2018/19 Issue No. 5 January 2019

Sunday Celebrations at 10:30 am

January 6: "Throwing Clay" -Rev. Margaret Weis and Kimberly Sweeney (Multigenerational Service)

In pottery, a mound of clay must be centered on the wheel before it can take shape into a cup, bowl, or other masterpiece. What can we learn from throwing clay that will help us in having integrity ourselves? How can we, as a community of faith and intention, make sure our foundation is solid and stabilizing in challenging times?

Special music by UUUU and Friends

January 13: "To Keep a Promise" -Rev. Margaret Weis
Unitarian Universalism has long prided itself on justice and
equity. However, we have parts of our history and present that
have centered the experience of white folks over the voices and
experiences of people of color. In this service, we will reflect
together on the ideas of de-centering whiteness and how doing
so will not only highlight the words and deeds of people of
color, but enrich all of our experiences in this faith.
Share the Plate Offering: Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism
Special music by Stephanie Ortolano, organ

January 20: "When No One is Watching" -Rev. Margaret Weis In this multigenerational service, we will reflect together on the beauty of grace that comes from community. We will practice noticing beautiful things and how that awareness can lead us to a deeper appreciation for the world around us. Special music by Pickup Choir

January 27: "The Gift of Imperfection" -Walt Peck
Integrity would seem to be a wonderful virtue. Why, then, should
it sometimes worry us? And is there a cure?
Special music by Samuel Smith, organ

January 6-27: Side with Love Collection "Sunday Undies" For the month of January we will be collecting brand new underwear for those who need it. Having clean underwear is something many of us are lucky enough to take for granted. But for adults and children who are economically challenged or homeless, even those basic garments can be difficult-if not impossible-to obtain. And that makes it hard to feel comfortable or warm or maintain a sense of personal dignity. All sizes of underwear for all genders and ages, will be collected during the first hymn every Sunday in January.

Ministerial Musings

'If you are more fortunate than others, it's better to build a longer table than a taller fence." ~ Norann Voll

Last month I preached about a trip I took to the border in 2015. Many of you spoke with me about the trip and wondering if it was possible to have a group travel there ourselves.

The trip I took in 2015 was through the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, an organization that creates opportunities for engaging in experiential learning in the United States and across the world. The UUCSJ (www.uucsj.org) partners with local organizations to create learning opportunities that are rooted in the local efforts happening in places like the US/Mexico Border, Honduras, New Orleans, Nicaragua, and more.

Perhaps you are considering how you might cross borders and journey with other FUSIT folks to learn more about issues at our border, fair trade practices, or racial justice here in the United States. Are you interested in participating in a FUSIT trip with the UU College of Social Justice? If so, please let me know. I would love to put together a trip for FUSIT folks to journey somewhere and engage our congregation in an ongoing conversation about a justice issue together.

As we start a new year together and begin deeper conversations about who we are and how we live out our mission as Unitarian Universalists, I welcome you to ponder how you might engage more deeply with social justice issues. Let's dream together about how we can create multigenerational opportunities for learning and deepening in our understanding and capacity for compassion.

Also, please make sure to participate in our Dreaming Big! Weekend on **January 4-6th.** We want your voice in our conversation about how we live out our mission and create engaging opportunities for spiritual and faith formation across the lifespan!

Rev. Margaret

FUSIT Dreaming Big! Visioning Weekend with Kim Sweeney

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

Join us in community as we explore big ideas, hopes, and the meaning we find in faith formation, religious exploration for all ages, and how we engage together at FUSIT.

Friday, *January 4th* from 6-9 pm (all ages welcome, childcare provided): We will gather as a whole community for some time of spiritual deepening, discussion, and activity to wonder together about who we are as the UU presence in Ithaca and a spiritual home for people of all ages.

Pizza available for \$1 per slice.

Saturday, *January 5th* from 2-5 pm: Kim will meet with various leadership groups (Team Leader Council, Board, Staff, RE Team and RE Visioning Task Force) to explore the ideas we have gathered and how they align with our vision of ministry and goals as a congregation.

