

ARISE plans community activism

By KATY MOELLER
Gazette Reporter

Community activists across the Capital Region have circled Tuesday, Nov. 13, on their calendars — and they hope you will, too.

Members of the group ARISE — an acronym that stands for A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment — hope to gather 1,000 people or more that evening at Temple Israel in Albany.

“It’s a real day of reckoning on a number of levels,” said Ira Bethea of Delmar, a member of the executive committee of ARISE. “It’s kind of a stepping out to address issues that we’re concerned about.”

ARISE is a coalition of 38 community groups, primarily churches and neighborhood associations, in Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties. Member groups represent some 12,000 individuals.

That’s People Power, organizers say.

ARISE, which grew out of a grassroots effort to revitalize Schenectady’s Vale neighborhood, has evolved into a group that aims to improve the lives of residents throughout the Capital Region, particularly the young, the poor and the disenfranchised.

Yes, but what — specifically — will the group do?

That’s not totally clear yet, though ARISE will primarily be an advocacy group that raises awareness of community needs, identifies solutions to these prob-

lems, and prods public officials and power brokers to take action.

After canvassing their communities, ARISE activists have decided to focus their initial efforts on a few specific issues in three broad areas: education, youth and employment.

On Nov. 13, they will issue a call to action. Government and educational leaders, among others, will be asked to come to the public hearing and pledge their support.

ARISE isn’t an organization that will be offering programs and services. It was created to serve as a catalyst for change on a broad scale.

“We are interested in systemic change,” said the Rev. Samuel Trumbore of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, who was elected president of ARISE in June.

“We’ll be working with powerful organizations and government to shake loose funds and channel them to service groups like Schenectady Inner City Ministries. We are more agitators than direct service providers.”

Many ARISE members have been to organizing workshops put on by trainers with the Chicago-based Gamaliel Foundation, a network of community groups that helps would-be activists nationwide by providing organizing strategies and assistance on projects.

To help prioritize the problems they will tackle, ARISE activists went out into their communities and conducted hundreds of inter-

views with residents of all ages, social service providers, government and education officials, and others about what they believe are the greatest needs.

Three task forces — one each for education, youth and employment — have honed their lists down to a few specific items, which will be presented on Nov. 13. Some refer to it as a list of “demands.”

This kind of organizing is a throwback to techniques developed in the 1930s and ’40s by the man considered to be the father of grassroots community organizing in the United States, Saul Alinsky.

The basic idea is that there is strength in numbers: Elected officials and others in positions of power are more likely to pay attention when hundreds make demands, instead of just a handful.

“There’s people power and there’s money power,” Trumbore said. “Community organizing is all about getting people at rest to being in motion.”

Ed Dilgen, a member of Christ the King Roman Catholic Church in Guilderland, is co-chairman of the 40-member employment task force. Social justice issues have always been a part of his faith commitment, he said.

“To be citizens in our democracy means not just going to the polls in November, but following through the rest of the year,” he said. “We need to let our representatives know what we expect and want.”

The employment task force

has discussed job training programs and how economic development tools, such as Empire Zones, are currently being used.

Crystal Hamelink, a Ballston Lake resident who is a member of the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, chose to be involved in ARISE’s youth task force.

Youth effort

“When youth was chosen as an issue in June, it got by far the most number of votes as being the most critical issue that needed to be addressed in our inner cities,” said Hamelink, who is co-chairwoman of the 50-member task force.

Hamelink said that interviews the task force members conducted with kids were “very graphic” and “sometimes harrowing.”

“It would just kind of knock your socks off,” said Hamelink, referring to their comments about drugs and gangs. “These kids were very open and frank.”

ARISE isn’t exactly new. It grew out of a community initiative that was started several years ago by two Schenectady organizations — State Street Presbyterian Church and the Vale Community Organization.

Trumbore said ARISE, a private nonprofit, will sustain itself financially with membership dues, fund raising and grants. The group has already received a three-year, \$40,000 grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Last year, the group hired An-



MEREDITH L. KAISER *Gazette Photo*
“We are interested in systemic change,” says the Rev. Samuel Trumbore, a Unitarian minister and president of ARISE.

dreas Kriefall of Schenectady, a former literature professor at Union College, to be the first paid “organizer” of the group. Trumbore said ARISE would eventually like to hire a second organizer and a staff person.

Another goal is to diversify ARISE’s membership as much as possible.

Right now, the coalition is a predominantly white and Christian, though there are a couple of black churches that are members and two blacks on the 12-member executive committee.

There aren’t yet any synagogues or Jewish groups listed as members, though the Interfaith Alliance is a member. The group’s first meeting happens

to be at Temple Israel, Albany synagogue, because the building offers a room that can accommodate 1,200 people at a reasonable rate, Trumbore said.

“Next year, we’re going to put a lot more effort into increasing our membership in Troy, Saratoga County, amongst minority and Hispanic churches as well,” Bethea said.

“The difference between ARISE and other community groups is our power is going to be from those people who show up for church every Sunday every Saturday. With a community-based organization, the bodies change and can never depend on visibility to show up.”

cut or not
economic downturn
STATE forcing
state
makers to rethink
cuts. Page B2

CAPITAL REGION



B
State B2
Caring Community B3
Weather B3
Obituaries B8

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ALBANY, NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2001

Groups say it's time for social change

Albany **ARISE meeting attracts almost 1,000 people looking to fix youth, job, education problems**

By **LYDIA POLGREEN**
Staff writer

Nearly 1,000 residents representing churches and community organizations met at Temple Israel Tuesday night to urge Capital

Region leaders to find ways to solve an array of social problems ranging from youth violence to unemployment and welfare.

The meeting was called by A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment, or ARISE, a coalition of 38 churches and grass roots groups in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties.

