

The

Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
February 2015 Vol. LVIII, No.8

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

February Theme: Courage

Feb. 1 - "Walking Toward Trouble"

This month's sermons will all reflect on the words of Sister Simone Campbell, who spoke at the 2014 Ware Lecture at the UU General Assembly. Most known for her work with "Nuns on a Bus," Sister Campbell is a strong voice for progressive religion. This week's message will explore our response to the many needs in the world. Rev. Jude preaching; choir singing



Feb. 8 - "General Assembly Celebration Sunday"

Every year our faith holds a convention known as the General Assembly (GA.) It's a gathering that any attendee will never forget. Congregants that attended the 2014 GA in Providence, RI, will share with you their feelings and experiences; the knowledge that we are more than our congregation; the courage that our faith instills in us through the examples of fellow UU's. During these challenging times, hear how our faith's values are becoming a movement for the 21st Century. Isabella on piano

Feb. 15- "Hope: The Communal Virtue"- Further reflections on the words of Sister Simone. We'll explore how hope does not rest solely in our individual actions and choices. Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano

Feb. 22 - "Reverence of Doubt"- Closing our month working through the words of the 2014 Ware Lecture where Sister Simone Campbell spoke, this week we'll look at the intersection of courage and doubt and their implications for faith. Rev. Jude preaching; choir singing

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

A month into the new year I invite you to consider how you can help our community be the most welcoming place it can be. For some of us, we serve as the backbone for keeping our roof in place and our heat on. Others fulfill their ministry by teaching our youngest members in religious education every week. There are so many people involved in so many parts of our Fellowship to make it function while serving our wider world, but many of these roles may take more time than our lives have. If you're looking for smaller ways to

help, that are just as crucial to the life of our community, please consider helping our Welcoming Team from time to time. Our ushers and greeters are often the first face newcomers see when they walk into our building on Sunday. Seeing a friendly face there to help newcomers find their way may make the difference in finding the spiritual home they are seeking. If you are interested in helping once a month or so as either a greeter or an usher on Sundays, please contact the Fellowship at office@uufh.org and we'll connect you with our Welcoming Team. Or you can call during regular office hours as well. Help us to continue to make our Fellowship a home for others on the journey!

~ Warmly, Rev. Jude

DRE'S MESSAGE

THOUGHTS ON A THEME: Courage

"Courage is found in unlikely places." — J.R.R. Tolkien

The cowardly lion from the Wizard of Oz lacked courage. He set out with Dorothy and along the journey experienced a lot of frightful things. Each time he was embarrassed, fearful and doubted himself. Yet, each time he came through and acted despite his fears. This is the very nature of courage. Courageous people are not without fear, yet they are able to face their fears and move through them. Courage is also the ability to summon oneself to act when there is much risk involved. A person with great power and esteem in our society can safely call for justice for those who are oppressed. They have little, if anything, to lose. Whereas, many oppressed people have much to lose by speaking up for anyone, including themselves.

If to experience courage we must risk some loss and therefore face the fear of that loss becoming a reality, why strive to be courageous? What makes courage a *religious* virtue? This month we will explore what courage means to us as people of faith and the impact our courage, or lack thereof, has on ourselves and the world around us.



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Goodness, what a time we've had since Jan. 1. We've had backed up toilets, cesspool issues, sheets of ice, and water leaks in our castle. The only place water hasn't made an unwelcome appearance is in our repaired parking lot, so at least there's that good news! Our volunteers, especially Frank Sappell, along with our office administrator Susie Byrnes, seem to field problems daily. Sometimes from my perspective it seems we're like the Little Dutch Boy. Even so, problems get solved and we prepare for the next. It's what we do as a community. Which leads me to thoughts of where we are overall as we enter our mid-year point. You've heard the State of the Union and State of the State addresses this month. It's important that we also consider the State of the Fellowship. The BOT is meeting with our Stewardship, Canvas, Membership and Finance volunteers to discuss our pledge message and plans, as supporting our Fellowship financially is the surest way to make sure we are able to meet our mission and vision. The BOT will be sending you a letter soon about where we stand in terms of our fiscal year. In addition to our literal water issues, we do have figurative leaks to address, and we will do so as a congregation. Despite these leaks, the state of the Fellowship is strong. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't shore up the castle to prepare for our next literal—and figurative—rainy day.