Sunday, *January 6th*: A multigenerational worship experience that affirms our lifelong need for exploration, wonder, and community-building (led by Rev. Weis and Kim Sweeney). Then, stick around for a conversation with Kim to help us bring these ideas forward together, in community.

Kim Sweeney is a credentialed Religious Educator and independent consultant who worked for seven years as the Lead for Faith Formation and Safe Congregations on the UUA's New England Regional staff team. She is the author of The Death of Sunday School and The Future of Faith Formation and the founder of Courageous Faith Consulting.

RE Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

We will recognize our religious exploration classroom teachers and assistants on Sunday, **January 20** from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in the Susan Fredericks Gray Room (Annex). Parents/guardians: Please bring your children and youth to help us thank their teachers. RSVP to Susanne Quagliata at drefusit@gmail.com by **January 13**.

First Unitarian is a UUArecognized (LGBTQ) Welcoming Congregation

Religious Exploration News

For information about Religious Exploration, please contact Susanne Quagliata at drefusit@gmail.com or 607-273-7521, ext. 23.

In December, the RE Visioning Task Force hosted a Visioning Kickoff Lunch. About two dozen children and adults gathered in the Mark Pedersen Room to share our hopes and visions for religious exploration at FUSIT. The energy was positive and the ideas were promising.

We will continue the dialogue in January as we host Kim Sweeney, a UUA-credentialed religious educator and independent consultant, for a RE Visioning Retreat. Between Friday, **January 4** and Sunday, **January 6**, Kim will help us clarify our mission for lifespan education, identify relevant goals, and assess our capacity to achieve those goals. I hope everyone will participate in this important process.

As you may know, I started my position as the Acting Director of Religious Exploration in late August. And, as we begin thinking about what religious exploration is and what it means for us along our lifespan, I thought you might be interested in knowing how I have been spending my time so far this year. The RE position has been adjusted to 20 hours a week, so my main attention has been on our children and youth. With the help of the RE Team, I focus on the "3 C's."

Children: With low participation among our current high school aged-youth (four are registered), we have paid particular attention to our middle schoolers with the goal of retaining their participation as they transition to high school. Over 60 children and youth are registered in our program and participation is at its highest levels in recent memory. Most importantly, over 25 adults have generously volunteered to help with the faith development of our children in our classrooms this year.

Curriculum: Adapting the UUA curriculum for our children/youth and ensuring our volunteers have what they need to teach our classes on Sundays requires a significant amount of time each week. Our Harry & UU classroom, for ages 8-10, has 16 children registered!

Communication: I include an update in every mid-week announcement, send a weekly email to parents/guardians, and email our volunteer teachers every week with instructions for Sundays. We've updated the RE website and created an online registration form for Religious Exploration. In addition, volunteers can now register to volunteer online. Much of a DREs time is spent creating, updating, and monitoring systems to track so many moving parts.

I look forward to joining you as we identify the congregation's core religious education values, understand its current religious education identity, and dream about its religious education future. This process we are embarking on together will help us define the roles of the

professional staff and the roles of volunteers and revise the priorities and job description for a new lifespan religious exploration leader.

Religious Exploration Schedule

January 6: Multigenerational Sunday

January 13: Classroom Sunday

January 20: Multigenerational Sunday

January 27: Classroom Sunday

Game Night

Please join us for an all ages game night on Saturday,

January 19 4-6 pm in the

Susan Fredericks Gray (annex)
room at FUSIT. Bring any food you might want and bring a game or two to play with friends. Our family is bringing

Guess Who and checkers. I hope to see you all there!

Joys and Sorrows

Our thoughts are with John Swanson's family. John died on Monday, December 17th surrounded by his family. A private funeral was held in Ovid on Thursday, December 20th.

Thanks to...

- ... to Sara Caterall & Mary Kirkpatrick for fixing the lights in the Sanctuary!
- ...to Judy Jones and Carolyn Kenyon for their incredible work helping to forgive medical debt! They were featured on NPR and the NY Times! Here is the link to the Times article: https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/05/nyregion/ medical-debt-charity-ny.html
- ... to Tom Wright for repairing a second story storm window frame on the Parish House and to Dick Kurtz for fixing the FUSIT snowblower!
- ...Team 3 under Coordinators Sharon Beltaine and Jesse Koennecke for greeting, ushering, snack providing, coffee prepping and cleaning up after the Sunday services on November 18 and 25, and to Team 4 under Russ Charif and Wendy Wolfe for taking on those tasks on December 2 and 9.