Standing in front of a banner declaring "Our Faith — Our Voice," Harry Howard of

Refreshing Spring Church of God in Schenectady said "This meeting begins our symbolic journey from fragmentation to unity, from charity to justice, and from a quick fix to a long-term solution."

The product of months of research and interviews with hundreds of people around the region, the meeting was a chance for the faith community to unite and call upon

Please see **ARISE B9** ▶

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

B9



CHURCH AND community group representatives crowd Temple Israel for Tuesday's ARISE meeting. **JIM GOOLSBY/TIMES UNION**

ARISE: Groups promote initiatives

▶ CONTINUED FROM B8

political leaders to set aside partisanship and territorial disputes to work together.

The group identified initiatives concerning youth, employment and education and asked political leaders to affirm their commitment to making the initiatives a reality.

In Albany, the organizers asked the city administration to partner with the Boys and Girls Club and ARISE to build a new facility to replace the 50-year-old Delaware Avenue headquarters of the club, and expand its capacity from 100 to 300 children.

In Schenectady County, organizers asked the County Legislature to form a citizens panel to review applicants for the job of social services commissioner, a post left vacant by the retirement

The group identified initiatives concerning youth, employment and education.

of Richard Saszak.

The group also called upon Assembly members John J. McEnany, D-Albany; Paul Tonkin, D-Amsterdam; and Robert Prentiss, R-Colonie, to get more state money for after-school programs, and all three agreed to fight for more funding. They called upon Albany County Commissioner of Children, Youth and Family Services Gus Thompson to help the Youth Council get a \$2 million federal gang prevention grant.

The Rev. Sam Trombare of

the First Unitarian-Universalist Society said this meeting was about making concrete plans for the future, not wishful thinking.

"Unlike what happens to a lot of advocacy groups that complain about problems and get plans and promises from politicians, we have already figured out what we want to get done and are telling them what we'd like to see them do," Trombare said.

Traffic backed up on New Scotland Avenue as members poured into the synagogue.

"This is the biggest, most high-powered citizen action event ever organized by religious institutions in the Capital Region," said the Rev. Stan Skinner. "Tonight we can make a big difference in how things go down in the Capital District."

Grassroots work joins UUs, others

by Donald E. Skinner

When you're setting out to save the world it's nice to have friends along. That's the principle behind faith-based community organizing, a practice that is growing among Unitarian Universalist congregations. About 80 congregations are engaged in faith-based community organizing. Projects include living wages, better school funding, and improved housing and transportation.

Faith-based community organizing draws its inspiration from the 1940s movement led by activist Saul Alinsky, who organized residents of the old Chicago stockyards neighborhood made famous by Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle*. Alinsky died in 1972, but his idea of uniting neighborhood and community organizations, labor unions, and churches in a fight for social justice, keeps spreading. Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation now includes some 50 interfaith and inter-racial organizations from New York City to Los Angeles. Other umbrella groups work at the community level.

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, New York, is one of 38 congregations, neighborhood and labor groups, and other organizations that are part of ARISE (A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment). The group focuses on a four-county region that includes Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. "What we do is political advocacy," says the Rev. Sam Trumbore, minister of First UU Society and president of ARISE. "Our focus is grass roots. Grassroots organizing applies people power to the problem."

Last fall ARISE asked for public funding for an afterschool program. It called

a public meeting and 1,000 people showed up. About 120 were from First UU Society, which has 337 members. "Politicians understand the power of an organization that can put a lot of people in a room," says Trumbore. "We'll probably get \$1 million for that afterschool program."

How hard was it to get 120 to show up? Not that hard, says Trumbore.

"Most people want to do something, but they can't organize it themselves. We're making a path for them to achieve what they want to achieve. And because we have a lot of energy a lot of people are paying attention to us."

"What's really interesting," he adds,

"is that community organizing uses the same model as churches do. You're always trying to get people who are at rest into motion. You're always working on deepening people's commitment. The more that people commit, the more meaning they extract from their involvement. We help people see that you get what you want from a church by giving what you want."

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, Ohio, is among about 40 congregations that work within BREAD (Bringing Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity).

The Rev. Mark Belletini says community organizing can be challenging for some UUs because it's very structured. "Everyone has a script and meet-

ings are timed," he says. "It can create anxiety for some people. But it's also very effective."

Another challenge is working with people whose theologies are dramatically different. "Many of them firmly believe we're going to hell, but they work with us on social justice issues with no problem," he says. Over 100 people from First UU have turned out

for BREAD meetings.

The Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, has joined with MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategies Enabling Strength), a Detroit metro area council including 70 member organizations. Birmingham members are working on

a MOSES project to bring mass transit to the area.

Teaming up with so many others makes large projects seem more doable. "The problems are so big here," says the Rev. Douglas Gallager, "it's sometimes hard to see ways for one congregation to address them. I'm hopeful we can make a real impact." It's also valuable to be in contact with non-UU congregations, he says. "Our congregations isolate themselves from the wider faith community too much. We think we are too special. We aren't. It's good to be with people who may have very different religious beliefs, but a common dedication to providing quality of life for people."

The Veatch Program of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, New York, helps provide funding for faith-based community organizing networks. Executive director Marjorie Fine points out that President Bush's faith-based initiative gives public monies to entities that may or may not support

"You're always trying to get people who are at rest into motion. You're always working on deepening people's commitment. The more that people commit, the more meaning they extract from their involvement."

—The Rev. Sam Trumbore

Congregations engaged in faith-based community organizing are encouraged to contact the UUA's Faith in Action Washington Office, which is compiling information about this type of work. Call (202) 296-4672, ext. 17, or e-mail mriley@uua.org.

the principles UUs believe in."

The First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas, was one of the first congregations to join Dallas Area Interfaith (DAI), whose members are about equally divided among blacks, whites, and Hispanics. DAI's successes include increased city funding for community policing and afterschool programs, several miles of new sidewalks to schools, and getting drug users out of parks. "Those are ordinary things that you expect to be there that aren't, especially in poorer parts of town," says Mary Lou Hoffman, a First Unitarian member who works with DAI. "And we've had a decrease in crime in neighborhoods wherever we've worked."

