

THE VOICE OF THE PAST -

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BY CHARLEY KEMPTHORNE, FELLOWSHIP HISTORIAN

"According to those who were there at the time, Millie Katz started it all. She had two sons in the local schools, and believed that they needed a religious point of reference. There was also the immediate problem that children and young people were considered weird if they didn't go to a Sunday School somewhere. Millie had attended a Unitarian church during her college years, and had found their religious philosophy appealing. There was no Unitarian society in town. Why not organize one?"

The idea appealed to others also, and in due course, letters were exchanged between Millie and the Fellowship Office of the American Unitarian Association. As a result, Mr Munro Husbands, Fellowship Coordinator of the AUA, came to Manhattan in November 1956, to discuss the possibility of forming a Unitarian Fellowship in Manhattan.

The initial meeting was held on the second floor of the Wareham Hotel ..."

And so begins Brock Dale's elegant and chatty history of our Manhattan Fellowship, now posted on our website, www.uufm.net, click on "Documents," then click on UUFM History. The photos aren't quite as sharp as in the original printed book that my wife June and I edited, laid out and produced in 2002, but they'll have to do until we print some more copies.

The book is called *The First Forty Years: The History of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan from 1957 to 1997*. In three parts and seventy pages long, the comb-bound book consists first and foremost of Brock's narrative essay; second, lists of all members through the years, committee chairs, and so on--painstakingly assembled by Brock--and finally a photographic essay showing the contemporary (in 2002 or thereabouts) life of the Fellowship.

Brock is emeritus professor of physics at KSU. He has been chair of the Fellowship several times, chair and member of many of the Fellowship committees, and is still a frequent violin soloist for our programs. On Wednesdays he nearly always can be found eating lunch at the UU Men's Group in the old sanctuary where he is a lively part of their lively conversation. Now 89, he is our most senior active member.



BROCK DALE ON VIOLIN, ACCOMPANIED BY MAROLYN CALDWELL
SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

Check your newsletter each month for future installments of UUFM Historian Charley Kempthorne's "Voice of the Past" column, highlighting the people and events that have shaped our congregation through the years.

"Voice of the Past" will also be posted on the UUFM website at www.uufm.net. Click the "Documents" button, then look for the links under "UUFM History."