Snack providers, please remember to provide a list of potentially sensitive ingredients.

Hospitality teams provide the organized volunteer power to make each week's Sunday service and coffee hour a welcoming time for all who attend. HTs provide opportunities to make real and important contributions to the FUSIT community with a very modest amount of time and effort.

If you are not currently part of a Hospitality Team, please see Pat Evans or John Gaines on Sunday or get in touch with Pat at patevans46@gmail.com or John at (607)898-3943 or at jag222@cornell.edu.

Pub Theology at Liquid State Brewery (620 West Green St., Ithaca) Monday, January 14th 6-8pm

Join us for an evening of great conversation about the theme of "integrity" at our favorite local brewery (owned by FUSIT member, Ben Brotman). Bring food (or order snacks there) and join in the conversation! All ages are welcome. Since we will be sharing the space with other patrons, we will have quarters available to make change for skee ball and we must emphasize that all children **must** be supervised by their parents or guardian.

All Church Night January 9th!

On the second Wednesday of each month, we will gather for a Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm in the Parlor & many teams will have their meetings.

We will be offering free childcare!

A great opportunity for multi-team collaboration, welcoming of newcomers and families, and engaging together in community. We hope you'll join us!

Please bring a dish to share.

The following teams will participate in our All Church Night on **January 9th!**If you'd like YOUR ministry team to participate in the All Church Night, have your team leader speak with Rev. Margaret.

Team/CommitteeTime SlotAesthetics Team6:30-7:30 pmMusic Team6:30-7:30 pmReligious Exploration Team6:30-7:30 pmEnvironmental Interests Circle6:30-7:30 pmTeen Team (HS Youth Group)6:30-7:30 pmMembership Team7:30-9:00 pmCare Team7:30-9:00 pmBuildings and Grounds7:30-9:00 pm

Social Justice Council Meeting

The Social Justice Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, **January 14th**, from 5:30-7:30 pm in Room 122 (Francis Ellen Watkins Harper Room). Come to learn what our various action teams are doing, and participate in choosing the recipient of each month's "Sharing Sunday" and to enjoy good sociability and conversation. All are welcome!

Our Mission

Our mission is to create connection, find inspiration, and engage the world.

Connect, Inspire, Engage.

Minister Rev. Margaret Weis 273-7521, ext. 22 minister@uuithaca.org

Religious Exploration Susanne Quagliata, Acting Director, 273-7521, ext. 23 drefusit@gmail.com

Sexton Sandy Soule, 272-4475

Bookkeeper Lauren Ponzoni bookkeeper@uuithaca.org

Music Director Stephanie Ortolano 607-708-8088 fusitmusic@gmail.com

Adult Choir Director

Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum,

fusitchoir@gmail.com

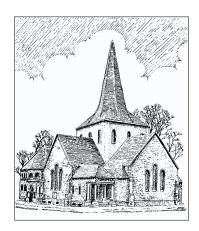
Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator Sarah Buckser, 273-7521, ext 24 memcoord@uuithaca.org

President, Board of Trustees Angela Zhang angela.jihong@gmail.com 607-216-7162

Care Team
Molly Robbins
robbinsmolly18@gmail.com

Congregational Administrator Jessica English 273-7521 ext 21 cadmin@uuithaca.org

Administrative Assistant Loretta Heimbuch, 273-7521 ext 28, adminasst@uuithaca.org The First Unitarian Society of Ithaca 306 North Aurora Street P.O. Box 6 Ithaca, NY 14851-0006



Visit our Website and get your newsletter: www.uuithaca.org

"Newcomers Inspired Connected and Engaged (NICE)

This year we're offering a new opportunity to help you dive deeper into Unitarian Universalism and potential membership in our congregation! NICE is a 4-class series designed for returning members or non-members to be come inspired by our liberal faith, connect with others, and engage in spiritual discussion. Classes are conveniently scheduled on Sundays after services from 12:00-1:30 pm in the Beatrix Potter Room (Library). If you have young children but would like to participate, note that Cohort 4 has free childcare provided for all classes! Bring your lunch, your ideas, and your questions and explore UUism with us on the dates below. To sign up email Sarah Buckser at memcoord@uuithaca.org, or fill out the NICE registration form at the Welcome Table on Sunday.