The group provides lots of opportunities to get to know other people. "There's been a lot of distrust and dislike across racial lines in this town," says Hoffman. "We have to learn to trust each other. One of our principles is we never use nametags. We're supposed to know each other by name."

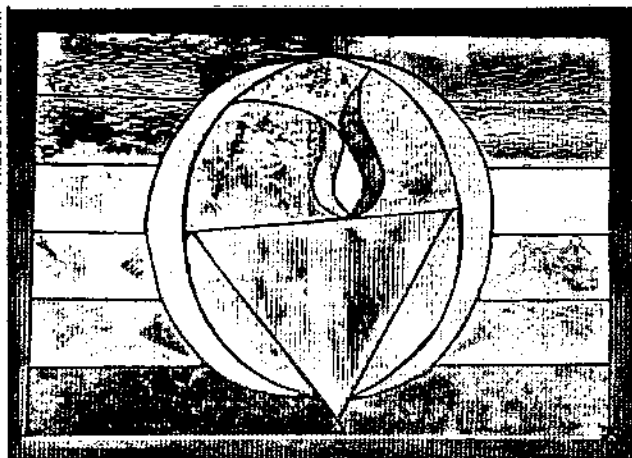
In Pittsburgh, all five metro-area Unitarian Universalist congregations are working with PIIN, the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network. The Rev. Art McDonald, minister of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, is on PIIN's executive board. Before organizing got started, black congregations were invited to investigate the proposal. "We told them, 'If you buy into this, then invite us along.' That's what happened and that was better than white liberals taking the lead."

Nearly a fifth of the 500 who attended a recent PIIN covenanting service were Unitarian Universalists, including 24 from McDonald's 75-member congregation.

"UUs need to be aware that projects such as these do often teach people to be adversarial," says McDonald. "That's because they want you to be able to take your power to public officials and be able to speak up for the sake of justice. We want to bring our values to the work, and our sense of integrity." ■

WELCOMING DENOMINATION

PHOTO BY HOPE STEWART



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin County in San Rafael, California, dedicated a new stained glass window in honor of becoming an official Welcoming Congregation on December 2. Created by Joy Del Santo, the window features symbols of support for gay pride and diversity.

MILESTONES

PRELIMINARY FELLOWSHIP:

Lori Bernard; Karen Broenneke; Brian Clougherty; Lori Crawford; Frances Dearman; Frances Deverell; Rick Koyle; Cathleen Cox McCarroll; Karen McFarland; Christina Marie Petzoldt Neilson; Amy Russell; Sarah Stewart; Robert P. Tucker; Felicia Urbanski.

FINAL FELLOWSHIP:

Jan Carlsson-Bull; Leonard DeRoche; James Grant; Kathryn Jorgensen; Jeanne Melis Mills; Thomas Rhodes; Erin Splaine; V. Elaine Strawn; Alan Taylor; Susan Videen; Victoria Weinstein.

RESIGNED WITH CHARGES PENDING:

George D. Exoo.

RETIREMENTS:

Elizabeth Benjamin; Victor Carpenter; Richard Gilbert; Richard Kimball; Doug Reisner.

EMERITUS:

Doug Reisner, Charlotte NC (UU Church).

ORDAINED:

Peggy Block, Westport CT; Patricia Franz, Kensington CA; Carol Sampson Rudisill, Santa Paula CA; Alice Syltje, Birmingham AL.

SETTLED:

Patricia Brennan (contracted minister), Boston MA (King's Chapel); Jennifer Brower (pastoral care), Manhasset NY; Karen Foley (affiliate, pastoral care), Concord MA; Daniel Kanter (acting senior), Dallas TX (First Unitarian).

ANNOUNCED DEPARTURES:

Joy Atkinson, San Mateo CA; Richard Beal, Auckland NZ; Elizabeth Benjamin, Ottawa ON; Michelle Bentley, Chicago IL (Third Unitarian); Paul Boothby, Sanford ME; Tom Burdett, Houston TX (Bay Area); Victor Carpenter, Belmont MA; Helen Cohen, Lexington MA (First Parish); Richard Gilbert, Rochester NY (First Unitarian); Dee Graham, St. Petersburg FL (UU Church); Robert Hadley, Fitchburg MA; David Johnson, Overland Park KS; Jennifer Justice, Cohasset MA; Daniel Kanter (assistant), Boston MA (King's Chapel); Sandra Lee, Grand Junction CO; Mary Ann Macklin (assistant), Madison WI (First Unitarian); Robert Schaibly, Houston TX (First UU); Brent Smith, Grand Rapids MI; Rosemarie Smurzynski, Sherborn MA; Arline Sutherland, Winchester MA.

BEGAN INTERIM:

Paula Gable, The Woodlands TX; Sonya Montana (interim assistant), Kirkwood MO.

COMPLETED INTERIM MINISTRY:

Jennifer Brower (interim assistant), New York NY (Community); Sarah Zimmerman (interim assistant, RE), Greenville SC.

COMPLETED EXTENSION MINISTRY:

Vicky Combs, Kansas City MO (Gaia Community); Keith Goheen, Lewes DE; Cynthia Landrum, Houston TX (Northwest Community); David McFarland, Logan UT. ■

PERSPECTIVE

Editorials B4
 Letters B4
 Mary Rosenfeld B5
 Maureen Dowd B5

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SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2002

Many hands

A regional, grass-roots approach can improve our communities for the benefit of all

By THE REV.
 SAMUEL A. TRUMBORE

Conflicts and a lack of coordination among Capital Region governing bodies are damaging our region's ability to revitalize our urban areas and wisely control growth in the suburbs. ARISE - A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment - is a community-organizing project made up of 40 religious, interfaith and neighborhood organizations in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties that's beating the drum to get them working together.

