



The

Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
April 2016, Vol. LXI, No.4

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

APRIL 2016

Monthly Theme: **Creation**

April 3: - "The Promise of Acceptance and Growth" As we begin our month reflecting on what it means to be a *people of creation*, we'll start by looking at our Third Principle as a covenantal promise, and imagine how our actions in this light abet creation. Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano.

April 10: - Multigenerational Service Join us for an uplifting multigenerational worship service exploring and celebrating our monthly theme of creation. Starr Austin preaching; choir singing.

April 17: - "The Art of Life" *All the arts we practice are apprenticeship. The big art is our life. —M.C. Richards.* Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano.

April 24: - (Passover Observed) "A New Creation" The people of Israel built a new life for themselves through the road to freedom. How does adversity lead us to creation? Rev. Jude preaching; choir singing

Any musicians who are interested in performing in a Sunday service, please email Richard Hyman, Music Director, music@uufh.org. Thank you!



FROM THE MINISTER

Now is the time to register for our District Annual Meeting, taking place May 6-7. As a Metro NY District Board member, I've been working with our local leadership heavily for the past three years seeking better ways to connect our congregations and our ministries. The annual meeting in Morristown, NJ, offers keynotes, workshops, worship, a concert, and includes the business of the denomination as well. There's even programming specifically for our youth. I will be there, and hope as many of us Fellowshipers can be as well.

Registration for the 2016 Metro NY Annual Meeting is open.

- Information is posted at [Metro NY Annual Meeting 2016](#)
- [Schedule](#)
- [Workshop Descriptions](#)
- [Adult Registration Link](#)— first two registrations get a gift certificate to the Bookstore.
- [Youth Registration Link](#)— first two registrations get a gift certificate to the Bookstore.
- **Hotel** - Please make your hotel reservation now. We filled up early last year. [Hyatt Morristown Info](#): Online reservations, <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/UnitarianUniversalists16>; by phone, [888-421-1442](tel:888-421-1442), making sure you mention the Unitarian Universalist District of Metro NY.

We can also send delegates, so anyone who is interested should contact BOT president Jennifer Thieke. ~ **Warmly, Rev. Jude**



DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

Creating a vision together takes gathering, discussing, dreaming, inviting, engaging, and thinking BIG. This is our first step on April 3 when we gather in



the Main Hall to begin casting a vision of Family Ministry at the Fellowship. Family Ministry is about centering lifelong faith development at the heart of what we do, connecting congregation to home life in supportive and engaging ways, and creating ways to connect, support, and engage individuals across generations. Religious Education is one part of family



ministry, but not the sum of it. This vision is a paradigm shift. It takes us from thinking of religious education as “something we offer” to considering it one part of a larger family ministry, which we participate in together. If you are interested in lifelong faith development; if you are interested in making sure there is a new generation of Unitarian Universalists to lead our faith and our congregations; if you are interested in supporting families who are raising children; if you are interested in doing ministry of social justice with our children and teens... don't miss the visioning meeting on April 3 from noon to 1:30pm in the Main Hall. Let's create together.

~ **In Faith, Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past year the Board of Trustees decided to reschedule our yearly goal setting from late summer to January. We reasoned that setting goals in January enabled each year's new board members to get to know one another and to work together before setting goals. This January we set goals for 2016. In the spirit of transparency, they are as follows:

1. Take care of each other as a board and as a community.

2. Continue to plan ahead for the support of our professional staff.
3. Deal with deferred maintenance issues.
4. If possible within the confines of our budget, increase the hours of our communications specialist.
5. Include more child and adult musicians from the congregation in services.
6. Increase Board focus on and support of each of the Stewardship, Development and Social Justice committees.

