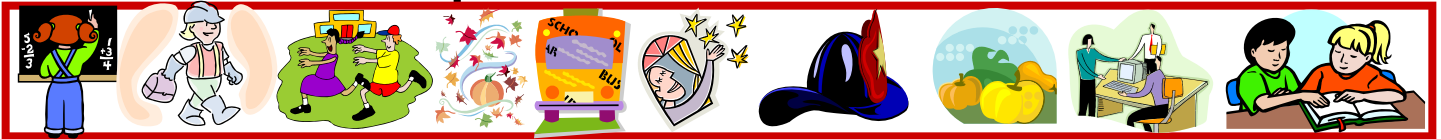


**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Northern Westchester**

Route 172 Mount Kisco, New York 10549  
Phone (914) 241-1360 · www.uufellowship.org

*A place where minds can learn and hearts can share*

# September 2011



## Sunday Worship Services, 10:30 a.m.

**September 4**                      **Steffani Brandenburg**  
*Lead With Your Heart*

Steffani will share reflections on how her yoga practice has influenced her being in “right relationship” with others.

**September 11**                      **Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, Frances Sink, and Donna Renfro**  
*Rising Up: A Community Ingathering*

Ten years ago, acts of unthinkable violence shook us to our core and made us question everything. On the evening of September 11, 2001, this Fellowship was one of many that opened its doors and allowed people to experience the healing power of community. Today, we honor the memory of 9/11 and also celebrate community. As we pour our communal waters together in our annual ritual of Ingathering, we will be celebrating the wholeness that is only possible together, and looking forward to a world free of violence, hatred and fear. *The Board of Trustees is hosting an all-Fellowship luncheon after the worship service. Please join us.*

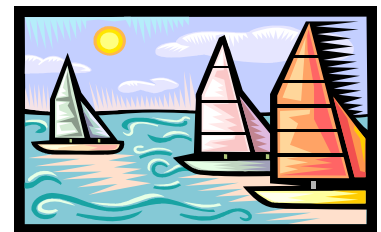
**September 18**                      **Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, Frances Sink,  
and Donna Renfro**

*Be a Superhero*

Each of us has a secret super power waiting to be used to bless the world. What is your super power? How will you use it to be a UU Superhero?

**September 25**                      **Frances Sink**  
*The Answer Is “Yes”*

“Yes” is a choice. “Yes” is an affirmation received. “Yes” is an impulse rushing past reason. “Yes” takes a stand, even in fear. As we explore together the universe of this small word, we’ll also examine its power to change lives.



### Inside this issue:

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It’s All Happening!	5-7
Calendar	Insert

*Nursery care available at all services*

# Fireside Chat

By Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, Minister



“People get summer vacations, institutions don’t.”

That’s what I said to the Worship Committee four years ago when we were discussing whether to have worship services all summer. I then asked them to imagine the first time they came to the Fellowship—perhaps new to Unitarian Universalism, maybe new to the area, or just new to our congregation—and what they would have done if the doors were locked and the lights were off when they got there. Most of us, it’s sad to say, wouldn’t have come back a second time. We quickly agreed to have worship all summer.

Four years later, we’ve had 52-week-a-year worship ever since. Attendance is a little lighter over the summer, though, reflecting the fact that we don’t have an RE program for our children and I’m out of the pulpit much of the summer. This year, we were blessed to have a wonderful Intern Minister and a fabulous Affiliated Community Minister filling the worship calendar in with quality worship. Next year, Frances Sink will have completed her internship and Peggy Clarke will be busy being the full-time settled minister in Hastings.

And yet, I’m a person, and people get summer vacations. That doesn’t mean, of course, that I need so much vacation over the summer, or that people who are not me cannot lead high-quality worship. Donna Renfro gets vacation and study leave time, too, but this doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be expecting parents and children at the Fellowship in the summer months. Clearly we have some figuring out to do.

In the coming months, I’ll be working with the Board to revisit the Letter of Agreement we signed when you called me as your minister in 2007. Part of what we’ll be revisiting is the way we look at summer worship. My original agreement says that I don’t lead worship at all between the end of June and the second Sunday in September. I think that’s too long.

One of the exciting things that the Worship Committee and I are already working on is a workshop for people interested in leading worship services. We’ll go over some worship theory, including what makes a good worship service, how to think about it as a whole, and what makes a good sermon. I’ll give pointers and tips on practical matters, too. If you’ve ever thought you might like to lead a worship service, pencil in either Sunday Oct. 16 or Wednesday Oct. 25 in your calendar (we’re offering it twice). More details will be in next month’s Open Hearth.