These conflicts and coordination problems are familiar to any developer trying to build new homes or any business interested in relocating to our area. Developers must deal with different city, town and county zoning ordinances and building permitting processes. For example, the setback distance from a property line where one can build varies from 4 feet in the city of Albany, to 26 to 75 feet in town of Niskayuna.

Another example of the balkanization of governmental entities is the ongoing feud between the city of Albany and the county of Albany over abandoned and condemned homes. And when they are ready to move out of gridlock, they often come into conflict with other organizations seeking to preserve the architecture of our historic neighborhoods. Add to that the high cost of renovating old homes full of lead paint and asbestos, and you see why some of our downtown neighborhoods are suffering.

There is a less obvious and more complex dimension, however, that affects our children. Our regional leaders have failed to address the crisis in youth violence in Albany, Troy and

Schenectady, our young people are killing each other in unprecedented numbers. Many youths get sucked into or intimidated into joining gangs. Teenagers who want no part of this life often have no refuge. After-school, teen and mentoring programs in all our cities suffer from space and funding shortages and can serve only a fraction of the kids

with needs.

One potential unifying force working toward solutions is The Youth Council of the Capital Region Workforce Investment Board, a state-funded body that brings government and employers to the same table. It could coordinate the work of existing youth programs, identify gaps and go after the large government and

private funding sources that are not currently available.

Unfortunately, the council has not been a functioning body and has had little initiative to generate new programs. ARISE proposed new candidates for the Youth Council last March to stimulate activity. The first meeting since then is scheduled for next week.

In all these examples, each

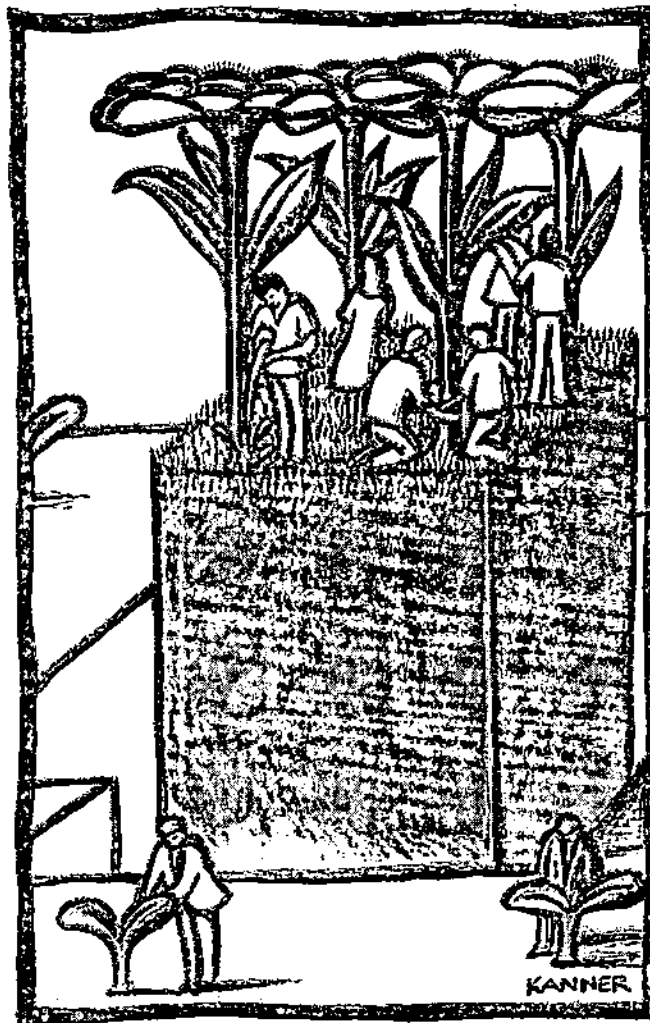
organization has laudable goals and fine people involved. Yet because they do not coordinate their work successfully on a larger level, they fall far short of their potential. To encourage a greater awareness of the potential for regional cooperation, ARISE and its partners held a regional summit titled "Revitalization and Smart Growth" on July 19.

Working together with African American Clergy United for Empowerment, the Interdenominational Ministers Conference, the University at Albany, the Capital District Transportation Committee, the Capital District Regional Planning Committee, the Civil Service Employees Association and the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce, we put on a day-long conference. More than 200 government, civic, labor, religious leaders and representatives from all over the Capital Region gathered to look at what might be accomplished through collaboration.

In a series of workshops, these partners identified areas where they saw the potential for regional cooperation. Home ownership for community development, schools and the future of the work force and access to jobs and small business development are critical areas where the inner cities need support. Sessions on promoting smart growth and creating vital community centers spoke to the needs of the suburbs as they struggle to manage their growth and development. The participants trusted ARISE to bring together leaders who don't usually sit at the same table to seek common ground.

Please see **HANDS 82**

► The Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore is president of ARISE and minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany.



HANDS: A regional, grass-roots coalition can bring about change

▼CONTINUED FROM B1
ARISE has proven itself capable of organizing at the grass roots and bringing the people's concerns to the seats of power. Over the past year, ARISE successfully advocated for grass-roots input in selection of the new Schenectady Department of Social Services commissioner, funding for after-school programs in Saratoga and Rensselaer counties, and commitments of support from Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings and the governor's office to find land and funding for an expanded Albany Boys and Girls Club.

The speakers at our summit stressed the importance of regional cooperation. One of them, John Powell (he does not capitalize his name), executive director of the University of Minnesota Institute on Race and Poverty,

Too often the solutions come from the top down ...

emphasized that issues of racial equity and justice must be addressed regionally to be successfully resolved.

Todd Fabozzi, a graduate student in UAlbany's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, painted a picture of sprawling development driven by zoning regulations that he described as anti-community building.