Cohort 3 dates: 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27 with a breakfast celebration on 2/3

Cohort 4 dates (free childcare provided): 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 with a breakfast celebration on 3/24.

Parking Notice!

Please be aware that the First Unitarian Society **does not** have **ANY parking** available during the week and only by the generosity of the folks next door do we have parking for our Sunday services. Even if you're only running in for a minute, please park on the street.

Fragrance Free Consideration

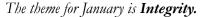
Some members of our congregation experience serious allergic reactions to strong fragrances and scents. Please refrain from using them when attending events at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca.

Sunday Service CDs

Sunday Service CDs are available about 10 minutes after the Sunday Celebration from Sandy Soule, the church Sexton, and any extras are left in the boxes on top of the staff mailboxes in the Parish House. Please return any CDs you have finished listening to, to the box on top of the mailboxes outside the church office.

Did you know... You can find out about events happening in our congregation, see pictures of past events and connect with other UUs. Like and follow us on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/FUSofI/Instagram www.instagram.com/ithacauus and Twitter, www.instagram.com/ithacauus and Twitter, www.instagram.com/ithacauus and Twitter, www.instagram.com/

Possible Ponderings



Possible Ponderings is an offering of ways you might consider engaging more deeply with the theme or reflecting on the ways the idea of Integrity shows up in your life. These will also be printed in the order of service each week.

January 6-12: What helps you stay centered and strong amidst your busy, whirling days?

January 13-19: Have you made a promise that you found hard to keep? Is it possible to change your promise to make sure it continues to have integrity?

January 20-26: Do something good for someone else this week. Then, journal about that experience for five minutes.

January 27- February 2: What about integrity worries you?

Weekly Food Collection

Every week we collect dry or canned food for delivery to a local food pantry. Please bring non-perishable items to the basket which is located in the Garden Entrance.

Board of Trustees December Meeting

The Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **January 8th**, at 6 pm in the Parlor. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Budget Requests Sought for 2019/2020

Committee and event chairpersons are encouraged to submit their committee's 2019/2020 budget requests to Jennifer Streid-Mullen at streidmull@gmail.com by Friday, **February 15th.**

Women's Circle

The Women's Circle will meet Sunday, **January 27**, from 12-1:30 in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room. All who identify as women are welcome at the Women's Circle. Contact Carol Whitlow at whitlowcarol@gmail.com.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meeting for January will be held on Monday, **January 28th**. All those who identify as male are invited to join us 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Mark Pedersen Arch Room to share stories and eat some pizza. Newcomers welcome.

Contact Jens Wennberg jens207@gmail.com or Mark Piechota markpiechota45@gmail.com for information.

From the Office

As Jessica learns the ropes, please know the following:

- 1. Office hours have returned to 9:00-4:00 M-F.
- 2. Third party rentals of the Sanctuary, Annex, or rooms are still being handled by Betsy East at fusitrentals@gmail.com
- 3. Nursery and child care staffing are still being managed by Wendy Salomon, wendysalomon15@gmail.com
- 4. Sunday Order of Service and Mid-Week Announcements are still being complied and published by Rev. Margaret, minister@uuithaca.org
- 5. Nancy Miller and Beth Howard will be doing a final clean and organization of the main kitchen each Monday. As always, please clean up after yourselves.
- 6. Website changes are being implemented by Membership and Outreach Coordinator Sarah Buskser at memcoord@uuithaca.org

During the month of January, rentals, Sunday Order of Service and Mid-Week Announcements will transition to Jessica, and we will let those of you involved know. If in doubt, copy both Margaret and the office on Order of Service and Mid-Week Announcement information. If you are unsure, or have any questions, contact the office for help. We appreciate your patience during this transition.

