvass was supported and blessed by the extraordinary work of volunteers. Susie Spangler designed the art work and canvass brochure; Karla Timmons, Robbie Reasoner and Elizabeth Zerby organized the Fellowship Dinner; Mark Shannon designed the excellent slide show; and many dedicated people made phone calls, sent emails and wrote letters to bring in every possible pledge. The church staff provided outstanding support for the committee's work.

The UUCR Canvass Committee works closely with the Finance Committee, the Board, and the Council to ensure that UUCR can meet its financial obligations and support the work of the church.

Committee members: Jill Asman, Irene Eckstrand (Coordinator), Carey Gellman, David Lorms, Bill Newhouse, Christy Shannon and Karla Timmons.

## **Planned Giving Committee—*Sharrill Dittmann***

A well-funded Endowment Fund is necessary to the long-term health of UUCR. The Planned Giving Committee encourages members and friends of UUCR to complete estate plans for their own benefit and to consider leaving a bequest to UUCR. The committee offers periodic seminars and also sponsors Legacy Sunday to honor individuals leaving bequests to UUCR and to encourage gifts to UUCR's Endowment Fund.

During the 2010-2011 church year, the Planned Giving Committee hosted several events: a seminar on Socially Responsible Investing; Legacy Sunday to recognize seven members planning substantial bequests or making substantial gifts to UUCR; a planned reception to thank members of the Legacy Society.

During the year, we received many memorial gifts in addition to bequests. The Endowment Fund grew from \$100,000 in October, 2010 to \$170,000 at the end of the year. In addition, we spoke with several members about adding UUCR to their estate plans. We are also available to meet with members and friends, formally or informally, and we welcome gifts of any size to the Endowment Fund.

The 2010-2011 Planned Giving Committee budget is \$500 of which \$165 has been spent.

Committee members: Len Cohen, Sharrill Dittmann (Chair), Phyllis Leonard and Roald Schrack.

### **Action Auction Fiesta—*Kathy Clemente and Linda Hartley***

The Action Auction Fiesta is a combination of a primary fundraising event and community-building event for UUCR. Linda Hartley and Kathy Clemente served as co-chairs of the 2011 Action Auction Fiesta.

The Action Auction Fiesta was held on May 7, 2011. Donation items were solicited from outside businesses as well as church members and friends. The donations for this year included: ethnic and mystery performance dinners in members' homes, gift cards to local shops and restaurants, a vacation home rental, bakery items, gourmet offerings, health and beauty options, and services such as gardening/landscaping, home repair, craft lessons, genealogy, etc. The evening in large part was a silent auction, with at least a dozen items in a live auction, which makes for a lively evening. The food was, of course, Mexican and catered by El Mariachi. Beer and wine were sold during the evening by the Power Tool Gang. In addition to the auction, there was a wine raffle and an "I Don't Want to Cook Tonight" raffle. Childcare was provided for families with young children.

The auction requires much planning, coordination and participation from many church members. There were volunteers participating in publicity, ticket sales, computer and website work, decorations, set-up and clean-up, solicitations of donations, catalog preparation, etc. The coordination brings many members together for a common goal. In addition, the many dinner offerings bring varied groups of church members together in social settings. Committee/group members were given the opportunity to work together, develop stronger and/or new relationships in a shared experience with the goal to benefit our church.

Other resources that would be helpful to help the Action Auction achieve its goals in the future include:

- Additional networking with church members and local businesses to increase and provide varied donations for the auction.
- An extensive checklist for tasks along with a timeline.
- Access to the previous year's catalog for cutting and pasting entries when church members write "same as last year" on donation form.
- Someone assigned to network with the RE families and explain what the Action Auction is and promote their participation.
- Consider bundling items next year as packages for auction and/or raffle.

## **Bizarre Bazaar—*Carey Gellman***

The Bizarre Bazaar is UUCR's fall event to raise \$15,000 for the operating budget as well as allow UUCR members and friends to recycle previously-used goods and create hand-crafted items to sell and serve the community with low cost items.