As always, feel free to express your concerns and priorities for the Fellowship to the Board of Trustees. Also, if you are interested in being a delegate for the District Annual Meeting, please let me know. ~ **Jennifer Thieke**

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you have children in the RE Program, you know that our DRE, Starr Austin, sends an email on Sunday afternoons entitled "Faith at Home." It's a summary of what the kids explored in their various classes each week and also an encouragement to take up the discussion at home within your family. I like this because it's a gentle reminder to carry our UU values with us outside of service each week. Another way to connect to our values regularly, in a more personal way, is with the "Morning Affirmation - Evening Check In" bookmark that's available monthly. Mine is tucked into a book on my nightstand, one of the books that I manage to read just a few pages of each night before I drift into sleep. This simple bookmark is a great reminder. I take a quick glance and it's helpful to bring an issue to mind as a way to center or ground myself. The theme for April is "Creation". I encourage you to take advantage of this little device. I know that I am eagerly waiting to see my new bookmark.

~ **Michael Amendola**

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we prepare for our upcoming Congregational meetings, we want to update you on our 2015-'16 financial picture, which we will discuss further at the meeting on April 10. The Pledge budget for this current fiscal year ending June 30 is \$279,000. As of mid-March, we show pledge payments of \$189,000 representing 67 percent paid pledges thus far. If you haven't yet paid your pledge, now is a great time to do so.

Our yearly Services Auction continues to be our solid fundraiser. An income/profit of \$25,000 was budgeted for the 2015 Services Auction and we expect our final tally, after expenses, to be very close to that goal. There are still outstanding invoices for those who bought services and more. If you're not sure what you owe, please contact Liza Burby at lizaburby@verizon.net. And take advantage of Second Chance opportunities to sign up for events and excursions, which also add to our revenue.

In addition, Last Licks continues to be another UUFH favorite. And our Development Committee has held two fundraisers thus far: Anne Kelleher's seminar and the popular video-gaming event with another scheduled April 16. Total profit from all these fundraising events is about \$3,600 to date.

There will be more detailed, up-to-date information with respect to income and expenses available at the upcoming April 10 Congregational meeting.

Regarding our next fiscal year 2016 -'17, the Stewardship/Canvass Committee reports pledges as of March 26 of \$207,794. Committee members are making phone calls to those who have not as yet pledged for the coming fiscal year.

The Finance/Budget Committee held their initial meeting last month and will begin official work on April 5 readying the budget for BOT approval in May and Congregational vote in June. Members of the committee include Bill Hecker, Liz Koehn, Jim McKenna, Susan Peters and Ann Scolnick. BOT members also attend as they are able. ~ **Jean Marra, Treasurer, and Brian Cohen, Finance Chair**

UUFH 2016 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

We, the Nominating Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, are pleased to present nominees for the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, and the Nominating Committee. Voting for these positions will take place on April 10, at the first of our two annual Congregational Meetings. The positions begin July 1. We have sought a balance of age, gender, amount of time as members, along with an appreciation of each person's strengths, as well as our need to integrate newcomers into the life of our Fellowship.

For the Board of Trustees, we nominate:

- **Vice-president, Elisa Fante;**
- **Treasurer, Brian Cohen**
- **Trustees, Peggy Koulias and CathiZillmann (the latter to fill a one-year position to replace Brian Cohen).**

For the Committee on Ministry: Liza Burby and Ann Scolnick.

For the Nominating Committee: Amy Olander.

Below are the biographies for each of the nominees. We recognize that this notice doesn't meet the six-week notification required in the Bylaws, but our committee did the best we could to notify the congregation in a timely fashion.

*Respectfully submitted, Judie Gardner, Chair, Gwen McHugh,
Lisa Moskowitz, Jennifer Sappell and Barbara Yanuck*

VICE PRESIDENT: Elisa Fante

I started attending services at UUFH after moving to Huntington from Park Slope, Brooklyn in 2007. I was raised Presbyterian when I was growing up in Pennsylvania, but hadn't practiced any religion since moving to New York as an adult. Having lived in the very liberal neighborhood of Park Slope for many years, I was looking for a like-minded community on Long Island (which felt quite alien to me) Shortly after finding UUFH, I became part of the Friday meditation group and found friends, a sense of belonging, and a spiritual teacher in Reverend Paul. I became a member in 2010. Since then I've been active in the congregation in a variety of roles, most recently as the Memorial Services Coordinator and as Scribe for the Board of Trustees. I am grateful for this opportunity to deepen my service and commitment to the Fellowship.