Henry Taylor, a professor in the Department of Urban Planning at the University of Buffalo, preached that problems of gang violence and declining neighborhoods cannot be resolved from

the outside. Too often the solutions come from the top down without the consultation, consideration or participation of the people being served.

"Distressed communities must be regenerated from the inside out — and only those with a vested interest can be trusted to lead it," Taylor said.

ARISE exemplifies the approach we advocate for our region. The rich and the poor, the suburban and the urban, people of different races and cultures work together democratically on mutual concerns. We strongly believe that it is in everyone's interest for our cities to be vital, attractive communities and for our suburbs to be vital, attractive communities.

We want all residents to share in the opportunities here.

COMMUNITY AT WORK



■ **ARISE:** A coalition of 40 religious, interfaith and neighborhood groups in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties

■ **Contacts:**

▶ The Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore, 463-7135, strumbore@uumin.org
▶ Andreas Kriefall, 331-3190, ariseorg@earthlink.net

■ **Web site on July 19 summit:** <http://www.uumin.org/summit.htm>

■ **Next public meeting:** 7 p.m., Nov. 19, Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady

We believe if we build positive relationships around mutual self-interest we can be a catalyst that can generate the greater cooperation our region needs.

Holes wear into footbridge

The city is holding back the remaining \$300,000 owed to the contractor of the Hudson River Way pedestrian bridge after holes opened on it over the winter. The 650-foot bridge, which opened last summer, remains perfectly safe to walk on," said City General Services Commissioner Bill Bruce. The potholes were caused by a mistake in mixing concrete for a four-inch layer on the walking surface of the bridge.

Harrison and Burrowes Bridge Contractors, which were paid about \$9 million for the project, are a very reputable company and they want to fix this," Bruce said. "They just can't start with the work until the weather warms up."

Bruce said the repairs will be done at no additional cost to the city. Once the bridge is repaired, a one-year warranty on the entire project will begin, he added.

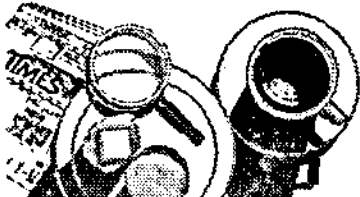
— Brian Nearing



MICHAEL P. FARRELL/TIMES UNION

ALBANY'S pedestrian bridge over I-787, featuring bricks paid for by the public, has potholes. It will be repaired by the contractor.

FOLLOW-UP



ON THE NEWS

in Albany on March 14, attracted about 130 business, government and religious leaders from the Capital Region, according to ARISE president the Rev. Sam Trumbore.

"We are bringing together these groups and hoping for a cross-pollination of ideas," Trumbore said. "We want to make sure that the cities don't get steamrolled, that all of the benefits don't end up in the suburbs."

ARISE plans to hold its next conference on June 13, also at St. Vincent dePaul's.

— Danielle T. Furfaro

Too tall trees

COLONIE — They soar above the treetops, but eventually air-

planes have to land, and the boughs can get in the way.

Every eight years or so, Albany International Airport officials cut several feet off of pine trees that line the runways, and they may have to do so again as early as this summer.

The last time they were cut was in 1995.

"We survey every year or two," said Stephen Iachetta, an airport planner. He said that crews prune almost every year, but that the trees will be due for a serious cut by 2005, if not before.

Iachetta's crews relied on traditional surveying equipment in the 1990s. Now they have Global Positioning Satellite tools and can triangulate the height of the trees.

"It streamlines the means and the methods," Iachetta said, although airport spokesman Doug Myers added, "You can pretty much eyeball them if you stand out there."

The main concern is that trees that are too tall block the invisible signals that guide the autopilot computers to the runways, Iachetta said. Measurements are taken in August, he said, toward the end of the evergreens' annual growth cycle, when the foliage is at its apex.

— Anne Miller

Fighting for cities

ALBANY — Three years after a group of neighborhood and religious organizations formed an umbrella activist group aimed at improving the lives of inner-city residents, the group has begun holding conferences aimed at generating ideas to make sure that cities do not miss out on the expected benefits of Sematech International. ARISE (A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment) is a community-organizing project made up of 40 religious, interfaith neighborhood organizations in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties. The grassroots project has taken on a number of causes, including building a sense of community for inner-city families and increasing education and employment opportunities for young people.

The first conference, which the group held in St. Vincent dePaul's

Tap shared values to address concerns of all

By the **REV. SAMUELA TRUMBORE**

Imagine you're in debt and living in urban rental housing. You've been laid off from your factory job for a year and found no work. Your children are not doing well in school. You don't have a car or health insurance — in short, you're desperate. Then you hear our region is being considered for a state-of-the-art semiconductor fabrication plant, and hope springs up in you that good-paying manufacturing jobs might actually start returning to this region.

Now, imagine you're a state worker with a secure job. You live in a pleasant wooded suburban neighborhood with two cars in the garage. Your children attend excellent schools and are in good health. You hear about the growth that

► *The Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore is past president of ARISE and minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany.*

might result from Sematech coming to the area and begin to worry about an increase in traffic, the destruction of green space and pollution of the air and water. You fear that the quality of life you enjoy today will be threatened by development.

Now let's say you're an environmental activist. You love trees, birds, flowers and butterflies almost as much as you love your own children. As you look around the world, you despair at the extinction of species after species, and dedicate yourself to saving your little chunk of the planet from destruction. Then you hear about a plan to level 1,350 acres in Luther Forest and build factories that could pollute that bit of nature. You may think environmental Armageddon is at hand.

Finally, you are president of a firm that

manufactures semiconductors. You tremble as you think about the billions of dollars you will need to invest before you get one chip out of your factory, a factory that will run 24 hours a day, seven days a



week, 365 days a year. You know that regulations, taxes, labor, and legal, construction and environmental costs will determine whether you turn a profit. You will need electricity, natural gas, water, skilled workers, a good airport and political stability to get up and running. You also want an attractive region with access to cultural and recreational opportunities that will help attract highly skilled workers. You wonder if New York's Capital Region is the right place to take the plunge.