What else might have to change in order to reinvigorate summer at UUFNW? I don’t know. Hopefully not much. After all, we all need a vacation. The Fellowship just doesn’t get one.

In peace,

*Michael*



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester

Route 172 Mount Kisco, NY 10549  
Phone (914) 241-1360

### Staff

Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, Minister

Donna Renfro, Director of  
Religious Exploration

Dr. Frances Sink, Intern Minister

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### Web Site

Webmaster: Vicki Borah-Bloom  
[www.uufellowship.org](http://www.uufellowship.org)

### Minister’s Office Hours

Rev. Michael will be in the office most Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Occasional meetings and off-site appointments with members and friends make it difficult to set exact hours. Please call (914) 241-1360 or email [mtino@uuma.org](mailto:mtino@uuma.org) if you’d like to stop by.

Rev. Michael is also available for appointments on Tuesday through Sunday between 9 am and 9 pm. He is always available by cell phone at (919) 949-1158 for crisis or emergency needs. His day off is Monday, and he works from home on Friday.

# Words & Deeds

## Ponderings from the Prez

Why do we come to the UUFNW? What makes us different from the Rotary Club or a book club or the occasional gathering with friends or family over a meal? What makes us a religion?

A-HA! That was the question I'd been wanting someone to answer for years. Well, there I was this past June (lucky me), sitting in a meeting room at this year's UUA General Assembly in Charlotte, North Carolina, listening to Doug Zelinski from the Clara Barton District... and HE was about to answer it! My chai latte was bubbling over with excitement.



Mr. Zelinski suggested that the answer lies in what he calls *Our Purpose*. Unlike a Rotary Club, our purpose is not to raise money for community organizations, though we may do that. Our purpose is not to bring people together for social events or support, though we do that as well. And, believe it or not, the purpose of religion (which we most definitely are) is more than deepening our own spirituality, more than making connections with others, and even more than social action. (I was surprised when I heard this 'cause I kind of thought that was the whole shebang.) The purpose of religion, Mr. Zelinski offered, and thus our purpose, is to *Shape Society's Values in Our Image of Love*. Indeed, that is what religions historically have done. It is what society (and our 501 status as a religion) expects us to do.

*But do we???*

I know this notion may ruffle some feathers. As I said to Mr. Zelinski and the others in that room, gathering all my caffeinated courage, some of us don't want to be like *them*, those people who think it is their right to impose their religious beliefs on everyone else, inserting it in our politics, our schools, and our laws. His reply spun my feelings 180 degrees and churned

# LOVE

## From the Intern Minister

It is a joy to be returning for my second year with you as your Intern Minister. I will be continuing a half-time position, working as part of your ministry team with Rev. Michael and Donna Renfro, Director of Religious Exploration and of course you. Together we create and grow together the daily congregational life of our religious community. This year I will share in leading worship, life-span religious education programs, vespers, labyrinth walks, our intergenerational service trip to New Orleans in the spring, Fellowship dinners, and so much more.

Returning to a place of belonging, such as we share in this congregation, is worthy of the name "home," and we share this spiritual home together. I look forward to another year of growing together in real relationships with each other as we strive to build and sustain an authentic community where we care about what really matters in each other's lives. If we are serious about sharing a faith that save lives and can change the world in to a place of greater caring and more justice, then shouldn't we start with ourselves, here, at home.

Faithfully,

*Frances*



my chai: *They* are already doing it. Other religions are already working hard to shape society's values in their image of love—values that tend to promote exclusion, magic thinking, and injustice. If *we* don't work to shape society into our image of love, with our values, then *their* image will prevail. Ouch.

In that moment, I also understood that my disdain for organized religion in general had been misplaced. It wasn't organized religion per se that I could no longer tolerate, but an organized religion that didn't share my vision of love in this world. Working together was key. But having the better vision of love made all the difference.

So, I put forth to you, what is *Our Purpose*? The purpose of the UUFNW and all our sibling

*(Continued on page 7)*

# All About RE

Director of Religious Exploration  
Donna Renfro (732) 513-8867  
Email: [bdonna7568@aol.com](mailto:bdonna7568@aol.com)

## Welcome back!

Have you ever heard the story of the big rocks from Stephen Covey's book *First Things First*? It's a visual allegory to demonstrate that if you don't put in the big rocks first—the things that really matter to you—you won't be able to fit them in, and your bucket will be filled with less important things. I hope that you will, this year, consider your time at this Fellowship as one of your big rocks, and that you'll work and play with other families and children to make it so.