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

~ **Liza Burby**

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the themes that is emerging at the UUFH this year is an emphasis on taking personal responsibility for our communal, spiritual home, from volunteer service to financial support and everything in between. Back in the early 1990s I began attending All Souls Unitarian Church in Manhattan. Despite being raised a Unitarian, I was shy about reaching out to new people and getting involved in a new congregation. In fact, I attended services for over a year without even venturing downstairs to coffee hour. One Sunday, when an old childhood friend was in town visiting, we attended a service at All Souls. She was shocked that I hadn't made any connections at the church I had attended for over a year. She took me by the hand and declared, "This is the day you are going to coffee hour!" She and I ended up meeting wonderful people and going out to brunch with them after the service. Her kind gesture opened the door for me to get involved in the church in a way that I could give back as well as receive. As my level of involvement deepened I felt a corresponding increase in my commitment to support the church through service and financial contribution. I hope some of you will have similar experiences here at the UUFH, reaching out to become more personally responsible for our spiritual home through kindness, service and financial contribution. And don't forget to bring along a friend!

~ **Jennifer Thieke**

Thank you!

Thank you to all in the congregation whom contributed to the Staff Holiday Gift Fund 2014. Your generosity is always very much appreciated. I wish everyone happiness and good health in 2015!

~ **Marianne Reuter, Bookkeeper**

Thank you for your gift. I truly appreciate it. Happy New Year!

~ **Bridgette Nicolini, Communications Specialist**

PAID AD:



*A clash of swords, a druid's prophecy, and a fatal beauty
who inspires love, obsession and betrayal...*

Join us for the World Premiere of a new musical by
UUFH member Rich Buley-Neumar.

Merrick Theatre and Center for the Arts
2222 Hewlett Avenue, Merrick, (steps from the LIRR Merrick Station)

January 31 - February 22

Friday and Saturday Nights at 8 PM Sunday Matinees at 3 PM

Tickets: \$21, Senior and Student Fridays and Sundays, \$18 Call: (516) 868-6400

www.deirdremusical.com

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST TO THE FLASH, BEACON, FACEBOOK & OOS

ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM can be accessed by clicking the link below as well as directly from the www.uufh.org home page (that 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 has been making 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**

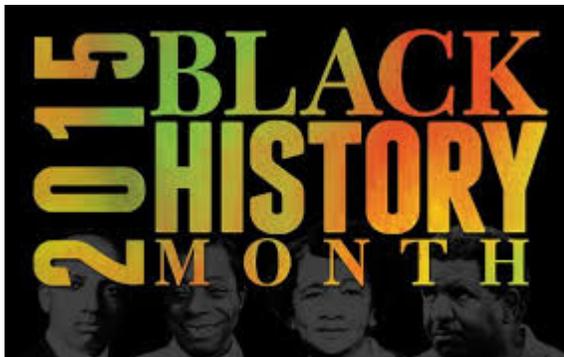
FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Are you looking for a way to become more involved at the Fellowship, or perhaps just for quality refreshments? If so, please come to our **Volunteer Fair on Feb.1** immediately following the service in the Social Hall. There will be representatives from our many committees to answer questions and help you find a volunteer opportunity that aligns with your interests and talents. From teaching Religious Education to marching in Washington to just sending out mailings, there is something for everyone. We hope to see you there!

~ **Jennifer Thieke**

SPLIT PLATE CHARITY FOR FEBUARY HUNTINGTON NAACP SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Split Plate charity for February, Black History Month, is the Huntington Branch NAACP Educational Committee Scholarship Fund. This fund, begun more than a decade ago, awards scholarship aid to graduating seniors chosen from Huntington Township high schools. Irene Moore, the Scholarship Awards Committee chair, will explain this vital program, which encourages our youth to pursue excellence in education, and thank the UUFH for its many years of support. We hope you will be generous in support of this meaningful local organization's effort to help the youth of

our community, often some of the neediest, to fulfill their goals as they strive to make a positive impact on our society.

~ Paul Glatzer for the Journey Toward Wholeness Committee

RE ART GALLERY

In March, children and youth will display art pieces in the gallery. **We will be setting aside time during RE on Feb. 22 to create art together.** However, you can create pieces at home and submit them to me during the month of February. The theme is courage. Craft pieces of art using any medium you like that demonstrate courage as a virtue and religious value. When do you feel courageous? What does courage look like?

~ Starr Austin

BOW COMMITTEE - SUBMISSION OF BOW GRANTS by the April 15, 2015 DEADLINE

The Beyond Our Walls (BOW) Committee strongly encourages the SUBMISSION OF BOW GRANTS by the April 15, 2015 deadline. Application and past grant award information can be found on the UUFH Website under "Faith in Action: Outside Giving: Grant Program." Proposals for the Monthly Split Plates are also encouraged and can be found at "Faith in Action: Outside Giving: Split Plate." The UUFH office (email: office@uufh.org, phone: 631-427-9547) can also answer questions or put you in contact with BOW Committee members.

