



the

Beacon

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Of Huntington, New York
A Liberal Religious Faith*

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
January 2015 Vol. LVIII, No.7

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

January 2015 Theme: Yearning

Jan. 4 - "Swimming Upstream" - Spiritual lessons from those times in our lives when progress or duties seem forced." Rev. Jude Geiger preaching; Isabella on piano

Jan. 11—"The Lessons of Amelie"- Random acts of kindness as a bridge to life, inspired by the movie. SPC; choir singing

Jan. 18 - "MLK Service"- Starr Austin, Director of Religious Education preaching; choir singing

Jan. 25 - "The Longest Road"- The course of a life is measured in moments. How does yearning bring us back to our purpose? Rev. Jude Geiger preaching; Isabella on piano

To all congregants: If you are interested in performing music at a Sunday service, please contact Richard Hyman at music@uufh.org



FROM THE MINISTER

We turn toward a new year,
A week into our resolutions – made or unmade,
Reflective of a year of commitments past,
And a year to come,
With its dreams,
Its demands,
And its promises of change.
May we come to know a lifetime of possibility.
Open our eyes to every opportunity,
To make amends,

To grow out of our ruts,
To remember to appreciate what is before us,
To grieve where we must,
And to let go when it is time to let go.
In building the Beloved Community on earth,
May we be moved in spirit, and in heart,
To do the work at hand.
Ever knowing that we are the ones we've been waiting for;
That justice and peace are possible in our communities;
In our lifetime, only through the strivings of each and every one of us.
When we find ourselves at our most cynical,
Giving up hope that the world can bend toward justice,
May we remember how far we've come.
Knowing what we've accomplished so far,
As impossible as it once seemed to the people of another era,
So too may we be so inspired to act with conviction,
That our deeds will be remembered by a generation to come.

~ Warmly, Rev. Jude

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

THOUGHTS ON A THEME: Yearning

"I didn't know then what I wanted, but the ache for it was palpable." – Sue Monk Kidd

What is it that drives us to seek? Unitarian Universalists are seekers. We value questioning. We esteem life long learning. We look for the wisdom in our lived experience as well as academic knowledge. One might even say we are a people of yearning. William Ellery Channing once said it is better to question than to know. It is our constant yearning that keeps us questioning. What are you seeking in your life? What do you yearn for, for yourself and others? Do you feel the ache of longing; do you know what it is you are seeking? This month our theme is yearning. I wonder what we will find.



~ In Faith, Starr Austin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

They say if you want something done, give it to a busy person. But this busy person has felt like someone caught in a whirlwind since I started my new job last month. I really do like the work, but I've been simultaneously juggling my freelance jobs and college teaching, so there is some sleep deprivation occurring. And then there is my role as president of the Fellowship, which I will understatedly say has its busy moments as well. I'm proud that through it all, with the help of the parking lot committee, at least the Board can promise you dry parking spaces for the winter. But here's the thing: Just when I feel that I may be handling just a little bit too much, one of you will offer a

hug or ask me how I'm doing and that helps me to keep it all in perspective. That compassion and caring for each other is the gift that our Fellowship is blessed with. The theme for December was joy, and for me, that sums up how I feel about being part of all we do together, whether it's to worship on Sunday, to help with one of our many volunteer activities, or even to meet at happy hour on a Friday. You are the Fellowship and that is a blessing I am grateful for this holiday season.

I do have to add that my work on the Board has well prepared me to manage my new staff of 15. I will leave you to guess which group is easier, though perhaps adding how appreciative I am of my hard-working fellow board members will give you a clue.

As always, feel free to contact me at 631-549-4483 or lizaburby@verizon.net

~ *Liza Burby*

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Calling all committee chairpersons! Please join the Board of Trustees on Sunday, Jan 11 at 12:15 pm in the Main Hall for an opportunity to meet our new communications specialist Bridgette Nicolini. We will be discussing new communication policies in connection with committee events and news. It is our hope that the new policies will increase accuracy, efficiency and publicity surrounding committee events. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for committee chairs to raise with their Board liaisons any concerns they have going forward in the New Year, as well as to share ideas with each other. Refreshments will be provided.

