

THE UNITARIAN NEWSLETTER a publication of

THE Unitarian Church of Staten Island

Founded in 1852

Rev. Susan Karlson, Minister
Parsonage: 718-442-1012
Cell phone: 347-466-0864
E-mail: PSKARL3@gmail.com
Rev. Benjamin D. Bortin, Minister Emeritus
312 Fillmore St., Staten Island, NY 10301
Church Phone & Fax: 718-447-2204
Office Email: uucsi.org@verizon.net
Website: www.uucsi.org

Vision We are an inviting spiritual community guided by our principles in all that we do.

Mission

The mission of the UCSI is to:

- open our hearts and home in order to enrich our community;
- extend ourselves to help make the world a better place;
- support and nurture people as they search for their own truth; and, share the responsibility for sustaining our cherished home.

Director of Religious Education Coordinator, Megan Lloyd Joiner
Director of Music, Dr. Carolyn Clark

Church Secretary, Stella Fishman
Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, Brian Fontana
Building Attendant, Frank Caterina

UPCOMING SERVICES:

This month we focus on cultivating a different perspective through appreciation and acknowledgment.

April 4, 10:45 a.m.

“Uncommon Resurrections”

In the pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson

Music: Kiya Heartwood

Easter Sunday is a time to celebrate rebirth and renewal in all its many facets. There is a joyousness that comes along with Easter morning. In the Christian tradition, Easter is an awareness that Jesus is not in the cold tomb. Hope is resurrected. The Rev. Wayne Arnason writes, “The last place we expect to find that spirit is in the tomb within ourselves where hopes and possibilities have lain buried, killed by time and circumstance and potential unfulfilled. Maybe that tomb is empty today. Maybe those hopes and possibilities walk beside you. Maybe something unexpected and unheard of awaits you in this season.” Let’s celebrate Easter together and see what uncommon resurrections are in store for each of us.



April 11, 10:45 a.m.

“Counting Our Blessings”

In the pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson.

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark

<http://www.dreamstime.com>

From the perspective of “the glass half full”, we perceive things differently. Opportunities and possibilities abound even as obstacles and struggles arise. Our relationships deepen because we understand how our gifts and talents contribute to the whole. One of us sings while another can dance to intricate rhythms. Someone writes in a way that crystallizes the characters in a story or play while another person draws us in with a visual image. Some do the work of committees and Boards while others take time to clean up the yard, clear out the closet and change all the light bulbs. How many blessings do we possess—the blessings of life, love, service and compassion. This is our joyful exploration this week as we count our blessings.



April 18, 10:45 a.m.

“Earth Day 2010—The Whole World is Watching”

In the pulpit: Peace Action of Staten Island and the Rev. Susan Karlson

Guest Musician: To be announced

This service will be coordinated between Peace Action of Staten Island and the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. The service will connect Earth Day and the Nuclear Disarmament conference slated for New York City on April 30th and May 1st and the march and festival that will take place on May 2nd. Thousands of disarmament activists from around the world and several survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings will be in NYC for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty talks scheduled at the United Nations for the first week in May. For more information about these activities go to www.peaceandjusticenow.org.



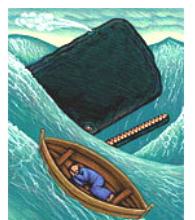
April 25, 10:45 a.m.

“The Jonah Moments of Our Lives”

In the pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark (<http://www.fotosearch.com/illustration/jonah-whale.html>)

In the biblical story of “Jonah”, Jonah goes the other way when told to go to Nineveh. He wants God to punish the people of Nineveh but he knows that God will show mercy to them. So he ends up getting swallowed by a big fish. How do we resist our callings and go to the extreme to avoid what we feel deeply in our hearts is ours to do? What do we do with Jonah moments in our lives when we want something to go a certain way and yet life intervenes to subvert our most careful plans? This service is about the Jonah moments in our lives and how to live through them—fully!