Soul Matters Material for January on "Integrity"

Our January worship theme at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca is Integrity. This month's packet includes a few short readings, spiritual exercises, and discussion questions for you to consider. Here is the link: https://tinyurl.com/Ithaca-Integrity

CHOIR NEWS!!!

Songs for the March!

Justice Choir Ithaca is hosting a SING on Thursday, January 17 from 7:30-8:30 in the Sanctuary. Come learn songs to take to the Women's March that weekend (various locations) or to any other similar event. We'll also sing a few on Sunday morning at FUSIT. Please RSVP justicechoirithaca@gmail.com or check out facebook.com/JusticeChoirIthaca. ALL AGES WELCOME.

Pickup Choir - January 20th

Always wanted to join choir but can't make a commitment to regular Thursday evenings? Come at 9 am on **January 20th** to the Sanctuary, learn some Justice Choir songs and sing them in the service at 10:30. ALL AGES WELCOME.

Regular Choir

Rehearsals will resume on **January 10th**, contact Jennifer if you're interested.

For more information, contact Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum, Choir Director, fusitchoir@gmail.com.

Pastoral Emergencies

In case of a pastoral emergency (death or hospitalization), the Rev. Margaret Weis can be reached at 607-218-4281 (cell) if you need to speak with her.

For non-emergency pastoral care, please contact the Care Team Chair, Molly Robbins at robbinsmolly18@gmail.com.

Additionally, if you need a ride to any event at church, please contact Molly at the numbers listed above as early as possible, so that they can contact a member who is willing to help. If you are willing to provide occasional rides for others, contact Molly to give her your name and contact information.

FUSIT Welcomes Our New Congregational Administrator!

Jessica English began her work as the new Congregational Administrator of FUSIT on Monday, December 10th. We are so glad to have Jessica joining our staff team and FUSIT community!



Jessica is a life-long Ithacan and comes to us with an eager and warm personality, excellent administrative and technical skills, and a desire to be part of this great congregation and community.

We hope you'll join us in warmly welcoming her to First Unitarian!

A Message From Jennifer Streid-Mullen

I am so pleased to welcome Jessica English as our new Congregational Administrator. I have really enjoyed my time in the office the last few months, and want to thank all those who have lended a hand. A huge thanks to Betsy East who stepped up and took over the external rentals (and will continue into January). To Wendy Salomon who came forward to coordinate our nursery care givers. Many thanks to Alice Churchill who headed up the Auction catalog and data team, with key help from Beth Howard. And thanks to the following who have helped in the office: Camila Faraday, Jens Wennberg, Kathy Hopkins, Nancy Dolge, and Rene Rogers. Also thanks to all the staff who stepped up and took on additional responsibilities. It has been a pleasure to work with you all!! I'm sure we'll all support Jessica as she learns all the routines and names.

From the Care Team

The Care Team will hold its monthly meeting on All Church Night, **January 9th**, from 7:30-9:00 pm, after the potluck dinner.

If you have questions about how you'd like to be involved, feel free to contact Molly Robbins at robbinsmolly18@gmail.com.

Nametags: If you've filled out a nametag form, please pick up your new nametag at the Welcome Table.

You may have noticed that your nametag at First Unitarian has a space for your preferred pronouns. We invite you to write in the pronouns you'd like us to use when referring to you. If you're cisgender (your gender identity matches the sex you were assigned at birth), this may seem like an obvious and unnecessary thing to do. It really is an issue of welcoming – by indicating your preferred pronouns, you are opening space for those who do not identify as cisgender, and/or identify as trans* or gender queer, or other gender identities.

As Unitarian Universalists we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all persons and believe that all genders are worthy and sacred. So, let's all do our part to welcome EVERY person as they are.

If your nametag doesn't have a space for pronouns, head over to the Welcome Table and grab a sticker. Or, let Sarah Buckser know that you'd like a new nametag with a space to indicate your preferred pronouns!

Book Discussion Group

The FUSIT Book Discussion Group will next meet Friday, January 11, in the Beatrix Potter Library Room at 12:30. The book will be "Search for the Lost City of the Monkey God," by Douglas Preston. Upcoming meetings will be February 1 for the book "Squirting Milk at Chameleons" by Simon Fenton, and March 1 for the book "Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson.