The 43rd Annual Bizarre Bazaar was held Saturday, November 13, 2010 and came close to raising \$15,000 as budgeted. GO GREEN was the theme for this green fundraiser which recycled donated goods and items by selling them to raise funds for UUCR and its programs; reused members' unwanted items by selling and then donating the unsold items to local charities; and renewed our commitment to UUCR by contributing our time and energy to create beautiful crafts and a fabulous quilt to sell and raffle to the public. Over 100 volunteers worked on the Bazaar, putting together the event during the months preceding the Bazaar with a green team of people led by room chairs and event organizers, and on the day of the event. Special acknowledgment for the crew who not only worked all day at the Bazaar but stayed and cleaned up and set up the sanctuary for the service the next day. A heartfelt thank you to Brian Sullivan, Pam West and Matthew Beyers and their children Noah, Miriam and Elora, David Lorms, Nancy Klag, and Richard and Michael Gellman for all their work setting up the sanctuary and the many wonderful, generous volunteers who contributed and made possible the Bizarre Bazaar.

Bizarre Bazaar room chairs and lead volunteers: Carey Gellman, Chair; Susan Beach, publicity; Karl Irikura, web and signage; Cynthia Thurston and Pam West, white elephant; Burt Smith, head cashier; Ken Sandin, bag check; Paulette Campbell, silent auction; Nancy Klag, security and set up; Bill Newhouse, Sam Steele and Roald Schrack, computers; Laura Huff, art; Karla Timmons, baked goods; Erich Burch, treasurer; Jon Landenburger, sporting goods; Katie Calder and Ginny Real, books; See Lam, parking; Kathy Clemente and Valerie Haber, jewelry; Jan Popp and Karen Pittleman, children's clothes; David Lorms, men's clothes; Ellen Uffelmann and Jenn Maschal-Lorms, toys; Terrie Barr, women's boutique; Gretchen Jones, crafters; Louise Friedenber, quilters; and Marla Riley, disposition.

## **Grocery Coupons—*Judy Eisenhauer***

One of UUCR's ongoing fundraising activities is the sale of Giant gift cards and Magruder's gift certificates on the first and third Sundays after the worship service. Members and friends are able to purchase these at face value and the church currently receives 5% of the amount sold. In the period May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011, our total sales were approximately \$30,500, and profit from sales was about \$1,730. Our sales were slightly higher than last year, but still down from previous years. We encourage the UUCR community to participate in this painless way to raise funds for the operating budget.

UUCR members and friends may register their Safeway cards online at [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) and choose UUCR to receive donations. Safeway's [escrip](http://escrip.com) program brought in about \$200 during the past year.

Grocery coupon sellers: Judy Eisenhauer (Coordinator), Sue McCall

# Buildings and Grounds Cluster

## Buildings and Grounds Committee—*Narcy Klag*

The mission of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is to maintain the buildings and grounds so that UUCR can fulfill its mission. Projects to be completed are broken down into short and long term. Short-term projects can usually be completed with normal allocated funds while the long-term projects usually have to be funded through capital improvement funds. The committee either arranges for work days to complete projects or contracts out projects which it and other volunteers cannot handle. The committee deals with emergency repairs, maintenance, upkeep repairs and replacement of equipment. It must manage projects to stay within the allocated budget and coordinate activities with volunteers, the church administrator, the building and grounds manager and church committees.

When projects can be completed by volunteers, the committee works through two sub-groups: the Power Tool Gang and the Grounds Group. The Power Tool Gang is headed up by Jay LaMarche and Dan Pierce and the Grounds Group is headed up by Jo Wilson and Mary Lanigan. Many members are involved in providing many hours of work in these two groups.

Accomplishments can be broken down into three general areas – administrative, buildings and grounds.

### Administrative

- Continued working on developing a list of capital expenses needed to upgrade or replace building equipment or structures over the long term.
- In the process of obtaining bids to replace roofs on all the old buildings.