Simply Susan
“The Three T’s”
 April, 2010

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”
 — Winston Churchill

All over Staten Island, branches and downed electrical wires wreaked havoc for many people. The church had its share of broken branches. One of the beautiful pine trees in front of church is now lopped off. Our electricity never powered down. There were a few inches of water in the basement but one of our members got the sump pump going and that took care of that. Our heat kept cutting off but that was not due to the storm. This week, we’ll have a brand new motor to insure that we have heat for the rest of the heating season.

So the church and my house didn’t suffer much damage but all week long I heard how people couldn’t check e mails because they had no power. I participated in the Building Bridges Interfaith Seder and talked to one of the Catholic women at my table. She told me that one of their small parishes had to come to the larger church because they didn’t have any heat and no power and massive floods. At the larger church, they suffered some outages too. The lights flickered on and off briefly during the Seder. Another story that came to me was most poignant. Shortly before a scheduled surgery, the storm struck with all its fury and the lights went out and there was no electricity for cooking. The couple found it hard to sleep because of these things so they were not so well rested to deal with the surgery and its aftermath. Still this person expressed concern for all the people whose homes were flooded and their houses destroyed.

I am aware that there is a whole lot more love and compassion out there in the world and in our hearts than we often hear about in the news. Several people are coming over to help clear away the branches from the church yard. We have a whole lot more branches downed from previous storms. No one asked them to do this. They just saw a need, they care about the church and they volunteered. Another community member tells me he started picking up trash when he takes the dog for a walk. He does this because he is willing to give of his time and because he cares about the church and its appearance. Another member changed all of the light bulbs in the church, paying for them out of his own pocket, making the church more energy efficient. Again, no one asked him to do this. He loves this church with all his heart. He asks for no recognition. Yet I think we need to do a better job of recognizing, appreciating and acknowledging people’s gifts and their volunteer efforts and that is why the theme for this month’s services is Appreciation and Acknowledgment.

I know many of you reading this column care about the church. You spend hour after hour attending meetings, you sing, you teach, you offer your creative projects and ideas, facilitate groups, dream about how the church could do more outreach and help make the world a better place for your family and for other people who have not yet come; for other people living in poverty and pain. You have your own hopes and dreams. I don’t pretend to know what they are but I have talked to enough of you to know that your heart lies with this church and its ability to do good in the world. Your heart is opened when you see a need.

This church is small. In church circles, we are what is known as a family sized church. Yet we have a larger percentage of members and friends attend services on Sunday. I think of the person whose personal life was so severely impacted by the storm. When she had time to reflect, her heart went out to those who suffered even more.

This church needs a portion of your time, your talents and yes, your treasure too. Our staff (besides me) only work about 10-12 hours per week. That is not enough time to do all the extras that need doing in the church on a consistent basis. We also need our members and friends to help with all the programs and mission of the church. Staff can never fill all those needs.

So as the storm settles down and as many of you recover, I’m asking you to consider this church and how you might share the “three t’s”—your time, talent and treasure. How might you make a greater space in your heart for this church in your life? I agree with the quote by Winston Churchill at the top of this column: “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Thank you for all your gifts, for your generosity and your love.

Be well,
 Susan

Selected audio recordings of sermons are available on the website: www.uucsi.org

BEYOND THE PLEDGE

Every year around this time the church goes through a cycle of rebirth. The end of the current church year is coming as we prepare for the beginning of the new program year. It’s a time to reflect on the church community, programs and mission.

What brings us to the church? When is the community most engaged? What are our most ambitious dreams for the future of the church community? What are our possibilities for making a difference in our community as well as the greater community?

As you’re thinking about the questions above I need to describe an event that will take place over the next few weeks. Every year we are asked to make a financial commitment to support the programs of our church.

In years past, the church had a proposed budget with a dollar goal for the Pledge Drive. This year we will change the name of the pledge drive to the Stewardship Drive. Yes we changed the terminology of the annual budget drive and it is not the same old canvass. We will not develop the proposed budget until after our Stewardship Drive. We are all stewards of our church community. We use our gifts of talent, time and money to

provide for our community and enable it to continue and grow. We as a community should be able to discuss what our joys and hopes are for our community and how we can care for our community.