**Way Cool Sunday School Calendar.** We will follow the WCSS model again this year, with two variations. One is that Children's Chapel will be at various times during the year, instead of the first Sunday of every month. The second change is that we will expand Community Days into Learning Experience Days, or LEDs.



These will provide fun and community building, and are an enjoyable way to learn about the six sources of our faith. Rev. Michael is leading one of the first lessons, calling it Myth Busters, which will be quite scientific and lots of fun. Watch for our new kid-friendly calendar to keep track of which Way Cool Sunday is happening—LED, Chapel, UU Identity classes, or Social Action.

**Curriculum.** We will be focusing on Unitarian Universalist Identity in the curriculum chosen for this year's elementary school age children. The younger group will learn about UU Super Heroes, and the older group will use Spirit of Adventure to learn about select famous UUs. The middle schoolers will be using a program called Neighboring Faiths, where they will learn about not just their own UU faith, but others as well. They will have guests from other churches and temples, and will visit them as well.

**Sept. 4** is a great day to begin that process. In the annual meeting last spring, the children expressed wanting to go on trips. How about a trip to Marsh Sanctuary during or after the worship service time? I cannot be there that Sunday, and childcare will be available during the service.



**Sept. 11 will be Ingathering/Water Ceremony.** This will be a multigenerational service, with the children remaining in the worship room. RE will provide ice cream sundaes to all children and youth with registration papers turned in. We're asking all congregants to sign up to help in some way at least once during the year. Don't worry, we'll have

blank forms available if you need them.

**Sept. 17-18 Junior High Retreat is at a new location,** Camp Lou Henry Hoover in Swartzwood State Park, N.J. It is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> graders. It is a great way for tweens to find new friendship and ways of being Unitarian Universalists. Flyer and online registration is at <http://plus.calendars.net/metrony1001/d17/09/2011/drpop/263>

**Sept. 18 will be a multigenerational service** called "Be a Superhero," about the importance of community. This is another time to focus on the "big rocks."

**Sept. 25 is the first day of regular RE classes.** Please have your registration forms in before that day.

**Youth Group.** The first district event for Senior High youth will be at our Fellowship, a Cluster Con on October 1-2. The district is trying to involve more youth by having "cons" closer to home, so groups of congregations will work together several times during the year to make this happen.



We thank Jane Hewitt and Kathleen Crohn for being youth advisors last year. Frances Sink, our Intern Minister, will be working with the youth for their service trip to New Orleans (see next page). We will have Ryan and Maggie Rogers as advisors. I am also working on having Sara Angell-Isom bring liturgical theater to the group. Ryan and Maggie are also actors, and we're hoping the youth will be interested in theatre, along the lines of the hit Broadway musical "Avenue Q."

**Junior Youth,** aka last year's amazing COA Class! The Junior Youth, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade, will have Our Whole Lives (OWL) Values and Abstinence-based Sexuality Education as their main curriculum this year. We are working out the details to offer it in a cluster group of congregations from Danbury, Mohegan Lake and Mount Kisco. All the OWL classes are taught by specially trained leaders and will require parental approval for youth participation. These youth will also be invited to participate in the Neighboring Faiths Curriculum that will be offered on Sunday Mornings for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Graders.



In fellowship,

*Donna*

Donna Renfro, Director of Religious Exploration

# This and That

## Worship

"If you build it they will come."

This Fellowship has been incredibly busy. Did you know that for the third year we filled the calendar with interesting and meaningful worship services every week throughout July and August? Current members and new friends have graced our doorstep each Sunday morning to come together and worship. No longer does Sunday worship take a summer vacation—and that's a good thing. If you have taken time away to rejuvenate and connect with your family and friends, that too is a good thing. Thanks to our Worship Committee and dedicated Sound Crew, all services were recorded and you can obtain a CD or MP3 to hear what you missed.

**Speaking of Sound Crew...** Are you thinking of volunteering for the Fellowship but can't find the time? The Sound Crew may be for you. We have a great committee (thank you Doug Housman, Jim Novak, Greg Morton, and Ed Tieberger) which we'd like to expand. Each week, the sound person sets up the microphones and records the services, signing up only for the weeks you are available. A vital service is provided, AND you can still participate in worship. We will train—no experience necessary! Women, don't be shy...I learned how to do this myself!