~ *Jennifer Thieke*

*** SPECIAL NOTICE ***

FLASH, BEACON, FACEBOOK & OOS POST SUBMISSIONS

As of December 1, we have switched to a new system to submit Events and Announcements posts to the **FLASH, BEACON, FACEBOOK & OOS** (Order of Service).

There is an **ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM**, (e-PUBLICATIONS POSTING REQUEST) which can be accessed by clicking (or copy & pasting) the link below as well as directly from the www.uufh.org home page (It reads, **ADD YOUR EVENT OR ANNOUNCEMENT**).

e-PUBLICATIONS POSTING REQUEST: <http://uufh.org/e-publication-posting-request>

Please read the **NEW GUIDELINES FOR e-PUBLICATIONS** before submitting:
<http://uufh.org/pdfs/NEW-UUFH-e-PUBLICATIONS-GUIDELINES.pdf>

We truly appreciate your cooperation in transitioning to this new system, which we believe will make communications more efficient. If you have any questions or problems using the form please feel free to call me at 631-271-1808 ~ **Bridgette Nicolini, UUFH Communications Specialist**



THE LONG-AWAITED UUFH 2015 CALENDAR IS READY!

The 2015 UUFH Calendar "**Kids & Their Favorite Things**" is now on sale at the UUFH book stall in the Social Hall on Sundays after services. The cost is \$25 each, with limited availability. Need to get one and can't be there? Call me at 631-423-8449. All profits go to UUFH as part of the Services Auction.

~ Ken Farrell

SPLIT PLATE CHARITY FOR JANUARY



Split Plate for January is Sophia Fahs Camp, a Unitarian Universalist religious education camp located on Shelter Island for approximately 115 campers and 45 adult staff. Children and youth gather from the Long Island area for one week in August each year. The goal of the camp is to provide UU spiritual experiences in a safe and natural setting that will inspire children, youth and adults to explore their identities. Monies collected will be used to support families in need who would be unable to attend due to financial constraints.

~ Barbara Yanuck

PASTORAL CARE

We want you to know we care!

Would you like a warm and supportive person to give you a visit, a phone call, a listening ear, meals, transportation or other services? Maybe you know of someone who would? *Help is a two-way process.* The aim of the UUFH Pastoral Care program is for Reverend Jude, the Pastoral Care Associates and Care Share to reach out to those in transition, but we need **your** help. We can best achieve this goal when each of you inform Rev. Jude, the office or one of the associates when situations arise in your life or for someone you care about. This information is always confidential and will be handled as the individual wishes. We hope that each of you will help us be more successful.

~ Gerri Farrell for the Pastoral Care Associates

PARKING LOT UPDATE

On Dec. 22, the final stage of the initial phase of our parking lot repair and construction was completed. This entailed surprises along the way, like the fact that we needed to have water pumped from the kitchen lot for several hours before the workers could even get near the drywells. We had five drywells refurbished, which included replacing necessary rings and a dome. This all needed to be done anyway. And the worst patches in the front



and back lots were paved temporarily. The work should get us nicely through the winter. There is a chance that the kitchen lot drywells won't hold all the water that comes our way, but we've been told they will contain at least 80 percent of it. That is why the next phase in the spring will include adding additional drywells. But we've come a long way, so enjoy your dry spot! And welcome the newest addition to our front lawn—a boulder that the workers uncovered and placed next to the existing boulder. Since climbing “the big rock” is a rite of passage for our RE children, I think it only fair that there be a preschool-sized rock to train on. Hopefully you'll all agree. If not, you know where to find me.

~ Liza Burby

THE GREATER COMMUNITY



GUEST AT YOUR TABLE PROGRAM- HOW CAN YOU HELP PEOPLE IN THREE COUNTRIES AT ONE TIME?

Contribute to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest At Your Table program, and you will have impact in Haiti, Kenya and Honduras this year. Our Guest program will run **through Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015**. Money raised supports the UUSC's many social justice projects around the world.

We can contribute to saving the rainforest in Kenya while helping people grow needed food. In Haiti, the UUSC is working with partners to develop a community restaurant that serves low-cost healthy meals to the economically disadvantaged. We can support farmers in Honduras trying to obtain fair prices for their coffee crops, so they can better meet their families' basic needs. The UUSC is able to accomplish so much in these and other countries by partnering with local organizations.