Our annual budget drive will start the week of 3/21 and end the week of 4/4. We ask that you save some time, no more than an hour, during this period to meet with a Visiting Steward.

The goal of the Stewardship Drive will be to have everyone financially commit 5% of their annual gross income to the mission of our church. If you are not able to commit 5%, we ask that you increase your financial commitment in any amount towards this goal.

We are a small church with deep roots and we are consciously working on branching out. The Standing on the Side of Love series where we had visitors talk about the immigrant experiences is the reason I volunteer at El Centro del Inmigrante Learning Center. Without the church program I may not have had the opportunity to assist.

Remember it is nobler to give than to receive and our gifts are like a pebble in a pond that creates the effect of ripples that impact everything that they touch. I hope you find yourself in a grateful mood willing to share your gifts.

Tom Seluga, Stewardship Co-Chair
March 15, 2010

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS April, 2010

As we drove to church yesterday, my daughter sat in the back of the car counting the amount of trees, uprooted and laying across the road. Spring is coming and not quietly, I thought to myself... We continued on our journey, swerving around trees and large branches, only to be welcomed into the arms of a wonderful celebration of spring at church. Not unlike the night before, the congregation moved and swayed—this time to the sounds of tambourines, guitar strumming, and joyous song.

I always thought of spring as a kind of peaceful, gentle, awakening of all that had been dormant for so long (perhaps due to my childhood in California). This time around, I felt that Spring was shaking us at our very foundation, uprooting us, shouting, "A change is a comin'! Get ready!" I was inspired by this dramatic change in season and could not help but think of how our year in RE (and as a congregation) has been peppered with all kinds of change. In this vein, I would like to enthusiastically share the formation of our new RE Committee for 2010-2011! We have already begun the work of planning for the next congregation season. Allow me to introduce you to Lorretta Choquet, Vanessa Hall, and Kate Howard, in their own words.

Loretta Choquet writes, "As a member of our community I've been enthralled with the activities and awareness of the children. They participate in meeting with such a forthright style. I'll enjoy any work I can do in the R/E committee. I come from a family of 7 children, we had been taught to take care of and watch for each other. It makes me smile to see our community's children doing likewise."

"Vanessa Hall and her husband, Steve Belluscio, transferred to this congregation from the First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn. They have two daughters, Sophia and Annalina, three and one years old. The Unitarian Universalist RE program is the primary reason Vanessa became interested in attending the church, and she is interested in seeing it serve our youth well. Vanessa is an Assistant Professor of English at New York City College of Technology, so she finds educating little children to be a new, and very interesting, challenge."

Kate Howard and her daughters, Flannery and Cordelia started attending UCSI in September 2009 and feel very happy to be a part of this community. Kate is relieved to have found a spiritual home that matches her values and the RE program has definitely had an impact on her girls. In Flannery's, "All About Me" book at school, she listed church as her main hobby. Cordelia came home after this year's MLK celebration and told her Dad that "Martin Luther loved rainbows" (so close!). Kate is excited to join the RE committee to work with some great people and on behalf of some wonderful kids.

Please join me in welcoming our new committee to the RE and UUCSI family!

We are putting together our program for next year. Please consider giving back to this community by being involved in Religious Exploration. Teachers and Substitutes are needed for ALL ages! Let us know at church or by email (MLJoiner@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a part of the vibrant and exciting RE program!

Simone Andrews, Religious Exploration (RE) Chair

Upcoming RE Events

Multigenerational Sedar—March 28th

Easter Egg Hunt—April 4th

Youth Programming—April 11th Guest Speaker: Sally Jones

Youth Programming—April 25th Youth Brunch (off site)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

East Harbor Coffee House 2.0

There will be a potluck dinner meeting on Saturday, March 27th at 5 pm in the Parish Hall for all those interested in reviving the Coffee House for adults. The Parish Hall has been reserved for Saturday, May 8th for the first event. Please come and share your good ideas, food, and fellowship. Call Jill Hueckel 718-448-1431 for more information.