The BOW Committee would also like to announce that the special Christmas Eve offering for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) collected \$1156.28 and the December Split Plate for the Huntington Food Council yielded \$1331.50. Along with Lisa LoPiano Moskowitz, the BOW Committee also coordinated the latest Mitten Tree, which received a large quantity of new hats, scarves and mittens, which were donated to the Family Service League's Olsten Family Center. The collection was in honor of the late Ray Forest and his previous support for the Mitten Tree.

~ Jim Ammerman

ARCHIVES REQUEST

Archives has a gap in our collection of Service Auction booklets. Does anyone have a copy of the 2012 Services Auction Booklet to fill the gap? Archives would appreciate receiving it. Thank you.
Mary Jane Wochinger for Archives

~ Mary Jane Wochinger

UNSUNG HERO NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Every year UUFH tries to honor and thank members who go above and beyond to continually do jobs or provide services at UUFH. The tradition dates back to June 20, 1993, Wilton Baty and Elizabeth MacFarlane became the first recipients of the "UUFH Unsung Hero Award." It had become apparent that some UUFHers spent countless hours at numerous and complex tasks that few folks knew about, hence they never heard so much as a "job well done" or even a simple "thank you." And so was born a new annual ritual to take place on a June Sunday honoring our truly "unsung heroes." Though we know that there are far more unseen and unsung heroes than this award can ever honor, we find meaning in lifting up the names of a few of our own, each June, to say a special thanks. Do you know of an unsung hero at UUFH? We would like to hear your nominations for this award. Please contact one of the names below to submit your nominations.

Kim Schultze (BOT Secretary) Phone: 631-897-1001 Email: <mailto:Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com>

Sue McGovern (2014 Unsung Hero) Phone: 631-239-5638 Email: <mailto:smcgover@suffolk.lib.ny.us>

Bob Bader (2014 Unsung Hero) Phone: Phone: 631-673-9130 Email: <mailto:baderbro@aol.com>

~ Kim Schultze (BOT Secretary)



7th PRINCIPAL MINUTES: A NEW FOCUS ON THE WEB OF EXISTENCE

Global warming presents us with nothing less than an existential threat. It seems now that even the older among us will see repeated coastal flooding, much more frequent serious storms and continuing degradation of our environment in myriad ways. With deniers still in control nationally, hope lies with us, with each of us taking action.

A group of UUFH members, organized loosely in an environmental action committee, have therefore agreed that at one Sunday service a month, they will each describe an action they have taken and why it is beneficial to the environment. They will follow up with more information during the social hour. The first of these presentations was scheduled for January.

"Small actions by large numbers of people can bring about profound change," writes author Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. I believe this. And I believe we can learn from each other, take those small actions and bring about change from the bottom up. In community, we have power.

~ Frances Whittelsey

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

HIHI prepared for the blizzard

As we prepared for the blizzard, a devoted group of volunteers hosted 17 guests at the UUFH Sunday night. In addition to the usual efforts required to feed and accommodate our guests, the volunteers banded together to prepare breakfasts, lunches, and dinners for the homeless to eat during the storm. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to provide the Family Services League with an additional 20 breakfasts, 40 lunches, and 25 dinners. The extra meals provides critical support during the blizzard, typically one of the most difficult times to provide meals to those most in need.

~ Allyson Barish

FEATURED EVENTS

NOT NECESSARILY SENIORS

Wednesday, Feb. 4 – Noon - 3 pm

UUFH Social Hall

The topic for the Feb. 4 NNS meeting is History of America 1914-2015. Bill Hecker will lead us in our recollections of this significant time period. Join us from noon to 1 pm for conversation and a bag lunch (yours) with coffee, tea, and cookies available. The day's presentation will begin at 1 pm. All are welcome so please join us (even if your memories don't go back that far).

Wednesday, Feb.18– Noon - 3 pm

UUFH Social Hall

In recognition of Black History Month, Joyce Williams will share her experiences regarding Selma and the civil rights movement at this meeting. From noon to 1 pm we will have conversation and a bag lunch (yours) in the Social Hall followed by Joyce's presentation, which starts at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome, so please join us.

~ Dorothy Burns (NNS)

MOVIE NIGHT: Burundi Through Many Eyes

Friday, Feb. 27 - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

UUFH Main Hall

Join us for an evening of short films about the compelling African country of Burundi!

Burundi, a small central African nation bordering Rwanda and the Congo, is considered the third poorest – yet one of the most scenic -- countries in the world. It has weathered civil war, genocide, disasters such as floods and drought, and crop diseases. Its people have suffered through malaria, poor public health and education, soaring food and fuel prices, and one of the highest child mortality rates in the world. Yet it's also a beautiful country of verdant valleys, dense jungle, remote mountaintops, and tiny villages full of warm and gracious people with indomitable spirit and will.



