

## **Exciting News!**

### **UUCSC Becomes More Energy Efficient**

#### **Moving from Oil to Natural Gas**

The Facilities Committee has been working hard on a project to convert our boilers from oil to natural gas. In September, the Congregation approved a budget including \$13,800 to engage Chaves Plumbing to perform the conversion. Natalie signed the contract for UUCSC and the equipment has arrived. National Grid has completed the work necessary to start the conversion. Joe Chaves expects to begin the conversion **next week. Please do not enter the building for the next 2 weeks or so** because Joe and a helper will be working in many parts of the building to pipe in gas, install new burners, remove the oil and oil tanks, clean our entire steam distribution system and make necessary repairs. Although our tenants have been informed of this work, it will not affect their use of the building.

#### **Moving to Improve Lighting and Save the Environment**

After RISE Engineering completed a comprehensive audit of the lighting throughout our building, the Facilities Committee received a proposal to upgrade our entire system to achieve better illumination and greater energy efficiency. RISE estimates that with this proposed upgrade we will reduce our energy consumption by 5116 kilo watt hours per year, reduce our greenhouse gases (Co2) by 5,628 pounds and save \$736 in electricity costs each year, once we return to normal functioning. Importantly, this proposal also includes a cash incentive from National Grid to pay approximately 2/3 of the total cost of \$8,591. We are in the final stages of reviewing the details of the proposal.

-- Jean Burke, Facilities Committee