Please look for Guest contribution boxes and donation envelopes at the Guest table in the Social Hall. For more information, pick up a “Stories of Hope” booklet there. Visit the UUSC.org website if you'd like more complete information on all their activities.

~ Marilyn Kopp-Hecker, UUSC Rep.

Mon., JANUARY 19, 8 AM - 11 AM - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

Hyatt Regency Windwatch Hotel in Hauppauge

Tickets are \$50 - Registration deadline has been extended to **December 28**.



The 30th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Breakfast will be held at the Hyatt Regency Windwatch Hotel in Hauppauge. The keynote speaker is Rev. David K. Brawley, Pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn. There will also be rousing gospel singing and a sumptuous buffet breakfast. For the past five years, UUFH members have met at a designated table to enjoy this largest celebration in Suffolk County. Tickets are \$50, and the deadline for signing up is Sunday, Dec. 28. Checks should be made payable to UUFH, with MLK Breakfast on the Memo Line.

I will be present in the Social Hall after services with additional information and a "Sign-up Sheet." This event is sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Riverhead, and is attended yearly by 700 to 800 enthusiastic people. Please e-mail me so that we may reserve a place for you; psglatz@aol.com

~ Paul Glatzer- Journey Toward Wholeness Committee

HIHI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



HIHI, the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative, is a Huntington-wide effort to address homelessness right here in our community. Through the program, nightly food and shelter are provided at Huntington houses of worship, during the colder months of **December through March**. On at least **2 Sunday nights each month, volunteers** from the UUFH come together to provide a welcoming place to stay, a hot nutritious meal, conversation and fellowship, and breakfast and lunch for the next day.

Volunteers are needed throughout the HIHI season to welcome guests, set up sleeping space, provide meals, serve as chaperones and help with Monday morning breakdown and laundry. Most volunteer opportunities are suitable for youth or families with children, and some do not even require attendance on Sunday nights. Volunteers must be scheduled in advance. Please visit the HIHI table in the Social Hall after Sunday services, or contact the UUFH office, to volunteer or for more information.

~ Allyson Barish

UUA CALL TO SELMA IN MARCH 2015

Please join Rev. Jude and members of the anti-bias Journey Toward Wholeness committee next spring in Alabama **from March 5-8** to learn about and commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, an infamous state assault on peaceful civil rights marchers trying to cross the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma. Their goal: to protest ongoing violence against African Americans and social justice activists. UU martyrs the Rev. James Reeb and Viola Lusso will be honored by UUA leaders and other key civil rights veterans at this historic Living Legacy Pilgrimage which will include stops in Birmingham and Montgomery as well.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/call-to-selma.html>

Register now at:

<http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/re-visiting-selma-2015.html>

All interested parties please email me at: zekelet@gmail.com or call 631 804-4605.



~ Diana Weaving



To All Our Fellowship Friends
Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year
~ **Lois Ann & Peter Sepez**

May the gentle beauty of nature brighten your holidays.
~ **Spencer Ross and Annabel Caner**

May you and yours enjoy the holiday season and may we continue to spread peace and joy in our path.
~ **Cathi Zillman**

Peace in our hearts. Peace in our homes. Peace in the world.
~ **Liz Koehn**

Wishing our Fellowship community the blessings of peace and joy, at holiday time and throughout the coming year.
~ **Susan & Paul Glatzer**

Best Wishes for a year filled with Health and Happiness.
~ **Don Knight**

May the peace of the season be with you now and always.
~ **David and Florence Martin**

We're grateful for our Fellowship family during this season and all through the year. May your New Year be filled with peace and joy.
~ **Liza and Steve Burby**

Happy Holidays, Peace & Joy!
~ **Mary Jane and Bob Wochinger**

Dear Fellowship family,
We wanted to take a moment to thank you for all of the support you've given us in the past year. We hope that the new year brings as much joy to you and your families as you have given to us. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, whatever you celebrate.
~ **Peggy & Lou Koulias**

Wishing my UUFH friends and all the world peace and love in the New Year.
~ **Andy Feigin**

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Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon:
Friday, January 30, 2014**

**Beacon Deadline:
Thursday, January 15, 2015**

UUFH email for Beacon submissions
webmaster@uufh.org