Join us for an engaging evening of short and entertaining films about this fascinating country, with first person testimonies by recent visitors.

Snacks • Drinks • Popcorn • Photographs • Craft Sale

For more information: Helen Boxwill, hboxwill@h2empower.com



LAST LICKS CAFE - presents Bliss Blood and Al Street

Saturday, Feb. 28 - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

UUFH Main Hall

Bliss Blood and Al Street first performed at Last Licks Cafe in March 2012. Formed as a duo in 2010 to write original acoustic music together, they released two CDs: "Evanescent" and "Live on

the Lilac" and are now preparing to release their third CD, "Unspun," with 15 all-original compositions. Their songs encompass waltzes, blues, psychedelia, film-inspired torch songs, as well as a new series of "noir" tunes.

Bliss and Al continue to play as a duo and have also expanded their band to include vibraphonist Tom Beckham, Marcus Parsley on horns and Jim Fryer on trumpet and trombone with a repertoire of over 100 tunes, including 1920's blues and jazz, 50's and 60's 'cool jazz' vocal tunes, film music and originals.

They perform around the NY area at places as diverse as The Flatiron Room, The Soho Grand Hotel Club Room, Manderley Bar in the McKittrick Hotel, wineries and restaurants and private events.

~ Jack DeMasi

THE GREATER COMMUNITY

THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, Feb. 15 - 10:45 am

UUFH Social Hall

The fifth annual Joan McWade & Todd Stutzman Memorial Blood Drive will be held in the Social Hall from 9:30 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, Feb. 15. Donations are lower due to winter weather, even as demands rise. Please consider donating blood and sharing this lifesaving gift.

Sign-up sheets to schedule an appointment are on a table in the Social Hall on Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8 after Sunday services, or you may call Marilyn Kopp-Hecker at 631-427-4898 or me at 631-673-3539, to schedule an appointment.

~ Johanna Leopold

LIAC COA 2015 - Coming of Age Locations Announced

2 pm - 10 pm

Dates and Locations:

Feb. 28- Huntington

March 28- Freeport

April 18- Stony Brook - overnight to Sunday am

May 9- Huntington

June 6- Huntington



UPDATE ON H2 EMPOWER

As a longtime member of this fellowship, I have to say that I am sorry not to have been with you for so many wonderful events. As many know I am working in Ethiopia and living there much of the year. Our Country Director, WoldeAbiyo, spoke at the fellowship in August. He sends his greetings and told me, when I was returning home, to come to the Fellowship and continue our work on peace, justice and

compassion. He loved our spiritual home.

People have asked to know what we are doing now and how things have progressed. We have completed construction of a large community library, which last year had 35,000 visits. Now University and high school students are coming as well as primary school children to study, to research and just to learn new things. We had to move the children's room into the empty computer room because there were so many children coming to the library, there was no room. We are hoping to get funds for computers so that teachers who have never touched one can start to learn to use them as well as open them up to the community.



Thanks to a former member, we were able to put water in a school of 2,500 children and serve 60 families outside the school. Now that school has latrines and has expanded to be a secondary school due to increased infrastructure. We worked with families in a very rural farming area to build four additional classrooms, which cut class size from 95 to 45. Now we are putting cement on the floors and walls of three classrooms to transform the building. With the parents we are building a small library community center. This area had no town, just houses and their farmland. After our work and the large community celebration, also witnessed by UUFH member Jackie Agdern, the county is bringing in electricity and has made a market area, which is developing a town center. Another member is supporting a talented high school student so he can attend secondary school and have adequate food and housing.

Currently we are trying to raise funds to build two classrooms so children can have a classroom so they can go to school. We are working on training teachers to improve schooling for girls, training farmers and teachers in permaculture to improve access to food for families, developing English clubs to help children learn English which they need to continue their education and many other projects.

We are planning some events at the Fellowship and hope to share more with you in the future. For more information and to help us continue our work, see www.h2empower.com or email me at hboxwill@h2empower.com. Thank you for your continued support.

~ *Helen Boxwill*

HIHI IS LOOKING FOR DVD DONATIONS



HIHI is looking for donations of new or used movie DVDs. The men have been watching the same movies for some time now, and would greatly appreciate a new selection. They prefer action or adventure movies, and English speaking movies are perfectly acceptable. Please bring donations to the HIHI bin just outside the coat closet. Thank you!

~ *Allyson Barish*

The Beacon

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HUNTINGTON, NY 11743

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Fellowship of Huntington**

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Huntington, NY 11743

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Richard Hyman, Music Director

Susie Byrnes, Administrator

Liza Burby, President

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**Next Beacon:
Friday, Feb. 28, 2015**

*** Beacon Deadline:
Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015**

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