**Save the date!** Ever want to lead a service but aren't sure how or where to start? Rev. Michael and the Worship Committee will be offering a workshop on this very topic on two dates, Sunday Oct. 16 after the service, and Tuesday Oct. 25 in the evening (time to be announced

later). More information will follow. Contact Steffani Brandenburg if you are interested or even just curious, at (914) 882-8478 or sbrandenburg@earthlink.net

The Worship Committee is eager to hear what's on your mind. How are you finding the worship experience at the Fellowship? Please contact any of us: Steffani Brandenburg (chairperson), Françoise Bennett, Henderson Cole, Kay Cole, Erika Costella, Nann Deland, Jon Kaplan, Tom Levine, Lynn Griffo, and Rev. Dr. Michael Tino, Minister.

## Intergenerational Service Trip to New Orleans in 2012

### Information Session

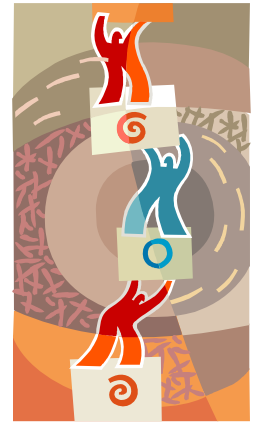
Sunday, Sept. 25, 12:00 pm

Yes, we are planning the Second Annual UUFNW service trip for the spring of 2012. Now is the time to start preparing, fundraising, and saving for the journey.

And it will be a journey together, a journey of spirit and service, fulfilling our covenant to care for one another and seek justice through service and accountability.

We have reserved 20 slots at the UU Volunteer Center in New Orleans, which is coordinating our living, learning and service experience. For more information about our host organization in New Orleans you can visit [www.celsjr.org](http://www.celsjr.org).

If you are considering coming on the trip or want to actively support the trip, please come to an information session to discuss plans and costs on Sept. 25 at noon after worship.



## WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Opportunity is knocking! Open Hearth, the very newsletter you hold in your hands, needs a new editor to gather news and create layouts for 11 issues per year.

After 7 years as editor, Donna Moriarty is unplugging her keyboard after the December 2011 issue.

Editing the Open Hearth newsletter offers a creative, rewarding opportunity, and you get to hear all the news ahead of the pack! It's a great job for someone with a knack for newsgathering, editing and doing simple layouts in a desktop publishing program. Skill at gently nudging contributors is a must. Will train!

Interested? Got questions? Email [donna\\_moriarty@nymc.edu](mailto:donna_moriarty@nymc.edu).



# Coming Up Soon!

## Fellowship Fridays Are Back!

*Weekly themed gatherings enable members of the community of all ages to gather for meaningful connection and just plain fun. Look for First Friday Adult Exploration, Second Friday Family Game Night, and the NEW Third Friday Movies That Matter in the October newsletter!*

### **Sept. 23: Potluck and Vespers, 6 pm**

Join us on Fourth Friday, Sept. 23 for a potluck dinner and vespers service. This will be followed by a Working Group meeting, the next step after our Community Share-Fest (see article on next page). The Working Groups will gather to discuss their agendas and plans for the coming months., and by gathering on the same night, we can have speed-networking! Dinner will begin at 6 pm (feel free to arrive whenever you can), and Vespers will be at 7 pm.

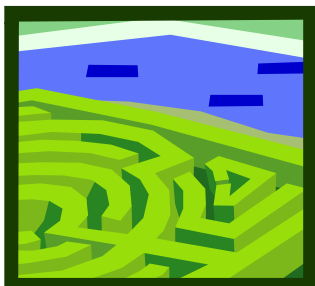
### **Sept. 30: Fifth Friday Harvest Moon**

**Shindig, 7:30-10 pm** We are working on something new, different and definitely fun for our upcoming Fifth Friday. Might involve music, food, fellowship and laughter... stay tuned! Announcements and emails will keep you informed.

## Autumnal Equinox Picnic, Bonfire and Labyrinth Walk

**Sunday, Sept. 18, 6-8:30 pm**

Celebrate the last days of summer and the impending arrival of autumn by joining us for a potluck picnic, bonfire and labyrinth walk (outdoors, weather permitting). The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice that encourages meditation and opens the mind and heart to new insights. The picnic is an ancient communal practice that encourages the sharing of food and the filling of stomachs. Come on and join the fun!



## Adult Coming of Age

Classes begin October 2

Do you get envious every other year when our Coming of Age youth read their eloquent credo statements and make inside jokes about their cool trip to Boston?