### Buildings

The Power Tool Gang meets around 8 times a year to work on various tasks in and around the buildings. Most of the tasks below were done by this group.

- Contracted to replace the entrance doors, front and back, in Building 1. Final trim work on the inside was completed by the Power Tool Gang and the buildings and grounds manager.
- Members of the Power Tool Gang demolished and carted away the two old sheds. Jay LaMarche planned and, with the help of several other members, rebuilt a bigger shed on the same site.
- Replaced floor tile in women's room in Building 1.
- Painted Room 44.
- Held several work days to conduct outside painting.
- Replaced the lighting with track lighting in the lobby in Building 1.
- Replaced a number of toilets.
- Replaced 46 feet of fence on the side of the exit driveway.

### Grounds

- Removed ten aging pine trees and replaced them with native trees which will require less maintenance.
- Continued work on the master landscape plan for the courtyard and areas between buildings 1, 4 and 5.

Committee members: Thia Beach, Bill Chapin, Sue Hedges (Vice Chair), Nancy Klag (Chair), Jay LaMarche, Mary Lanigan, Steve Lapham, Herb Neumann, Dan Pierce, Dennis Wellnitz and Jo Wilson.

### **Power Tool Gang—*Jay LaMarche***

Among the projects completed by the Power Tool Gang during the past fiscal year is the new replacement tool storage shed, finished in July of 2010. New doors were installed at the entrances to Founders Hall, and the trim, ceiling tiles and floor tiles were repaired. The new name badge cabinets, made by Jack Young, were installed in the corridor and the wall repaired, dry walled and repainted. New water saving toilets were installed throughout the church buildings. Numerous other small repairs were completed.

### **Grounds-Site Beautification Group—*Jo Wilson***

Two functions exist under the “grounds” umbrella. The first is the maintenance of the existing landscape and the second is to create new garden and planting areas according to a master landscape plan, which was planned after the new sanctuary was built.

Mary Lanigan plans the all-church Do It Day activities in the spring and the monthly work parties on Saturdays during the growing season in conjunction with the Power Tool Group. Mary also organizes monthly summer weeding sessions from May through September.

Site beautification is funded by the interest of an endowment fund established by founding member Walter Brown. It is a restricted fund to be used only for plantings and other landscaping projects, thus serving the second function of developing new garden areas. This spring, we plan to improve the area between buildings 2 and 3, plant additional plants in the courtyard, and begin to landscape the area between the new sanctuary and Building 4.

Our challenge this year is replacing the aging pine trees. This winter’s severe weather felled several trees. Large branches fell into our neighbor’s yards. Our concern is that these trees may cause further damage to the houses. Furthermore, we suffered several power outages lasting up to a week. PEPCO topped many of the trees and we hired Myers and Laws Tree Service to cut the trees to the ground. Ten trees were removed at the entrance of the church driveway. We plan to replace the trees in May.

Group members: Louise Friedenberg, Barbara Harrison, Sue Hedges, Mary Lanigan and Jo Wilson. Many others have helped during the year, including Pam Taylor and Steve Lapham. Doris Lee planted a tomato garden behind Building 4. A special nod of appreciation goes to Thia Beach, Buildings and Grounds Manager, who has done a great deal to make the grounds look attractive.

### **Aesthetics Committee—*Laura Huff***

The main focus of the Aesthetics Committee for the past year has been on art exhibitions by various solo artists and groups in the metro area. Some artists have been welcomed to UUCR before – Roy Sewall, Marian Osher, Rockville Art League, and Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association. All of the exhibitors' work showed high quality in a variety of styles and media.