I live in Huntington Village with three dogs and three cats. My daughter, Carrie, lives and works in New York City. My son, Connor, is currently away at college in Buffalo, but lives with me when he's not at school. I'm a part-time yoga teacher, a volunteer at a local wildlife rehabilitation clinic, an amateur dog trainer, and an enthusiastic hiker and cyclist.

TREASURER: Brian Cohen

My wife Debbie and I have been attending the UUFH for almost 17 years, and have been members for the past dozen. I began serving as the Finance Chair in 2013, and am finishing my second year serving as a member of the Board of Trustees.

I have been in the financial services field for over 30 years, including a number of years on Long Island as a branch manager for Charles Schwab and Fidelity Investments. I am a partner, financial planner, and registered investment advisor of my firm, Landmark Wealth Management, located in

Melville. In addition, I continue to serve as a member of FINRA's Board of Arbitrators, which I have done since 2001. I also served as a volunteer Board of Director member for the Townwide Fund of Huntington for 10 years.

I grew up in Brooklyn, and for the past 20-plus years have resided in Greenlawn with Debbie, our daughters, Amanda and Rebecca, and our poosh (poodle/shih-tzu mix), Buddy.

BOARD TRUSTEE: Cathi Zillmann (one year)

I feel honored to be nominated for service on the Board of Trustees again. My last term was Beth Graham's first three years with us, a very exciting time in our history.

I've been at the Fellowship since 1987, and got involved in its workings right away. I was chair of Religious Education in the late 80's, chair of Finance in the early 90's, chair of the Personnel Committee in the late 90's, editor of the Beacon for a bunch of years, and have been a Cluster Coordinator for the past three years.

I have two young adult sons who are products of our Religious Education program. I work as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and, although I have a busy work life, spending time giving back to and staying connected with the Fellowship remain very important to me. Oh, yes - and I can take minutes!

BOARD TRUSTEE: Peggy Koulias

My husband Lou and I started attending services at UUFH in the spring of 1992 in search of a spiritual home in which to raise our family. We immediately felt at home and signed the book shortly after that. Both of our daughters, Samantha (24) and Melanie (21) attended RE throughout their childhood.

Throughout the past 24 years, I have participated in a variety of activities here, including teaching RE, chairing Jester's Court at the Renaissance Faire, choir, HiHi, Committee on Ministry, and most recently, office volunteer. I have found the members of the Fellowship to be warm, compassionate people who have supported my family and myself in so many ways. We have been the recipients of so much love and caring in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy and throughout Lou's long illness and passing. My Fellowship family inspires me to want to give back to this community in any way I can.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Liza Burby

I have been involved in the life of the Fellowship for 30 years, after meeting my husband, Steve in 1986 through our former social group, Not Necessarily Young Adults. I became a member in 1988. We raised our two daughters here, Danielle (25) and Laura (21), and most of my social life revolves around the Fellowship as well. For all this I am grateful.

That is why I have been happy to serve in numerous leadership roles here over the years.

Currently I am Past President of the Board of Trustees, serving from 2013-'16. I am also the chair of the Parking Lot Committee and the Communications Committee, as well as liaison to the Infrastructure Cluster. I served on the Board once before as Trustee, from 1999-'02. In addition, I was a Ministerial Search Committee member when we called Rev. Paul Ratzlaff; and I have been co-chair of the RE committee; chair of Social Justice; chair of the Services Auction (three times); a member or chair of various task forces and Long-Range Planning; a member of the Nominating Committee (twice); a Beacon editor; an RE teacher (I taught my first class when I was 23); a participant and speaker in numerous Sunday services; and, when I can, an alto in the choir. I am honored for the opportunity to be a member of the Committee on Ministry and hope to continue to serve the congregation for many years to come.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Ann Scolnick

I have been a member of the UUFH since 1974. I taught Social Studies at Cold Spring Harbor High School for 33 years. I have two lovely step-daughters, who attended RE here, and five grandchildren. My husband, Bernie Musso, also a long-time member of the UUFH, died in 2013. My hobbies are gardening, reading, and photography. I am currently a Trustee of the Huntington Public Library.

