



Brockport UU News

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Reflections on Courage

By Rev. Peggy Meeker

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I've been reflecting on courage, our worship theme for May, and realizing that courage can take many forms. Today I need the courage to start my two projects of the week, both of which seem daunting at the moment—writing this newsletter and writing a sermon about courage! Yesterday, I needed the courage to claim for myself a day off. The day before that, I needed the courage to walk up to and talk with a group of teenagers (who of course don't realize how intimidating they can be) who were helping out at the Earth Sunday recycling project in Rochester. And then of course there are the big things that take courage, like making a major life decision, or facing major bad news. Winston Churchill once said "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." What do you need courage for? What, in your life, is calling you to rise to the occasion, or to stand firm, or to try again, or even to stop and look, or to let go? We'll consider courage together this month. Take heart, take courage, and take care!

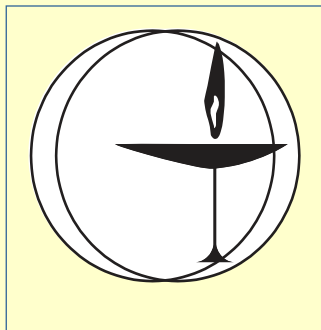
Ecumenical Pentecost Service, May 23rd

The four "inner village" churches in Brockport—First Presbyterian, First Baptist, United Methodist, and St. Luke's Episcopal—have invited BUUF to join them in a Pentecost Service on Sunday morning, May 23rd, at 10 a.m., at the Brockport High School. Peggy Meeker will be participating in the service along with the pastors of the other churches.

Pentecost commemorates the birth of the Christian church when, seven weeks after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended upon his disciples. This will be a celebratory service, with festive music, communion, and refreshments afterward. There will be an adult choir and a children's choir, and anyone interested in singing is invited to join in rehearsals at one of the other churches. Let Peggy know if you'd like more information. Pentecost is not usually a Unitarian Universalist holiday, but this will be a great opportunity for all of us to celebrate the Spirit together.

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Second Sunday Sampler—and 40/40/40



Our Second Sunday Sampler on Sunday, May 9th, will feature two choices. David Markham will be leading the Social Justice Group in a discussion on “Ethical Eating and the Environment,” which will include a discussion of your ideas about and experiences with the 40/40/40 challenge—40% of us doing something to benefit the earth for 40 days (April 18-May 27) in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. The second option is an adult religious education class that Peggy will lead from a curriculum called “Spirit in Practice.” The session will focus on personal spiritual practices, and in particular, on prayer and meditation. There will also be a chance to consider our actions to benefit the earth as spiritual practice. We will meet at the usual time (10 a.m.) and place (though in the front rooms), and child care will be provided.

CROP Walk

The 28th Brockport CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, May 2nd. The walk will start at the Brockport United Methodist Church (92 Main Street) with registration at 12:30 and the 10 Kilometer (6.2 mile) Walk beginning at 1:00. Let Bernie LoBracco (blobracco@mindspring.com or 637-4605) know if you’re interested in taking part. So far there are three of us!

UULTimate Leadership Retreat in July

A leadership development and faith-deepening experience is planned for July 25th-28th at the Notre Dame Retreat House, overlooking Canandaigua Lake. This retreat is geared for all present and potential leaders of UU congregations. The retreat leaders include the Rev. Tom Chulak, the District Executive of our St. Lawrence UU District, who will be retiring at the end of July, the Rev. Sally Hamlin from First Universalist in Rochester, the Rev. Douglas Taylor from the UU Congregation of Binghamton, and Jan Gartner, Director of Religious Education at First Universalist.

This promises to be a wonderful experience in a beautiful setting.

This event promises to be a wonderful experience in a beautiful setting, and if a team of us attend, it could be transformative for BUUF. If you’re interested in going, talk to David Markham. The cost is \$285 until May 15, and \$305 after May 15, but BUUF has money available for leadership development from the grant we received from the New York State Convention of Universalists, and this would be the perfect time to use some of that gift.