The following is a list of artists whose work was shown at the church from June 2010 through May 2011:

June - July 2010: **Donna Baron and her students**: oils, acrylics, water media, collage

August – September 2010: **Rockville Art League**: all media

September – November 2010: **Mina Hanig and the Divas**: oils, acrylics, watercolors

November – December 2010: **Gaithersburg Fine Arts**; all media

January – February 2011: **Marian Osher**: oils, water media, prints

February – March 2011: **Canvass Committee**: photographs of UUCR subjects

March – April 2011: **Roy Sewall**: photographs of French chateaux and countryside

May – June 2011: **Washington Watercolor Association**: water media

The work hung in the lobby was greatly enhanced when Thia Beach and Nancy Klag installed track lights. Everyone is grateful to them for this improvement in lighting.

Beth Steel responded to our quest for a sculptor interested in creating a meaningful piece of outdoor sculpture for the church on commission. She has produced a maquette or model of a proposed large sculpture for the circle in front of the sanctuary or another suitable site on the grounds. We are waiting for the Board to look at this maquette and consider her proposal. This will be in accordance with the Public Art Policy put together by the Board.

We were sorry to lose a former member of the Aesthetics Committee this past year – Charles Braun. Formerly a co-chair of the committee, Charles died last July. Other committee members who have been helpful during the year are Liliane Blom, Marion Higgins Bort, Paulette Campbell, Margaret Chalkley, Joan Fox, Louise Friedenberg, Holly Meyer, Beth Steel and Pat Wilson.

### **Information Technology Committee—*Bill Newhouse***

The mission of the Information Technology Committee is to maintain UUCR office IT systems and provide first response when the UUCR staff cannot resolve an IT system problem. The IT Committee is also ready to work with the office to discuss the use of new technologies and to plan for upgrades of systems when necessary. The IT Committee is able to respond to requests for technical support for church activities. IT systems at UUCR include the telephone system (our Private Branch Exchange – PBX -- and its associated desk phones), computers, the LCD projector, facsimile, printers, scanners, mobile phones, and networking equipment such as switches, DSL modems, routers, and wi-fi routers.

Accomplishments:

- Replaced the uninterruptible power supplies for the church server.
- Configured the new Windows 2003 server to replace the old Windows 2000 server (activation expected after the Action Auction).

- Provided remote access for the financial workstation to the bookkeeper and treasurer to enable them to complete some of their duties without having to be on church property.
- Installed wi-fi in the basement of Building 5. Wi-fi is now present in all church buildings. UUCR1, UUCR 4, and UUCR5 are part of the church's computer network. The preschools, RCNS and ECC, have their own private wi-fi networks in buildings 2 and 3.
- Began brainstorming about changing the church database software to something that might support pledge collection management better.
- Prepped minister's laptop for sabbatical use.
- Supported account activation and deletion for new and departing staff.

Committee members: Eric Burch (database), Bill Newhouse (Chair) and Tom Rowe (wi-fi installation support).

### **Sound Committee—*Michael Holmes***

The purpose of the Sound Committee is to enhance and maintain the sound equipment at UUCR, specifically in the sanctuary and Founders Hall.

This year, the committee purchased and installed a new lavalier (clip-on) microphone for Founders Hall to replace the old one which used a frequency that has been reallocated to another purpose by the FCC. At the request of the church administrator, we also purchased and installed a specialized "DI box" to allow renters (and others) to easily play music from iPods and mp3 players through the sanctuary sound system.

The CD player in Founders Hall no longer works and our budget request for the next church year includes funds to replace it. There also is a problem with the speaker wiring in Founders Hall and currently only half of the speakers are actually being used. This should be relatively easy to fix; it is a project that the committee will need to undertake. Rev. Lynn Strauss has asked us to look into the purchase of an unobtrusive headset mic for her use during services. We will do that and plan to purchase it shortly after her return from sabbatical.

The 2010-2011 Sound Committee budget is \$160 of which \$207 has been spent.

Committee members: Mike Holmes (Chair), Jeremy Schuhmann and Dennis Wellnitz.

## **Spiritual and Caring Cluster**

### **Caring Committee—*Barbara Neumann***

In conjunction and cooperation with the minister, the UUCR Caring Committee, consisting of volunteers, provides support services for UUCR members and friends who need assistance. These services are limited by capability and liability considerations.