Put on your calendar, get the word out-

**April- First Friday Film- Capitalism:
A Love Story - April 2- 7:30pm**

FRIDAY FILM Screening with discussion following of "Capitalism: A Love Story"

Capitalism: A Love Story explores the history of incongruence between American capitalism and democracy, a culmination of Moore's lifetime of research into this topic: he begins the movie by admitting his longstanding interest, rooted in childhood experiences in Flint, Michigan. Combining stories about those who suffer most from Corporate America's greed and insatiable thirst for profits and the people most responsible for myriad crises, Moore embarks on another shocking fact-finding rampage.

Consisting of clips from various eras and media outlets, the film weaves a narrative that underscores Moore's argument that while America is a success because of its democracy, it has been denigrated by capitalism, which he calls "a system of taking and giving, mostly taking."

Capitalism: A Love Story is a patriotic call to arms that seeks to ignite rage in the viewer who is tired of political stupidity resulting in poverty and hardship among a dwindling middle class. It begins by tracing the growing gap between the rich and poor, from the Depression through the 1950s "free enterprise" boom. Using clips of FDR and Jimmy Carter warning against greed and inequality, Moore shows how gradually Americans came to accept Reaganomics, corporate corruption, then Bush-era swindling over time. This history serves as context for his explanation of the housing crisis, the collapse of banks, and Bush's covert, last-ditch efforts to pass sketchy bills on the cusp of Obama's election. Moore asks several lawyers, senators, and bankers, "What the **** happened?" and each offers intelligent assessments of situations that many American viewers still struggle to comprehend.

Part of the "Friday Film" series, sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Staten Island and Peace Action of Staten Island. The church is located at 312 Fillmore Street near Snug Harbor. There is a \$5 suggested donation, free refreshments

SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

We're revamping the Social Justice program at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island (UCSI) and we need your energy and enthusiasm to revisit and reshape Social Concerns at UCSI. Please join us for a Social Justice Empowerment Workshop that will be held at the church on **Saturday, April 10th**, from 8:30 am-3pm facilitated by the Rev. Susan Karlson and William Taylor-Suderman.

The main objective of the workshop is to help us reach our potential in social justice work. and learn how to best organize and channel our energy. That is where we need as many of you as possible. This workshop will be a moment of insightful brainstorming as we look at what we have done in the past, at what is happening now, and how to better move into the future.

The workshop is designed to:

- Develop deeper understanding about the basic elements of an effective social justice program
- Integrate the social justice program into the larger life of the church and society
- Find strategies to increase the number of people involved in our social justice program, and
- Assess where we have been and where we want to go.

As we revitalize the Social Justice Committee, we really want input from you concerning what projects to tackle, and what the purpose and mission this committee should embody.

There will be simple breakfast and lunch fare as well as child care for the day if requested by April 1st (no joke intended). Please call the Rev. Susan Karlson(347 466- 0864) or William Taylor-Suderman(347 444- 8988) to make reservations. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Bulletin Board under Social Justice.

We look forward to seeing all of you at this important workshop opportunity for all church members and friends. Your voice does matter!

"One hour of justice is worth seventy years of prayer" – Koran

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON REVISED BYLAWS.

Sunday, April 11, 1:00 pm
In the Sanctuary of the
Unitarian Church of S.I.,
312 Fillmore Street, SI, NY

The Bylaws Committee considered all the input the congregation shared with us and made some new revisions to the bylaws. A new copy of the revised bylaws will be sent to members of the congregation along with a detailed list of the new revisions so that you can more easily see what was changed. If you asked for the bylaws to be sent to you via internet the last time, they will be sent via internet this time. All other members will receive the bylaws by mail. If you have changed your mind about how you wish to receive your bylaws please notify the church office (718 447 2204) or Kathy Santo (ksanto15@gmail.com) by the morning of Friday, March 19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

In inclement weather, please call the church office (718) 447-2204, or the parsonage, at (718) 442-1012 to find out if services or a particular program will be canceled.