I served on the Board of Trustees twice, in 1977-'80 and in 1998-'01. I was on the Renaissance Faire Council, and the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, as well as being co-chair of Adult Programs, and helped organize and coordinate Meeting Point (now called Journey Groups). I served on the COM for a three-year term that overlapped with Beth Graham's last year, Interim Minister Jean Mills, and Paul Ratzlaff's first year. I am presently a co-leader of the UU Reading Group with Marilyn Kopp-Hecker (we have been going strong for 18 years) and on the Finance Committee. I am also an office volunteer. I feel honored to be nominated.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Amy Olander

In 1996, after being a UU in California, we moved back to Long Island and I came here in search of a new congregation. Legend has it I attended the Mother's Group before I even came to a service. They had me at "hello." Since then, my two children have grown up here. We are grateful for their religious education, which taught them (and me) how to live morally in this world. We are also grateful for the friends we've made and for the incredible role models who live our faith.

When my children were young, I was an RE teacher and served on the RE Committee. More recently I served on and chaired the Beyond Our Walls Committee and then moved on to the Board as a Trustee. Even more recently, I joined the Development Committee. One of the most eye-opening parts of being on the Board of Trustees is that you really get to know the incredible work that is going on behind the scenes. You get to meet new people and to see the generosity of time, money, or talent that each person offers. Because I know how important the leadership is to our community, I know that the Nominating Committee is vital to UUFH's strength. I look forward to serving on the committee and will work hard to continue the excellent work the committee has been doing.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPLIT PLATE CHARITY OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL: SMILE IN A BAG

Smile-in-a-Bag was founded two Syosset brothers and their parents to create and deliver activity bags to children and youth in Winthrop and Cohen's Children's Hospital. This spring, SIAB will reach a milestone delivery of 20,000 bags. With our ongoing support of Smile-in-a-Bag, UUFH children and youth have created almost 2000 bags! That's a lot of smiles!

Please give generously to fund this wonderful, local effort to comfort hospitalized children on Long Island. ~ **Karen Mazzotta**



Intergenerational Monopoly Night in Need of Board Games & Players for Saturday, April 2, 6:30 pm

The game for all ages is set for April 2 at the Fellowship, but we need to borrow some extra Monopoly game sets for our 30 players. We'll provide snacks to keep you going through the fun and plenty of surprises as well. If you still want to sign up for this Services Auction event, and/or have a game to lend, please call Liza at 631-549-4483 or Chris at 631-425-0291.

~ **Liza and Steve Burby, Meigan Cooper and Christine McDonald**

UUFH T-Shirt Design Contest - April 3 deadline



GET READY! GET SET! - for the first UUFH T-shirt design contest in more than 20 years. All ages welcome to enter. Pick up entry forms at the Development Committee table after services. The shirt will need to have a design on the front and another on the back. The contest will be judged, and the winning design will be printed on our new UUFH T-shirts later this spring. Enter as many times as you like before April 3. Shirts will be available for purchase in both kid and adult sizes later this spring. Start sketching your ideas today. ~ **Judie Gardner**

NOT NECESSARILY SENIOR: TELL US ABOUT YOU - Wed., April 6 - Noon - 3 pm

UUFH Social Hall

Participants will speak on any topic for 5 - 10 minutes (each speaker will be timed). Here is an opportunity to share an interesting personal experience, express an opinion on a topic important to you, etc. Bring a bag lunch and join us in the Social Hall for lunch from noon to 1 pm. Coffee, tea and cookies will be available. The speaking program will begin at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome!