For more information please contact Jennifer Streid-Mullen at 351-3087 or streidmull@gmail.com.

Greetings 2018 Friendship Center Volunteers!

Thank you so much foryour service this year!

Under its new management by St. John's Community Services (apparently not related to St. John's Episcopal Church of Ithaca), the center has been renamed the Day Center. It will be closed on the first Tuesday in January for New Year's Day. But if any of you would like to sign up in advance for the first Tuesday of any other month, please let me know. Otherwise, please look for my pleas for help in the 2019 FUSIT newsletters.

Hope you will all have a joyous holiday season.

-Jackie Jablonski, Coordinator

Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, January 3

Fuel your community! At the Community Blood Drive on Thursday, January 3, from 1-6 pm in the Parlor.

Sponsored by the American Red Cross. Please call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit their website at www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment.

Walk-ins welcome.

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca Communication Deadlines 2018-2019 Church Year

All official communications ministry teams wish to be included in the following documents/methods may be edited or altered by the Congregational Administrator or Administrative Assistant as necessary for typos, length, and appropriateness for the document itself.

Please respect these deadlines, as they make it possible for the office to run smoothly and communications to be sent and received in the pre-determined timeline.

Deadlines:

- Table or equipment requests for Sunday Service or Parlor Monday 5 pm to cadmin@uuithaca.org
- Weekly Order of Service (max 60 words) Monday by 12:00 pm to cadmin@uuithaca.org
- Weekly Announce Email (max 200 words) Tuesday by 12:00 pm to cadmin@uuithaca.org
- Monthly Newsletter usually 3rd Thursday to adminasst@uuithaca.org
- Monthly All Church Night Half Sheet (max 60 words) 2nd Monday of the month by 12:00 pm (minister@uuithaca.org) These are concrete opportunities for involvement outside of attending a meeting. Examples: delivering flowers to shutins; bringing snack for RE; painting a classroom; delivering gathered items at the end of the month, etc.

Monthly Newsletter Deadlines 2018-2019

Deadline	Paper Mailed	Time Period Covered	Services
Jan 17	Jan 22	February 1 – 28	Feb 3, 10, 17 & 24
Feb 14	Feb 19	March 1- 31	March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
March 14	March 19	April 1 – 30	Apr 7, 14, 21 & 28
April 18	April 23	May 1 – 31	May 5, 12, 19 & 26
May 16	May 21	June 1- 12	June 2 & 9
May 30	June 4	Summer 2019	Summer 2019

Notes from Social Justice Council: New Year, New Leaf

If you're thinking about how to make a difference in the new year, consider how you might help alleviate food insecurity in our community.

Option 1: Make a difference from the comfort of your home. As coordinator for our Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard commitment, you would send out emails seeking monthly volunteers to staff the IKC. That's basically it, though some months might need more than one request. For more information, please contact Christian Neilsen-Palacios at cnielsen56@gmail.com.

Option 2: Join our pool of volunteers. FUSIT takes turns with several other congregations helping at both Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard on Albany St. and St. John's Community Services Day Center (formerly Rescue Mission Friendship Center) on W. State Street.

Our turn is the first Tuesday of each month. On that day we need:

- a) four volunteers to make and deliver lunches to the Day Center in the morning, and
- b) two volunteers who spend a few afternoon hours packing groceries at the IKC.

Only able to help one month a year? No problem!

In a club, class, or other group that could use a service project? This could be it. For example, the Friday Small Ministry Group provides lunches for March, June, September, and December—thank you Friday SMG!—and maybe your group could choose a month or more to make lunches or staff the food pantry.

Don't have Tuesdays free? Maybe you could make lunches the night before and we could get them delivered.

Lots of ways to go here, but the main thing is that we very much hope FUSIT will continue to meet these commitments to our community.

For questions or to add your name to the pools of possible volunteers, please email Jackie Jablonski at <u>jackiejab@me.com</u>.

Thank you from the Social Justice Council, with a special thanks to all who volunteered in any way in 2018

P.S. For more about the change in management at the shelter on State St.: http://tompkinsweekly.com/stories/new-organization-operating-ithaca-shelter, 2104