Committee members personally provide some services and arrange for other UUCR members and friends to help as specific needs occur. The committee furnishes transportation, runs errands, delivers

meals during crises, visits people at home and in hospitals (along with the Pastoral Visitors), sends cards and provides other services as needed.

Other major functions include:

- Memorial receptions: They are organized to honor the lives of those members and friends who have died during the past year. Usually, cookies and beverages are provided by the committee. No fees are asked, but donations are gratefully accepted. Paulette Campbell and Jo Wilson chair this function.
- Thinking of You column: Ethel Gilbert is the editor of this regular *Quest* column. If you have joys and concerns that you would like to appear in *Quest*, please contact Ethel.
- Greeting cards: The Caring Committee is responsible for sending cards to members and friends who celebrate special events and to those who are ill or hospitalized. Phyllis Leonard is the coordinator of this activity.
- The Caring Committee brochure: Written, designed and produced by Lee Blue and Betty Prestemon.
- Lobby bulletin board: News about awards, adventures, joys and concerns of the church community is posted on a board located in the lobby in Building 1. Holly Meyer coordinates this effort.

Many thanks to all who have donated time and effort to the UUCR community during the past year.

Committee members: Carol Barney, Lee Blue, Paulette Campbell, Ethel Gilbert, Jewell Golden, Barbara Kawamura, Dorothy Ladd, Phyllis Leonard, Holly Meyer, Barbara Neumann (Chair), Betty Prestemon and Jo Wilson.

### **Sunday Morning Meditation** —*Celia Young*

The purpose of Sunday Morning Meditation is to offer members and friends of UUCR an opportunity to relax and participate in mindful meditation.

We have kept our small meditation group active and running. We sometimes have just a couple people, but all members feel the group is an important part of their spiritual life. Now that summer is coming, we will meet outside under the pergola behind Room 44. We also had a potluck gathering this year and several members attended. It was enjoyable.

Our goal, I believe, is to encourage new members and urge folks to give Sunday Morning Meditation a try. We meet from 9 until 9:45 a.m. The early time is a problem for some, but we keep plugging along.

### **Sunday Sangha** —*Liliane Floge*

The mission of the Sunday Sangha is to assist anyone who is interested to improve their practice of mindfulness using the methods recommended by the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hahn. The Sangha meets about twice a month to meditate and study, through readings and discussion, other aspects of mindfulness practice. Since we began in 2010, about 20 persons have attended at least one meeting, with about 8 to 10 persons coming regularly.

The Sangha, working with the Worship Committee, organized the worship service on February 13, 2010. We were pleased to have Mitchell Ratner, a senior dharma teacher, join us by leading the congregation in meditation and giving a dharma talk. We expect to meet with him in May to assist us in ways to strengthen the Sangha and improve our practice.

We believe that several members of the Sangha have found that it has contributed to a better spiritual outlook. Those of us with young children very much appreciate that the church has been providing childcare during our Sangha meetings.

Our greatest difficulty now is finding an appropriate room for our meetings. As more persons have indicated an interest in our meetings, we have sometimes felt squeezed for space. At other times, the lively nature of some UUCR activities has made it a challenge to meditate or have peaceful discussions. We are still searching, with the able assistance of the church administrator, for the best space for our meetings.

### **Women's Spirituality Group—*Jewell Golden***

The Women's Spirituality Group meets the first and third Saturday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are an open group and welcome new members. The discussions are on any topics important to the members and we have no leader. Though we may be atheists, agnostics, or true believers, we join together to enhance our spiritual growth and to continue on our own individual spiritual paths. We achieve this through attachment....deep, meaningful, and lasting relationships.

## **Fellowship Cluster**

### **Quilters—*Margaret Chalkley and Louise Friedenber***

The mission of the Quilters is to create one quilt each year to be raffled at the annual Bizarre Bazaar.