Sunday Service Reminder:

Please note the following times for Sunday services:
Musical Prelude: 10:45 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am

The deadline for Announcements or Inserts for the Order of Service is 9 a.m. each Tuesday

JUST A REMINDER: Please update change in address, phone number or new e-mail addresses by informing the church secretary, Stella Fishman, at 718-447-2204, or, e-mailing her at uucsi.org@verizon.net. Thank you.

The UCSI Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:00 pm in the Church Library and is open to all people who would like to observe the process.



ALL the ARTS

All the Arts are coming alive at the UCSI! Heralding Spring before the actual Arts Festival, a dramatic photo exhibit, "Scene Through the Trees" is gracing the Sanctuary.

The Opening Event for the 2010 Arts Festival will be a glorious concert by Viva Voce on April 17th at 2:00PM in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Library - this first event is a gift to the church and community from Viva Voce and the Arts Program Committee - no donations requested.

CONTEST: the first person who spots the display ad for All the Arts in the April 1st issue of AWE and calls 917-612-6175 will receive a free ticket to The Playwrights Forum - Arts Program Committee Members are not eligible for this prize! We are grateful to Susan Master for her generous donation to make a series of ads possible.

CIRCLE SUPPERS: Please sign up with Sarah Dolinar and Susan Flynn, membership co-chairs, to participate in circle suppers – groups of eight

members/newcomers that will meet once a month for potlucks in each others homes (or alternate locations) to get to know each other better. The groups will be reorganized after four months or so.

Ministerial Relations Committee

The MRC was appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve as a liason between the congregation and the minister. Members are Linda Santlofer, Claudette Duff, and Jill Hueckel, chair. Rev. Karlson serves as a member ex-officio.

It is our purpose to listen to the concerns of the congregation as they relate to the church and minister, as well as the concerns of the minister, and to provide feedback. Our main goal is to strengthen the means of communication in order to support the mission of the church. We believe this will enrich our community and help sustain our cherished home. Members are available during coffee hour (look for the name tags with blue doves coming soon) or may be contacted at the following numbers:

Jill Hueckel 718-448-1431 hueckel@si.rr.com
Susan Karlson 347-466-0864 pskarl3@gmail.com
Linda Santlofer 718-447-5736 lsantlofer@aol.com
Claudette Duff 917-699-1259
directo@integrityseniors.com

Summary: Board of Trustees Meeting 3/10/10**Treasurer's Report – May 31 through Feb 28, 2010:**

Total Income YTD	\$91,318.45
Total Expense	\$125,601.21
Deficit	(\$34,282.76)

The Board raised concerns about the continuing budget deficit. New capital improvements have necessitated significant unbudgeted expense. In addition to the recent replacement of the Parsonage roof, it now appears that the Church heating system will need a major overhaul, if not a complete replacement.

Buildings & Grounds:

John Adrian gave the following report to the Board on the state of the heating system:

- Continuing breakdowns and repairs to the boiler and burner.

- b. Inefficiency of the 50+ year-old boiler.
- c. Threatened leaks in the underground steel oil storage tank.
- d. Deterioration of 100-115 year-old steam pipes between the boiler and the radiators which caused a major steam leak two years ago that necessitated replacement of several feet of rotted pipe under the Sanctuary floor. A similar leak occurred last year behind the wall in the RE space downstairs. He also cited the recent damage to two ceiling tiles that had become saturated with condensate and fallen to the floor in an RE classroom.
- e. The 20-year-old gas fired boiler, which heats the Office, the PH basement, and provides domestic hot water for the kitchen and PH restroom is also becoming unreliable and is reaching the end of its useful life.

John will undertake research to determine costs of several solutions to the current deteriorating heating systems, from repair to complete overhaul and/or replacement. His study will survey several alternatives to an oil-fired steam system, which may not be the most efficient method for heating our church buildings.

In regard to ongoing maintenance of the church grounds, the Board recommends encouraging volunteers from the congregation to assist in routine upkeep. Please contact John Adrian, Building and Grounds Chair, to volunteer your services in helping our hard working Building and Grounds staff to keep our property looking beautiful.