These are the characters in a drama playing out in our region. These four

voices represent the range of hopes and concerns people bring to the Tech Valley initiative. Each point of view is important — good jobs, quality of life, a protected environment and the need for corporations to make more money than they spend if they are to attract investors and turn a profit.

Rarely do people representing all four viewpoints sit down at the same table together to discuss their common concerns. But there are places where they regularly assemble under one roof. They are found in our churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship. They sit next to each other in pews and chairs, and kneel on mats as they sing, pray, chant and listen for divine guidance and support.

Religious organizations are one of the great untapped sources of democracy, and they can bring a moral voice to public policy. Tapping this power is a primary

Please see **ARISE D3** ►

ARISE: A model for cooperative action

▼ CONTINUED FROM D2

goal of ARISE, A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment, which represents 35 religious, interfaith and neighborhood organizations in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties.

ARISE has discovered that both urban and suburban organizations care deeply about quality education for youth, training for real jobs and employment opportunities. When it comes to the disease of substance abuse, ARISE members are concerned that an excessive emphasis on punishment and not enough emphasis on treatment and job training is laying waste to our urban neighborhoods.

In today's complex society, no one has all the answers, but through ARISE, the Capital Region has a model of cooperative problem-solving based on shared values. When all the major inter-

COME TOGETHER

ARISE

- **What:** Third annual meeting
 - **When:** 7 p.m., Tuesday
 - **Where:** The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany
 - **Admission:** Free
-

ests are heard, including the marginalized voices of the poor, great things can happen. Inspired by faith, ARISE offers a model for successful regional cooperation and economic development.

By working together and sharing power, we can achieve a common vision that will make this region and Tech Valley the kind of place where we all want to live. A spirit of regional cooperation based on shared interests will get us there.

Religious & Community Leaders Address Regional Development

THE REV. SAMUEL TRUMBORE,
President of ARISE

Organized faith communities can initiate significant changes beyond treating the symptoms and effects of poverty through study of and action on the fundamental causes of injustice and lack of opportunity. ARISE exists to involve faith communities and inner city neighborhoods with decisions that shape our region's infrastructure and economic development.

In March, ARISE and Bishop Hubbard are collaborating to host a regional conversation about the Capital District's future development.

An unusual mix of people makes this meeting significant. In addition to several dozen government, education, labor, and business leaders from Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and

Schenectady counties, ARISE is gathering representatives from African American churches, diverse faith communities, and other inner-city and grassroots leaders.

ARISE stresses a message of interdependence and equity; there is a social and economic urgency to create a strong quality of life across our region's interlinked web of rural areas, suburbs, and cities. Our region will suffer if we continue to segregate racially and divide communities between extremes of concentrated wealth and poverty.

The broad goal of creating a more just society requires two primary areas of focus. First, we must curb the sprawling development that has begun to mar our region's areas of high growth, especially subur-

ban building projects that gobble up farmland and open space. Second, we must redirect some of the resources that currently fuel sprawl into revitalizing our poorest neighborhoods.

ARISE has expressed some of the steps for smarter growth and revitalization in a "Declaration of Interdependence," which was presented at our public meeting at Proctor's Theatre last November.

By framing a regional forum around the values of equity and justice, this spring's event will highlight the needs of our low-income neighbors and draw our leaders' attention to them in a new way.

The Rev. Trumbore can be reached at 463-7135 or strumbore@uumin.org.

Sweatfree Schools cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

international movements to abolish sweatshops. During the 2001-2002 school year, the campaign surveyed 35 of the 43 school districts in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga counties. In response, the Labor-Religion Coalition issued a Sweatfree Schools Report Card.

Ten of the districts were found to be sweatfree. They earned the distinction of being placed on the *High Honor Roll* in June 2002, indicating that they are leaders in the effort to eliminate child and sweatshop labor. These leaders are Albany City, Averill Park Central, Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central, Bethlehem Central, Edinburg Common, Guilderland Central, Lansingburgh Central, South Glens Falls Central, Troy City, and Voorheesville Central school districts. We need your help to

make sure that all the districts in this region and throughout the state become sweatfree.

More information about the Report Card and the campaign can be found on our website at www.labor-religion.org. Please join the campaign by contacting Susan Zucker at the New York State Labor-Religion Coalition at 518-213-6000 ext. 6294 or susanz@labor-religion.org.



cause "the only thing I would want is my time." Then he adds, "My freedom, and that cannot be given back."

In the Birmingham trial a tab- let from Tacoma, Wash., testi- fied about how his supervisor

replied, "Basically, yeah."

Asked to clarify, Malvo said, "In all of them."

Walker focused on the May- 1997 shooting through a

where teenagers can learn about employment and education pos- sibilities.

ARISE has received a

beginning to look at treatment based treatment

Even though crime has dropped, incarceration rates on, Wallace said. "People are learning that it's better to be

crime," she said.

continue to climb, largely be- cause of the recession. While

dropped, incarceration rates on, Wallace said. "People are learning that it's better to be

crime," she said.

based treatment

Even though crime has dropped, incarceration rates on, Wallace said. "People are learning that it's better to be

crime," she said.

works" (p. 1)

LOCAL: Man dies in Colonie house fire — B1

BUSINESS: CDPHP says standoff a bid to lower costs — C7

LIFESTYLES: Pie is synonymous with holiday — D1



SPECIAL HONOR
Barry Bonds dedicates his MVP award to his father, who died in August.

SPORTS, C1

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Hi
Lo

THE DAILY GAZETTE

The Independent Voice of the Capital Region

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Tuesday evening with a march to the U.S. Embassy to protest the Bush administration's environmental policies.