The Wider UU World (and Beyond)

ROCLA (Rochester Committee on Latin America) Meeting: Presentation by Ruth Orantes, Salvadoran pastor, feminist, and worker for justice, **Wed., May 5th**, 7 p.m., Downtown Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester.

Immigration Policy Discussion & Book Signing: Presentation by Margaret Regan, author of a new book on the human impact of U.S. immigration/border policy, *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands*, **Thurs., May 13th**, 7 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd., Rochester.

Universalist Convocation 2010, May 14th-16th: keynote address **Saturday, May 15th** by Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, "Dragged Kicking and Screaming to Heaven;" other events include a business meeting and a tour of the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion; primary site is First Universalist Church of Rochester, 150 S. Clinton Avenue; registration \$60; more information is available at nmuc.org/Convo/2010Convo.htm.

GUUSTO (Genesee UU Societies Together): Meeting **Wed., May 19th**, 7 p.m., First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Avenue, Rochester.

Pentecost Service: Ecumenical service **Sunday, May 23rd**, 10 a.m., Brockport High School.

BUUF News

The BUUF Book Club will meet May 11th to discuss the book *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History* by Thomas DeWolf, a fascinating story of how ten family members retraced their ancestors' steps through the slave trade route and uncovered a hidden history both of their family and of the Northern U.S. Our June 8th book will be *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko, a novel about a Native American Indian returning home after being imprisoned by the Japanese in World War II.

Ron Beiswenger, our treasurer, submits the following financial information for September 2009 through April 2010.

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>Sep. -April</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2009/10 Budget</u>
Worship	\$2413.69	\$2575.00	\$2990.00
Rent	\$1200.00	\$960	\$1240
Music	\$150.00	\$250	\$250
Supplies	\$100.00	\$240	\$300
Hymnals/Equipmt.	\$963.69	\$1125	\$1200
Pulpit	\$2860.00	\$2830	\$3765
Religious Education	\$296.73	\$350	\$400
Operations	\$323.96	\$1600	\$2000
<u>Social Outreach</u>	<u>\$147.00</u>	<u>\$817</u>	<u>\$1022</u>
Total	\$6,041.38	\$8,172	\$10,177

RECEIPTS

General Collection	\$5386.70
Hymnals	\$520.00
Social Outreach	\$147.00
<u>Grants</u>	<u>\$1000.00</u>
Total	\$7,053.70

*Join the Book Club's
May discussion of
Inheriting the Trade—
and follow one family's
journey retracing their
ancestors' steps*

If you are experiencing difficulties in your life, or if you or someone in your family is in the hospital and you would like a pastoral call, please let Rev. Meeker know, at pmeeker@frontiernet.net or 224-6312.

BUUF Calendar

Sunday Morning Services—10 a.m. on May 2 and 16, Brockport Exempt Association

Second Sunday Sampler—10 a.m. on May 9, Brockport Exempt Association

Steering Committee Meeting—Thursday, May 20 (third Thursdays), 7-9 pm

Soul Matters Meeting—Thursday, May 6 (first Thursdays), 7-9 pm (contact Rev. Meeker for more information)

Book Discussion Group—Tuesday, May 11 (second Tuesdays), 6:30-8 pm, Lift Bridge Book Shop; discussing Thomas DeWolf's *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History* (and please come even if you haven't read the book!)

We would love to have you join us at these activities, and even better, bring a friend or family member!

Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Phone: 585-637-6374

Web: www.brockportuu.org

Action Alert

40/40/40—The Ethical Eating team of the Unitarian Universalist Association has challenged UU congregations to get 40% of their members to commit to some action for 40 days that would benefit the environment. The 40 days are April 18th-May 27th. Suggestions include daily actions such as giving up bottled water or eating less meat, or larger projects to be studied or worked on during this time, such as planting a lettuce garden or building a compost bin. What might you do? Our earth needs us!

Also, consider making these words by UU minister Vern Barnet your pledge: I pledge allegiance to the earth on which I stand, and to the environment of which I am a part, one planet in a Process, with soil, water and air like one body, indivisible, with resources to be cherished and protected by all.