Bylaws Revision:

The Board set a new date for the special congregational meeting to vote on bylaws revisions. April 11th at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was postponed to allow for Bylaws Committee to consider the feedback gathered at the informational congregational meeting on February 21.

Two Committee Chairs needed:

There are two committee chair positions that need to be filled due to Susanne O’Callaghan’s need to step down for personal reasons: Chair of the

Finance Committee and Auction Committee Chair. Although the Finance Committee can continue to function for now with its existing members, **the annual Church Auction is in jeopardy for this year if someone does not step up to take on the organization of this important fundraiser.**

Website Revision Proposal:

Vivian Vassar and Ruth Benson have proposed a major revision to the Church website, in order to bring it up to the latest technological standards to simplify it and make it user friendly in a format that can be maintained by designated church members without the need for a Webmaster.

Revive East Harbor Coffeehouse as Fundraiser for Church Choir:

Jill Hueckel has proposed a revival of the East River Coffeehouse, not specifically for teens but geared to a more adult audience, on the 2nd Saturday of each month as a fundraiser for the development of a church choir.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Benson, Board Secretary

April , 2010 Volunteer Schedule:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Greeters: | 4/04/10: | Ann Kalil & Jill Hueckel |
| | 11: | Ann Kalil, Ruth Leason & Randy Leason |
| | 18: | Ann Kalil and Sally Jones |
| | 25: | Ann Kalil and Sarah Dolinar |
| Hospitality: | 4/04/10 | Jill Hueckel |
| | 11: | Maureen Curran and Mike Stein |
| | 18: | Claudette Duff |
| | 25: | Rona Solomon and John Bostrom |
| Flowers: | 4/04/10: | Loretta Choquet/
Diane Sorowitz |
| | 11: | Virginia Allen |
| | 18: | Marilyn Brook |
| | 25: | Viola Proeller |



Arts Festival 2010
Unitarian Church of Staten Island
Save the Dates Save the Dates Save the Dates Save the Dates
 Festival Opening Event:

Saturday April 17, 2010 @ 3pm in the Sanctuary
 "A Touch of Brass," a free concert performed by Viva Voce
 There will be a reception to follow in the Library.
 Coordinated by: Patricia Murphy & Larry Schwabacher
 Sunday March 21, 2010 to Sunday May 24, 2010
 On display in the Sanctuary: "Scene through the Trees"
 a photo exhibition by
 The Creative Photographers *Gill*
 Curated by: Stephen Nutt

Three nights of original works by Staten Island playwrights: Friday May 14; Saturday May 15, 2010 @
 8pm & Sunday May 16, 2010 @ 7pm
 May 15th features the World Premier of
 "The Life & Death of Blair Hendersen."
 A collection of monologues.
 Suggested \$10.00 donation.
 Cosponsored with The Staten Island Playwrights' Collective.
 Coordinators: Morna Murphy Martell & Larry Schwabacher

Sunday, May 23, 2010 @ 4 pm in Sanctuary
 "Jimmy Knepper Legacy Concert"
 honoring a Staten Island Jazz Great
 Ticket Price: \$15.00
 Coordinated by: Stephen Nutt
 Unitarian Church Staten Island
 312 Fillmore Street (corner of Clinton & Fillmore)
 Staten Island NY 10301
 See event coordinators for more information

April at the UCSI

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					7 - First Friday Film	
4 – Easter 10:45 - Service – "Uncommon Resurrections"	5 7 – Arts Program Committee	6	7	8	9	10 – 8:30 AM Social Justice Empowerment Workshop
11– 10:45 - Service – "Counting Our Blessings", New member recognition 1 – Buildings & Grounds Meeting or Bylaws Congregational Meeting	12	13	14 – 8 – Board of Trustees Meeting	15 – UCSI News Deadline	16	17 – 2 – UCSI Arts Festival – Viva Voce Concert
18– 10:45 – Service – "Earth Day—The Whole World Is Watching" 1 – Odyssey Program – Mary Lou Greene	19	20	21	22	23	24
25– 10:45 – Service – "The Jonah Moments of Our Lives"	26	27	28	29	30 – Metro NY District Meeting Morristown NJ	

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.