The Stop the War Coalition and its allies plan to march past

See LONDON, Page A6



Britain's Prince Charles, left, greets President George Bush as he arrives Tuesday at London's Heathrow Airport for a four-day state visit. The president and first lady are staying at Buckingham Palace, at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Maj. Genack Jr., co-Airborne number of par provin Jordan and been tripli

Groups cite education, jobs as keys to future

By SARA FOSS 11-19-03
Gazette Reporter First Page



Representatives of numerous area community organizations and churches line the stage at The Egg in Albany on Tuesday during ARISE's annual meeting titled "An Equity Agenda for Tech Valley."

inner cities and poor benefit from the high-tech growth expected to transform the Capital Region.

Those who spoke at the annual meeting emphasized the im-

portance of education, job opportunities, affordable housing and drug treatment.

"We can set standards that raise the bar for everyone," said Deb Raumes, the president of

ARISE. "In the next decade, this region will experience dramatic changes. We are here to effect a social transformation." But

See ARISE, Page A2

Jurors hear Malvo describing at Suspect: 'I intended to kill them'

By SONJA BARISIC
The Associated Press

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — In a chilling audiotape played for the jury Tuesday, a soft-spoken Lee Boyd Malvo told police he pulled the trigger in all of the sniper attacks that terrified the Washington area last fall.

"I intended to kill them all," said Malvo, then 17.

In nearby Virginia Beach, meanwhile, a jury heard more evidence Tuesday on whether John Allen Muhammad should get the death penalty for masterminding the attacks. Muhammad was convicted Monday in the murder of Dean Harold Meyers, killed as he filled his tank at a gas station.

Prosecutors said Tuesday that a map in a laptop computer

found in Mates that t eran was pl over a wide

The map more than 1 stretching N.C., with "good spot An icon for the trial is belied "Go many ways

Another elementary George's C same count Iran Brown



Malvo

See

INDEX

Annie's Mail... B

Arts... B

Bridge... Business

Classified

DS-F

Comics

Meat loaf, 52, collapsed Monday on the first sellout date at the venue.

Honored by peers

Tom Brokaw says he's not going to spend his last year at NBC's top anchor collecting awards, but he's honored to

ARISE meeting attracts hundreds

Continued from Page A1

Tech Valley was not the only topic.

Keynote speaker Barbara Wallace, associate professor of health education at Columbia University's Teachers College, spoke on the need to treat drug addicts rather than jail them. "Addiction treatment works," she said. "There's a large body

"In the next decade, this region will experience dramatic changes. We are here to effect a social transformation."

Bob Baumes
President of ARISE

of research that supports the effectiveness of community-based treatment."

Even though crime has dropped, incarceration rates continue to climb, largely because of the draconian drug laws in many states, Wallace said. "The goal is to foster a shift toward a new era of compassionate and rational drug policy that values rehabilitation," she said.

Right now, though, change is in the air. Because many states

are faced with mounting deficits and tight fiscal times, they're beginning to look at treatment as a cheaper alternative to prison, Wallace said. "People are learning that it's better to be smart on crime than tough on crime," she said.

Patricia Durham of Schenectady spoke about the sadness she shares with other parents of children jailed on drug charges. "I know my son has done something deserving of punishment, but there's something wrong with a system that gave him 18 years to life for a drug-related crime," she said. "Treatment programs are much more effective at preventing crime than incarceration."

Being successful requires a good education, said Crystal Hamelink, co-chair of ARISE's youth and education task force. She told of Leoder Goodwin, a Schenectady teenager fatally shot on Emmett Street in 2002.

"Lee's story symbolizes the

consequences of letting hundreds of the region's youths fall through the cracks," she said. "One in three students do not graduate from high school, and many who do still lack the skills they need to be successful."

ARISE plans to encourage local businesses to connect with area schools, Hamelink said. The group also wants to sponsor "opportunity fairs" — job fairs where teenagers can learn about employment and education possibilities.

ARISE has received a \$400,000 grant from the Capital Region Workforce Investment Board. The group will use this money to study the types of skills those entering the work force will need now and in the future.

Charles Steiner, president of the Chamber of Schenectady County, said there is always a need for trained workers. "The business community stands ready to work with educators, to move forward," he said.

The annual meeting was held at The Egg. Several local mayors attended, including Schenectady Mayor-elect Brian Stratton, Albany Mayor Jerry Jennings and Troy Mayor-Elect Harry Tutunjian. About 800 attended.

Reach Gazette reporter Sara Fass at 432-4391 or sarafass@aol.com.

side a middle school during the sniper spree.

Malvo, now 18, is on trial on charges of murdering FBI analyst Linda Franklin, who was cut down by a bullet outside a Home Depot. He could get the death penalty if convicted. Ten people died and three were wounded during the three-week sniper spree in Washington, Maryland and Virginia.

Tuesday marked the first time the tape with the Malvo confession was played publicly. A little more than an hour was played for jurors, who were given transcripts because the sound was poor and Malvo's voice was soft. Several times, Malvo's interrogator, Samuel Walker, a detective with the Prince William County police department, is heard asking Malvo to speak up.

When the officer asked Malvo whether he squeezed the trigger in all the shootings, Malvo first responded, "Basically, yeah."

Asked to clarify, Malvo said, "In all of them." Walker focused on the Meyers slaying, eliciting through a series of questions that Malvo shot Meyers in the head because Meyers was standing sideways.

"His body twisted this way, so I couldn't get a body shot," Malvo said.

"He went down," Malvo said when Walker asked what happened to Meyers after the shot was fired.

Walker testified Tuesday that he questioned Malvo on Nov. 7, 2002 — two weeks after Malvo and Muhammad were arrested — and "marveled at how intelligent he was."

