

## UU Congregation of Central Nassau Completes Accessible Restrooms

The accessible restrooms are ready at the UU Congregation of Central Nassau (Garden City NY)! We are very grateful to have been the recipient of last Spring's Chalice Lighters Call. We took seriously our commitment to grow Unitarian Universalism by becoming fully accessible as far as wheelchair accessibility is concerned. Thanks to each congregation for generously supporting our efforts. We could not have done it without each and all of you. One person that we have to single out is Bill Slezak, Metro NY District Chalice Lighters Coordinator who leads this program with his wife Rickey. Bill came and met with us and guided us as we began our work. He was available to us throughout the Chalice Lighters call, and beyond. At General Assembly in St. Louis, several of us were pleased to participate in a workshop on Metro NY District's Chalice Lighters program.

We invited Bill to our service on November 5 and were thrilled that he could come to enjoy service, meet old friends, and join us for fellowship. He made a symbolic presentation to us for the check for our accessibility project. We at UCCN felt as if we were celebrating on a cloud. We were proud that he was able to see the ongoing renovation of both restrooms because at the time he came we were still "under construction." That Bill came to us the day before embarking on vacation says much not only about his commitment to the growth of Unitarian Universalism, but also about his ongoing commitment to Chalice Lighters, and his enthusiasm about UCCN's future as a congregation. When he returns to us later this month he will see that we've finished the construction.

He also knows that we recognize that to have accessible restrooms does not mean that we will be more hospitable as a congregation so we have begun to work on ourselves as a congregation. We began to look at issues around accessibilities in a very intentional way. We started with summer reading of *Everyone Here Spoke Sign Language* by Nora Ellen Groce, a book that relates to the deaf community. We are reading our second book now: It is the classic *No Pity* by Joseph P. Shapiro that deals with the history of disability rights movement in this country. UCCN recently made a commitment to working against racism and classism in accordance with General Assembly's 2006 responsive resolution on anti-racism. We also resolved to become a Welcoming Congregation, and we have a new team called Radical Hospitality that focuses on all aspects of hospitality.

Again, grateful thanks. Please come visit us whenever you are nearby. We'll be happy to welcome you to UCCN.

– Doris Muench, UU Congregation of Central Nassau