Now's your chance to come of age—whatever age you are. With Rev. Michael, we will explore the big questions of theology, learn a little bit of Unitarian Universalist history, and will articulate what we believe in a worship service on Sunday, June 3. Classes will be held on the first Sunday of each month, from 12:30 to 3 pm.



We will discuss optional trips to Boston and Murray Grove (a Universalist historic site and retreat center in New Jersey) at our October class. Lunch and child care will be provided for our classes if you register.

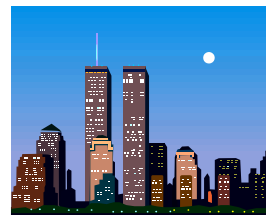
To cover the cost of lunch for our eight classes, we are asking participants to pay \$30, which can be waived if necessary (talk to Rev. Michael). Please sign up by Sept. 25 with Rev. Michael ([mtino@uuma.org](mailto:mtino@uuma.org))

## CommUnity Interfaith Gathering

*UNITY MADE VISIBLE: A Special 9/11 Event*

**Sept. 11, 4:00 pm**

Fox Lane High School  
Mt. Kisco, NY



Unity Made Visible, an interfaith collaboration in Mount Kisco and the surrounding communities, is holding a healing service on the evening of September 11, the tenth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Faith leaders from numerous traditions, civic leaders, and others will join voices in song and conversation to help create transformative dialogue as a legacy of the horrible events of ten years ago. Please join us for this event. Unity Made Visible is a cooperation circle of the United Religions Initiative, whose purpose is to promote enduring interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings.

# IT'S HAPPENING!

## UUFNW Tag Sale

Saturday, Sept. 24, 8 am-2 pm

### It's Here—the UUFNW Tag Sale!

The UUFNW Youth Groups are holding a tag sale at the Fellowship to raise funds for service projects—including a return trip to New Orleans. The sale will be open to the community, but we are accepting donations only from within UUFNW.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help sort, price, organize, and bake goodies for the bake sale to be held that morning.**

### About Donations

All donations should be clean and in good working order. See lists at right for what is welcome, and what we will not accept for the sale.

The first drop-off date is Sept. 18, the Sunday before the sale. We encourage you to bring as much as you can at that time to give us the week to prepare. Please sort your clothing items in bags by age, gender and size, and label the bags before drop-off. It will be a big help!

### Drop-off dates:

**Sept. 18, 10 am to 2 pm**

**Sept. 22 and 23, 5 to 8 pm**

Please contact Emma Grace Housman at (914) 977-3344 or [eghousman@optonline.net](mailto:eghousman@optonline.net) to volunteer!!



### OK

Toys  
Clothes (*sorted by gender and age or size*)  
Accessories  
Small household appliances  
Small decorative items  
Sports equipment  
Small electronics  
Small patio and gardening items  
Small furniture (*i.e., side tables, chairs, lamps, toy boxes*)  
Kitchen items and cookware  
Special books and DVDs in great condition



### NOT OK

Mattresses  
TVs  
Computers  
Furniture too large to fit in a car or too heavy for two people to carry (*i.e., headboards, sofas, etc.*)  
Anything broken or heavily stained  
*Any bags of stuff you were thinking of throwing out!*



## Community Sunday Share-Fest!

Sunday, Sept. 18, 12 noon

Join fellow members and friends for an hour of sharing interests and skills that could strengthen our community.

Working Groups will set up tables of information, so you can find out more about each of these powerhouse groups that keep our community running and growing. This is a wonderful way to meet other people and work as a team to support our community.



## Single Moms

The UUFNW Single Moms Group offers confidential sharing, support, and fun for single moms and those anticipating becoming single moms. New members are always welcome. The group meets on the second Sunday of each month from 12:00-1:00 pm. **Next meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 11.** Contact Lisa Baker at [lbaker67@optonline.net](mailto:lbaker67@optonline.net) for more information.

## President's Column

(Continued from page 3)

congregations? What are the *Values of Love* that we want to see manifested in our society? How will we go about shaping the world in this image?

Are you game?

In the coming months, our congregation will be talking about who we are, what excites us and what we believe to be our purpose. I hope you will eagerly join in the conversation. Respectful feedback always welcome! [PatriciaUUFNW@gmail.com](mailto:PatriciaUUFNW@gmail.com)



In fellowship,

**Patricia**

Patricia Compton, Board President



# OPEN HEARTH

*Newsletter of the*  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Northern Westchester  
P.O. Box 298  
Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0298

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