~ **Dorothy Burns (NNS)**



CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR BEYOND OUR WALLS

Deadline: April 15, 2016

Do you have a charitable cause dear to your heart with a project in need of funds? The Beyond Our Walls committee has been tasked by the congregation to distribute funds for charitable goals via its annual grant program. Based on a percentage of UUFH pledges received for the year, we have \$2,861 to consider for distribution. To download a grant application, please go to the UUFH website at www.uufh.org and click down the tabs "Faith in Action," "Outside Giving" and "Grant Program." All grant applications should be emailed to BOW@uufh.org by April 15.

If you recently submitted a Sunday Split Plate application, it is *not necessary* to re-submit for this grant. We will be considering all financial requests at this time. Last year, we were able to provide funds to the Unitarian Church of Burundi for Health Care Cards, The Soldier's Project (an afternoon of R&R for military women), and the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative, among others. Thank you in advance for your wonderful ideas. ~ **Karen Mazzotta, Chair, Beyond Our Walls Committee**

Speaking On Being Discussion Group - Wed., April 19 - 7 pm - 9 pm

UUFH Board Room

Come listen and discuss a rich conversation that dives into the mysteries of faith, spirit and existence. This installment will share a deep and wonderful exploration providing profound thoughts for UUs to ponder. Krista states: "The Jewish mystical tradition of Kabbalah is a rich, magnetic world of thought and teaching. It has resonance with modern understandings of reality — and describes a cosmic significance to the practical moral call to tikkunolam, "repair the world." Rabbi Lawrence Kushner is a long-time student and articulator of the mysteries and messages of Kabbalah. We speak with him in honor of the 20th-century historian Gershom Scholem, who resurrected this tradition from obscurity and made it accessible to modern people." I hope to see you there.

~ **Andrew Feigin**

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting - April 10, 12:15 pm

UUFH Main Hall

The first of our Annual congregational meetings for this year will be held on Sunday, April 10 at 12:15 in the Main Worship Hall. At this meeting we will vote to elect officers, fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry and the Endowment committee. We will also vote to elect the

candidates for the Nominating Committee for the succeeding year and approve the minutes of the last congregational meeting in June of 2015. There will also be an update on the parking lot and the budget. Other business may be addressed by the Board of Trustees or may be brought up by a member from the floor. Bagels and coffee will be served. All members of UUFH are encouraged to attend. ~ **Kim Schultze, BOT Secretary**



UUFH ANNUAL SEDER - Saturday, April 23 - 6 pm - 9:30 pm
UUFH Main Hall

Come to the UUFH Annual Passover Seder and enjoy a delicious, traditional home-cooked Passover dinner while we read and sing through our Unitarian Universalist Haggadah. Watch our talented children and some courageous adults perform this year's UUFH Passover skit. **Look for a Seder sign-up table in the social hall after the service beginning April 3.** If you and/or your children would like to be involved with the skit, food preparation, main hall set-up, or music, please speak to Debbie or me. Limited seating. Deadline for reservations is Monday, April 18. ~ **Harriet McKenna & Debbie Cohen, co-chairs**

Budget and Finance Forum – Sunday, May 15, noon

The Board of Trustees is holding a Budget and Finance Forum on Sunday, May 15 at noon in the Main Hall. Join the Board, treasurer, and members of the Finance Committee for an update, forum, and discussion about our current financial situation and proposed operating budget for 2016-'17. Members of the Endowment Committee will also be present. We encourage all members who are interested to attend as we will address any questions or issues in regards to finances.

~ **Michael Amendola, Vice-president**

UUFH FUNDRAISERS



Keep Pluggin' Retro Video Event: Spring Edition
Saturday, April 16, 10 am - 6 pm
UUFH Main Hall

On April 16th, we are putting on another **VIDEO GAME EVENT** fundraiser. This was a great success last fall and we just couldn't wait another year to do it again. We need your help. Please consider doing any of the following:

- If on Facebook, please like and share the event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1674205499534652>
- Donations of gift certificates (local restaurants or stores) needed for prizes.