Our group created its 30<sup>th</sup> annual quilt, called “Appliqué in Bloom,” which was raffled at UUCR’s 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Bizarre Bazaar on November 13, 2010. Raffle tickets were sold at \$2 each, or 3/\$5. Net profit was \$1,452. Laura Rhodes was the quilt winner. The quilt consisted of 20 12” blocks. The color scheme was pastel colors. Each block was a floral design, and was based on some of the traditional Baltimore Album Quilt blocks.

We also created an original appliquéd minister’s stole, which was presented to Rev. Elizabeth Marsh at her ordination in October. The design was created by Lynne Goss, and Carol Dangel was the quilter who beautifully executed the design, which was based on one of the blocks from this year’s raffle quilt.

We also made many hand-crafted items for the Bizarre Bazaar, including note cards, quilted pillows and potholders, and wall hangings, tree ornaments, and knit items.

Our group provides the possibility for anyone who practices needlework to experience group participation in the making of a beautiful product while enjoying the warmth and support of friends who share an interest and meet together weekly.

The 2010-2011 Quilters budget is \$250 of which \$275 has been spent.

Group members who created one or more blocks this year: Margaret Chalkley, Carol Dangel, Louise Friedenbergl, Barbara Harrison, Doris Lee, Alberta Maschal, Holly Meyer, Randy Joy Rotz, Gwen Rowe, Anne Spicknall, and Jo Wilson. Also contributing to the hand-quilting was Lynne Goss.

### **Craft Group**—*Sherry Henry*

The Craft Group strives to connect to one another, both creatively and socially, and to share our artistic knowledge.

This year, the crafters continued their focus on arts and crafts, and occasionally provided assistance for church activities. A few crafters helped make masks for the Tuxedo Junction Masked Ball in April. The crafters continued their participation in the Bizarre Bazaar and sold various handmade items, such as greeting cards, jewelry and hand-knitted clothing.

The crafters have made a decision, with the exception of knitted items, to “go green” and focus on making handmade items out of recycled materials. We already make bracelets and greeting cards from repurposed materials and are currently producing holiday items from recycled papers and cardboard.

Ours is a group that has artistic goals, but also welcomes anyone who would like to join us socially and either participate in projects or simply share in our fellowship.

The 2010-2011 Craft Group budget is \$100 of which \$100 has been spent.

### **Book Club**—*Carolyn Pooley*

The Book Club meets monthly throughout the church year to discuss a variety of fiction and nonfiction books. All members and friends of UUCR who enjoy reading are invited to participate.

Book selection, dates and meeting times are published in *Quest*, the church newsletter. The Book Club also sponsors an annual poetry and potluck event to which everyone is welcome. Books are available at local libraries and through UUCR’s link to Amazon.com.

### **Dinners for Eight**—*Francois Martzloff*

The mission of Dinners for Eight is to gather around a dinner table eight people ready to enjoy good fellowship to accompany good food, and vice-versa.

Accomplishments:

- Returned from a pared-down schedule to a steady monthly dinner opportunity, typically with two to three tables from a pool of 40 interested would-be guests and volunteer hosts.

- Several new people have joined the group, while some did pull out.
- Night driving difficulties for seniors were alleviated by folks who can provide a ride – thank you!

Unresolved issues:

- Organize a Table for Eight at the church to allow access for persons with disabilities. No one volunteered to organize the logistics for such a format. The idea remains alive but is asleep,
- As a complement to the dinners held in homes on the second Saturday evening each month, organize a “Lunches for Eight” to accommodate those who have difficulties with night driving. This is neither a competition nor a substitute for the existing “Lunch Bunch”: Not enough people expressed interest to make this happen. The idea remains alive but is asleep.

### **Lunch Bunch**—*Jewell Golden*

The UUCR Lunch Bunch celebrated its 21st year of fun, feasting, and fellowship. We meet at a variety of area restaurants from different cultures. We always welcome newcomers, friends, and members of the larger community. If you need a ride, we will come and pick you up. Take a long lunch hour and join us! You deserve it.