He also said that Malvo was candid and cooperative and never appeared to be out of contact with reality during the conversation, which lasted an hour and 40 minutes. Malvo's attorneys contend Malvo is innocent by reason of insanity because he was brainwashed by Muhammad, and they do not dispute that he took part in the shootings. They have said previously that Malvo con-

hammad a Under defense a Walker ac vo made confessio getting Meyers' r the head v "Lee wa people th significan would be Cooley, 53 day. "He responsib On the the shoot money, bu mad were thorties h were intern nation's c: \$10 millio ment

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looking ahead... in the GAZETTE
Admired Tradition
For foreign students attending college in the Capital Region, the tradition of the Thanksgiving holiday is uniquely American, but one that the visiting collegates admire and take part in while far from home. See Thursday's Lifestyles section.

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Police raid Michael Jackson's Cali

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. — Officers conducting a criminal investigation searched Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch on Tuesday. The purpose of the raid was not disclosed.

Court TV cited unidentified sources as saying the search warrant was tied to sexual-abuse allegations brought by a 12- or 13-year-old boy. Sheriff's officials and the district attorney's office refused comment.

Jackson spokesman Stuart Backerman also refused to comment on any allegations and said neither he nor Jackson knew the details of the investigation.

Backerman said Jackson and his three young children were not at the ranch at the time and have been in Las Vegas, where Jackson is making a video.

Sixty to 70 investigators from the Santa Barbara County sheriff's and district attorney's offices served a warrant as part of an "ongoing criminal investigation," Sgt. Chris Pappas said. No immediate arrests were made.

Backerman said Jackson and his three young children were not at the ranch at the time and have been in Las Vegas, where Jackson is making a video.

Jackson denounced media coverage of the search in a state-

ment rele The Assoc

"I've see represent who do y for me. Th seem in s allegation: ect, an alt released," ment said.

Detectiv be gatheri night.

The di sheriff pla details at morning.

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*Our Member Groups
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Artists' All-Faith Center
Capital District Labor-Religion Coalition
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Evangelical Protestant United Church of Christ
First Lutheran Church
First Unitarian-Universalist Society of Albany
Interdenominational Ministers Conference
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In Schenectady County

* Emmanuel Baptist-Friends United Church of Christ
First Unitarian Society, Schenectady
Friendship Baptist Church
Iglesia de Dios
* Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church
Mt. Pleasant Reformed Church
* Refreshing Spring Church of God in Christ
* Sacred Heart/St. Columbia RCC
St. John the Baptist RCC
* Sisters of St. Joseph
* State Street Presbyterian Church
* Vale Community Organization

In Rensselaer County

Sacred Heart/St. William's RCC

In Saratoga County

St. Joseph's Church
Temple Shabbat Shalom

* These are the Churches and Organizations that were the founding members.

ARISE Executive Committee

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Deb Baumes	Executive Vice President
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Ruth Clements	Regional V.P. Rensselaer
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All text, graphics and inquiries regarding advertisements, ad placement, etc. may be emailed to joanimom@earthlink.net. In your emails, please be sure to include company or organization name, contact person, and a phone number.

If you wish to mail ad copy by regular post, please send it to:

ARISE
PO Box 6718
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Attn: Advertising

As with email correspondence, please include company or organization name, contact person, and a phone number.

Ad information not received by March 30th will be designed listing your organization's or company's name with a basic congratulatory message to **ARISE**. These ads will not include your address or phone number.

Requests for additional information about **ARISE** may be obtained through the addresses below.



PO Box 6718 • Albany, New York 12206
phone 331-3190 • email ariseorg@earthlink.net
website <http://gamaliel.org/arise>

Arise
and Celebrate
the
Capital Region!

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

at the

Desmond Hotel

660 Albany Shaker Road Albany, New York

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres
with a Cash Bar

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Dinner & Entertainment

Featuring

Alex Torres
and the Latin Kings

For your after dinner dancing entertainment.

What is ARISE?

ARISE (A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment) is a faith-based community organizing project covering four counties: Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga. Our purpose is to bring together congregations and other membership organizations in the Capital Region as a strong coalition so that we can locate areas of shared community concern, define solutions and develop a powerful voice for positive change, especially in distressed neighborhoods. **ARISE** currently has over 30 member organizations with a combined strength of 12,000 members.

The ARISE Mission

Our mission is to build a power organization made up of congregations and other community groups, enabling them both to revitalize their own membership and to revive communities in the Capital Region.

What is ARISE doing?

ARISE has 3 task forces that are pursuing empowering public policy improvements in the areas of **Youth and Education, Employment, and Regionalism**. Victories of our past year of organizing include:

- a \$250,000 state grant for a new Carver Community Center building in Schenectady
- a building project to create a new Albany Boys & Girls Club
- increased support for after school programs in Saratoga and Troy
- winning an open search process with citizen input for a new DSS Commissioner in Schenectady County.

How can you support these efforts?

On Tuesday, May 6, 2003 **ARISE** will hold its first fundraising banquet. Our theme will be "**ARISE and Celebrate the Capital Region!**" On this evening, our members and friends will gather for a festive and exciting banquet highlighting the achievements and potential of the movement for revitalization, hope and equity in our region. The meal and program will be followed by music and dancing, with our region's rising stars, **Alex Torres and the Latin Kings**, providing the entertainment.

There is much to anticipate and to be thankful for at this time:

- The advent of **new industries** and the potential they bring for economic growth, new employment opportunities, and revitalization of poor neighborhoods
- The **new spirit of regional collaboration** and improved self-esteem in our area, bringing together counties, cities and townships in order to maximize our formidable regional assets
- A **new willingness to address the needs of communities** that have until now been left behind, including minorities and inner-city neighborhoods
- Far-ranging **educational reforms** and efforts to prepare the future workforce through innovations and improvements in the school systems of the area.

Through the work of its task forces and its diverse member organizations, **ARISE** aims to play a key role in all of these movements for community revitalization in the Capital Region. We invite you to join us and to support us by contributing to and attending this celebration of our region and its potential.

All contributions are tax deductible.



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Please make checks payable to **ARISE** and return this card by March 30th to:

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