

## UU Congregation at Rock Tavern Receives Generous Donations

The outpouring of support in reaction to the fire in Rock Tavern's Unitarian Universalist congregation has been truly heartwarming. In a little over a month, close to \$19,000 has been donated to the congregation for fire recovery efforts. Making concrete the interdependent web of our existence, checks have come from a number of Metro NY District congregations, as well as from a few churches of other denominations, eg., two Roman Catholic parishes in Newburgh, NY, as well as from the United Methodist Church in Matamoras, PA, which had suffered a severe fire a few years ago. In addition, numerous individuals have responded with donations, ranging from \$10 on up to over \$100. Then too, UU congregations as far away as California have donated their Sunday offering to our recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Rock Tavern's minister, the Rev. Jim Bridges, who lost his theological library in the fire, has also received support above and beyond. The New Jersey Minister's Cluster of the UUMA took up a collection and sent him a check for a substantial amount towards replacing his library. Other clergy within the District have given him Barnes & Noble and Borders gift cards. Still another clergyman wrote a check for \$100 out of his discretionary fund. Some clergy have given Jim duplicate books from their libraries, and he has received ten boxes of books, shipped from UU clergy in Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts. The Rev. Marilyn Sewell sent two of her compilations of women's poetry to replace those which were lost in the fire. And finally, a Lutheran minister from Wisconsin sent a box of books as well. Jim notes with some eagerness, "Most of the books that I have received are not replacement copies but instead are completely new to me, which means I have a lot of reading ahead of me."

In addition to the contributions Rock Tavern has received from congregations and individuals, the congregation also received a new flaming chalice as a gift from the UU Service Committee (UUSC) with a note from Dr. Charlie Clements, UUSC President and Chief Executive Officer.

The following are the congregations which made donations:

Unitarian Church of All Souls (Manhattan)  
Unitarian Church in Summit (NJ)  
Sanford (ME) UU Church  
UU Fellowship of Huntington (NY)  
Unitarian Church of Staten Island (NY)  
UU Congregation of the South Fork (Bridgehampton NY)  
UUs of San Mateo (CA)  
Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary (Newburgh NY)  
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church (Newburgh NY)  
UU Community Church of Santa Monica (CA)  
UU Congregation of Monmouth County (Lincroft NJ)  
UU Fellowship of the Poconos (Stroudsburg PA)  
UU Congregation of Danbury (CT)

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UU Fellowship of Briarcliff, Croton, and Ossining (Croton-on-Hudson NY)  
Matamoras (PA) United Methodist Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Hamptonburgh (Campbell Hall NY)

The members and Jim are extremely thankful for the support that has been shown to them in this time of tragedy. It truly is an interdependent world in which we live. Blessed be and amen.