

# RE-adjustment

Last month I posed the question, what makes us UU's? I believe it is the belief in the worth and dignity in every human being and the search and fight for world peace and justice. These beliefs begin when we are very young, which is why a few weeks ago, during the Lesson for all Ages in the sanctuary, I told the children how it is not up to anyone else but them to be the leaders for a better world. Changing the world does not need to occur with a catastrophic event, it happens every day with our daily actions and words. David Newman said it best when he suggested that one way of making the world a better place is to ask others: "Are you OK?"

This may seem simple and insignificant, but the truth is that by asking someone if "they are ok" we are being compassionate to their needs. It means we are showing the desire to give a helping hand and we are willing to share our peace and joy through a smile. Sometimes a smile from a stranger is all you need to transform your day into a special one.

I am proud to know that in our RE program at SNUUC we strive to change our world, and encourage our children's sense of compassion and leadership. For example, our junior youth group fundraised over \$450 this past month for Heifer, an organization that truly helps families in need. Rather than giving a hungry family a meal which will only satisfy their immediate needs, the junior youth has successfully fundraised to be able to provide a family in poverty with a sustainable source of food and income, by giving them the gift of livestock.

The Junior Youth group has also worked to raise awareness about taking care of our environment through the ICOP social action activity we had this past month. A group of youth, together with youth from the Presbyterian Church, worked together placing decals on drains all around Freeport, which remind people that the trash they place there will end up in our waters. We are planning to also go and personally clean some of our waters, once the weather permits.

Our youngest students in RE have considered our Second UU Principle of treating others kindly. They have read many stories that teach about tolerance, compassion and kindness and have created projects and art works that exemplify "nice words" and deeds which can make the world a better place.

No matter what group or grade our children and youth are in, at SNUUC we are encouraging them to expand their imagination in order to create this desired world. For example, the oldest children in the primary grades learned about the Unitarian architect Frank Lloyd Wright this month, and designed their own ideal UU buildings and spaces!

The Senior Youth has practiced their freedom of speech by leading their worship last month. In it, they shared with the congregation a theme, which brought forth wonderful thoughts and possibilities for our faith. In last month's article I mentioned Socrates' life lesson: "*An unexamined life is not worth living*". At the senior youth service, the youth challenged and questioned our faith, which we know must consistently happen; for in the end, ideas and faiths that are questioned, if guided by truth, will come out stronger.

Let us remember to challenge ourselves, our children and youth every day to do more for one another. May we experience growth every minute of our lives and have the humility to see wisdom and teachers all around us.      Until next month, Mino

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

The Social Action Committee is meeting on Sundays, February 24 and March 30 at noon in the RE wing.

The Environmental Committee is meeting Sunday, February 24 at noon in RE wing. Under discussion is, changing light bulbs at SNUUC, paper making workshop, movie night in April (do you have a suggestion for a movie with an environmental theme?) & environmental art by Jeffrey Price. All are welcome! Contact Diane Hawkins. We continue to collect batteries and paper (from Sunday service only, not household paper) and sell the canvas bags.

**Social Action and Gay Straight Dialogue Group invite you to a showing of the award-winning documentary *Brother Outsider: The Life Of Bayard Rustin*, on Saturday, March 15 at SNUUC.** This documentary is about a key activist and lieutenant of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who is also considered the first gay rights activist. The movie won numerous awards from LGBT film festivals, and was a selection in the Sundance, Amnesty International and National Black Arts festivals. Doors open at 7 PM and the film will begin at 7:30.

## RE Classes!

On February 24 there will be a **special Sunday activity** in the RE area for *all grades*. Mino and her husband will co-teach an improvisation workshop.

There will be no regular RE classes due to the public schools' winter break.

**Sunday, March 2nd** at 9am is the **RE teacher training** for all new RE volunteers. All RE classes will recommence that day-- except for the Senior Youth group. Due to the large amount of youth attending the metro district Con that weekend, there will be no RE for Senior Youth.

## Junior Youth

The Junior Youth is proud to report that with your help we raised \$457 for Heifer International. Because of SNUUC's generosity we are able to give the following: A llama (provides families with wool for blankets, ponchos, carpet and rope), a half share of a water buffalo (which provides power for planting rice and potatoes, milk for protein and manure for fertilizer and fuel), a trio of rabbits and a share of rabbits (helps families increase their protein intake and income, because rabbits have so many offspring), honeybees (helps earn income through the sale of honey, beeswax and pollen), a flock of chicks (provides eggs to eat, share & sell) and a flock of hope (chicks, ducklings and goslings that will grow up to lay eggs that mean hope and increasing health and prosperity for hungry families). For more information, log on to [heifer.org](http://heifer.org) for further information on how this organization works.

Tess Larsen

# SNUUC Calendar March 2008

Meeting places: S-Sanctuary F-Foyer RE-RE Wing M-Minister's Office

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 RE Teacher Training 9am RE Ways &amp; Means 12 rm1 DRE Search Comm 12 RE Wayne Dyer Meditation 6:30 F The Artists Way 6:30 RE</p>	<p>3 Meditation 7:15 F&amp; S Finance Comm 7:30 RE</p>	<p>4 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p>7 Meditation 9am F LIYUUTH Event 7-10 RE</p>	<p>8 NVC 9:45 F CAIR 12:00 RE</p>
<p>9 Daylight Savings Time Begins RE Comm 9am RE Thrift Shop Comm 12:00 RE The Artists Way 6:30 RE</p>	<p>10 Meditation 7:15 F&amp; S</p>	<p>11 Ministers Meeting 9am F Yoga 5:30-6:30 F Membership 7:30pm F</p>	<p>12 La Leche 9am RE</p>	<p>13 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p>14 Meditation 9am F ♦ Poetry Reading Against War 7pm S</p>	<p>15 NVC 9:45-11:45 RE Girl Scouts 10am RE ♦ Movie Night S/A &amp; GSD Brother Outsider: Life of Bayard Rustin 7pm S</p>
<p>16 DRE Search Comm 9am rm 1 W. Dyer Meditation 6:30 F</p>	<p>17 Meditation 7:15 F&amp; S</p>	<p>18 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F</p>	<p>19 Board Meeting 7:00 F</p>	<p>20 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p>21 Meditation 9am F Talent Auction Event 5 F</p>	<p>22 NVC 9:45-11:45 F</p>
<p>23 <i>Easter</i></p>	<p>24 Meditation 7:15 F&amp; S</p>	<p>25 Yoga 5:30-6:30 F</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p>28 Meditation 9am F ♦ Foyer Art Opening Reception 7-9pm</p>	<p>29 NVC 9:45-11:45 F Girl Scouts 10am RE</p>
<p>30 Social Action 12 rm 1 W. Dyer Meditation 6:30 F</p>	<p>31 Meditation 7:15 F&amp; S</p>	<p>April 1 Yoga 5:30-6:30</p>	<p>April 2</p>	<p>April 3 Unicrafters 1:00 F Drumming Wkshp 6pm S Choir Practice 7:30 S</p>	<p>April 4 Meditation 9am F GSD PotLuck &amp; Workshop The Radical Right 7 RE</p>	<p>April 5 NVC 9:45 F LIUU Pasta Party at Garden City UU 6:30</p>