

Hastings-on-Hudson Congregation Continues Recovery Efforts

[The First Unitarian Society of Westchester (Hastings-on-Hudson NY) sustained significant damage in a nor'easter storm last April. Donations to the Society's Storm Damage Recovery Fund can be mailed to the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, 25 Old Jackson Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson NY 10706.]

The R&R team (moving through rescue, repair, repaint, replace, and restore), under the leadership of Janin and Jane, has thriftily and diligently brought us to "ready" status for our new program year. Our building and grounds still need loving care and attention. A building use team will be advertising the availability of time and space to appropriate users. Building repair and maintenance and grounds committees will be prioritizing the remaining projects.

Storm expenses have reached \$83,000, with \$47,000 of that due to the oil spill clean up. We expect another \$5,000 to \$8,000. Donations to the storm recovery fund now total \$32,000. We have borrowed \$50,000 from the Wolman New Sanctuary Fund.

The board and finance committee are still considering accepting the loan from FEMA/Small Business Administration to cover the cost of storm damage repairs and strengthen our financial position. An active involved team on the finance committee will manage our money wisely so we can be in a position to repay that loan.

The best way to help, and the most meaningful to individuals and to the congregation, is to send money, and to designate but not restrict its intended purpose. And send a note along. For example, "we passed the plate this Sunday and hope this can go towards your new piano, or wherever else it is needed." The notes we have on our bulletin board that accompanied the checks are a source of support to the people – the money is a source of support to the finance committee and the repair committee!

Susan Greenberg, President
First Unitarian Society of Westchester