- Flyer distribution to college campuses.
- Van or pickup truck needed 4/15 and 4/17 for table rentals.
- Day of event volunteers/day before set up volunteers.

Contact me or Ken Farrell if you can help. ~ **Amy Olander**

SAVE THE DATE - SPRING 2016 PLANT SALE - May 14 - 11 am - 3 pm



On patio outside UUFH Social Hall

UUFH Annual Triple Play Plant Sale, Order deadline: April 15

This year, in addition to our usual annuals and hanging baskets, we are offering spring bulbs for sale. All items are guaranteed to grow and bloom. Here's what to do:

1. Place your annual and hanging basket orders after services, beginning

April 3 in the service hall. The deadline for ordering Mother's Day hanging baskets is Sunday, April 24. Pickup for Mother's Day hanging baskets will be after service on Sunday, May 1.

2. The deadline for placing annuals and perennials is also May 1. Pickup for annuals and perennials will be on Saturday May 14, from 11 am to 3 pm.

3. New—Order spring bulbs: It's easy. Just make your selections, provide billing and shipping information, and choose a secure method of payment (credit card or PayPal). A shipping fee of \$6 will be applied to orders of 24 packages or fewer; orders of 25 packages or more will ship for free.

TO ORDER: [CLICK HERE](#). That's it. Start date: Now. Order deadline is April 15. ~ **Jean Marra and Debbie Cohen**

THE GREATER COMMUNITY



H2EMPOWER ON FIOS

Last month I had an opportunity to be interviewed along with Helen Boxwill, founder of H2empower, by Greg Blank for the Fios Push Pause series. Helen describes her amazing nonprofit, the work it has done and is continuing to do, and I describe my own experience visiting Ethiopia. The video is now available to

view: <http://www.fios1news.com/longisland/push-pause-teachers-for-africa#.VurkAOIrJAq>

H2empower is an organization whose mission is to improve lives in Ethiopia through education and sustainable development. Check out the website for more info- www.h2empower.com. Consider donating. Every little bit helps. ~ **Marisa Comple**

LIAC ANNUAL SPRING DINNER WITH FREE AFTERNOON WORKSHOP

APRIL 9, 2016 - Please R.S.V.P. by April 1, **LOCATION: UU Congregation of Shelter Rock**

Keynote by Rev. Scott Taylor, Director of Congregational Life @ the UUA, Walking the Path of Deep Partnership. We are a religion of interconnection with a theology that believes the holy emerges as walls are taken down and bridges of creative connection and sharing are built. And yet too often our organizational structures do not reflect our deepest theological commitments. Looking out at our congregational relationships, we appear to be the UU Association of siloed congregations, more than the UU Association of interdependent congregations. This is beginning to change. And this workshop and keynote will celebrate the many ways we are changing.

There's a free afternoon workshop at 2 pm, cocktail hour at 5 pm and dinner at 6 pm, followed by the keynote. Please R.S.V.P. by April 1. Dinner tickets \$20pp in advance (payment must be received in advance); \$25 at the door; \$10 for students. Checks payable to: LIAC, Memo line: Spring Dinner Send payments to: Gretta Johnson-Sally (LIAC Financial Secretary) 5 Reydon Place, Commack, NY 11725. For additional information, please contact Gretta@gjsdre@hotmail.com.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016 – Columbus, OH - June 22, 2016

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association. More info on GA can be found at www.uua.org/ga. contactme at 631-897-1001 or Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com if you would like to attend. ~ **Kim Schultze, BOT Secretary**

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Fridays, 11:30AM - 1:30 PM
Tel.: 631-427-9547

Email: office@uufh.org
Website: www.uufh.org

For more

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
Starr Austin, Director of Religious Education
Richard Hyman, Music Director
Susie Byrnes, Administrator
Jennifer Thieke, President

Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon:
By the first week of May**

**Beacon Deadline:
April 15, 2016**

**For Beacon submissions go to:
[www.uufh.org/e-publication-
posting-request](http://www.uufh.org/e-publication-posting-request)**