



The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, NY
* A Liberal Religious Faith *

WWW.UUFH.ORG

January 2017, Vol. LXII, No. 1



SUNDAY SERVICES

JANUARY THEME: PROPHECY

January 1 "Light of Life" On this last day of Hanukkah, we will explore this story of hope and liberation and the ways it still inspires our lives today in a multigenerational service. Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, preaching; Isabella on piano.

Nursery care is unavailable on Sunday, Jan 1 for the holidays. Families are welcome in our main worship hall (as you always are!) or to use the window room at the rear of the main hall if you are more comfortable. We apologize for any inconvenience.

January 8 "An Open Letter to the New Year" Prophecy asks us to think toward the new with fresh eyes; to make room for possibility. Rev. Jude preaching; choir singing.

January 15 "Quieting the Prophet" Time softens the edge of transformative ministries for justice. How do we stay sharp to the injustices before us? Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.

January 22 "Roe v. Wade: A UU History of Reproductive Justice" Our liberal religion was part of the foundation that led to this groundbreaking and controversial decision about a woman's right to choose. We will talk about the history of Roe v. Wade, as well as the decades of fallout, and where things stand today. Coordinated by Sunday Program Committee; Isabella on piano.

January 29 "All Hands on Deck" We often think of prophets as other people; greatness, change and inspiration always coming from outside ourselves. But our faith has long taught about a prophet-hood of all believers. Come to learn how to live into that inspirational value. Rev. Jude preaching; choir singing. Join us for our Annual Stewardship Luncheon following our service.

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SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK JAN. 8 - AFTER THE SERVICE



"SPLIT THE PLATE" JANUARY



**League for Animal
Protection (LAP)**
[FIND OUT MORE>>](#)

SHOPPING FOR THE FELLOWSHIP



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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



The prophetic liberal church is the church in which all members share the common responsibility to attempt to foresee the consequences of human behavior (both individual and institutional), with the intention of making history in place of merely being pushed around by it. Only through the prophetism of all believers can we together foresee doom and mend our common ways.

~ **James Luther Adams, UU theologian**

Last month I convened a Town Hall at our Fellowship that brought together 40 congregational leaders from five of our closest UU congregations to begin imagining how we can collaborate better for our local justice work in the wider Long Island communities. Out of this meeting, a steering team has formed to continue the conversation in the coming months. Other UU congregations on Long Island have since reached out to commit to joining the collaboration. This is the beginning of a very hopeful time for our larger shared ministry. And at the start of this New Year, our month of services will reflect on our role in the wider world – both individually and collectively. ~ **Warmly, Rev. Jude**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

January feels like a reset button, doesn't it? It's a kind of clean slate for personal endeavors. We make New Year's resolutions to be better versions of ourselves, often by declaration that we will eliminate some bad habit or practice from our lives. This month we are exploring what it means to be a community of prophecy. Our second source of Unitarian Universalism are the words and deeds of prophetic women and men, which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love. When we think of prophecy, we may think of prophets who are no longer with us. Is prophecy alive and well today?



From the Greek - *propheteia*: the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth; pró, "before" and phēmí, "make clear, assert as a priority, what is clarified beforehand. Hebrew – *nabi*: from a root meaning "to bubble forth, as from a fountain," hence "to utter."

What if this year, instead of resolutions to finally give up sugar, we instead resolve ourselves to reveal truth, which is to say meaning, to allow it to bubble forth within us, as from a fountain? How might this kind of resolution shift us individually and as a community? ~ **In Faith, Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the last few years our most persistent challenge as a Fellowship is operating with the ongoing budget deficit. The Board of Trustees is taking this issue very seriously, but can't solve this issue alone. That's why the BOT is working with some of our committees in enacting long-term solutions that can provide stability and a framework so that we can thrive in the future. Soon, the Finance Committee will begin their work to put together the budget. I encourage all who are interested to sit in on a budget meeting; any Fellowship member is welcome to attend. It is a large task organizing the yearly budget and there's no reason to wait until the Congregational meetings to become informed about the process.

Moving forward we must focus on what we truly value at our Fellowship. I'm proud to think of all that we have been able to accomplish with the challenges we have faced recently. Our leaders need to hear from the Congregation so that we know where to place our energy. How can each committee make a step towards growing our congregation? In this current climate how can we reach out to others we personally or peripherally know who share our values and would want to be a part of our community? I'm asking all of you to "grab my elbow" or that of another Board member and tell us what you value most and what your priorities are. We will certainly make progress if we work together. ~ **Michael Amendola**

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our youth-led December service was amazing. I was so impressed with each and every one of those kids—their poise, grace, good humor, commitment to social justice and musical gifts. I am so proud that we have a space where our youth feel comfortable expressing themselves and sharing their beliefs, stories and talents with the congregation. I simply can't imagine such a service being held in the Presbyterian church I attended growing up. In that church, kids went to Sunday school, and adults went to the church service, and rarely was there any mingling. Even as teenagers, we were almost always in our own classrooms on Sunday mornings. We had little interaction with the adults in the congregation, except for our Sunday school teachers. Church activities played a large part in my family's life. In his heart, my father was a Calvinist, and I suspect that mainstream Presbyterianism did

not emphasize the likelihood of eternal damnation to the extent he would have preferred, but he served as an Elder, a Sunday school teacher and a member of the choir, and insisted on a high level of involvement by his children. Our church had gleaming oak pews, an impressive organ, beautiful stained-glass windows and balconies on each side that held the overflow crowds on Easter and Christmas Eve. And yet for all the grandeur, there was nothing like the sense of community that I've found at our Fellowship. There was a kind of formality, for lack of a better word, that precluded anything so heartfelt and impassioned as our Fellowship's youth-led service. I'm grateful to have found a spiritual home that offers these meaningful opportunities for children and youth to be a full part of our community. ~ **Elisa Fante**

TREASURER AND FINANCE NEWS

FOCUSING ON GROWTH

As we embark on a new year, often we look at it as a time to think of what we would like to accomplish for the upcoming year. This coincides well to giving a little bit of a sneak peek into a committee that started meeting back in July, and presented a plan to the Board of Trustees on December 12. That committee is Long Range Planning (which has had a number of iterations in our history).

There is a lot to the initial plan, and their work is just getting started, and you will hear more about it in coming weeks and months. However, one main theme you will hear is that growth of our congregation is everyone's responsibility. For once, I am not talking strictly financial growth, but growing in a number of ways: membership, our message and our values to those around us. It is especially true in this political climate where more people than ever may be looking for a "safe place" that encourages open-minded views and does not discriminate.

The reason to share this at this time in particular is that much like gyms see an increase in people looking to get physically fit as people think about the new year, some people will also look to get spiritually fit. The Sundays in January often have increased attendance by new people walking in the doors to see if we might be a good fit to them. I encourage everyone to be on the lookout for new faces and introduce yourself, as well as introduce them to others. Even if it is not someone coming into the door for the first time, but someone you don't know well, feel free to strike up a conversation.

The bottom line is that this is our home, and if we think of people that we don't know wandering around our home, I know we would make them feel welcome, and this way they have a warm feeling in wanting to come back. ~ **Brian Cohen, Treasurer**

'TIS (STILL) THE SEASON TO REMEMBER OUR STAFF

At this time of the year, it is our custom to pay tribute to our professional staff, including our Minister Jude Geiger, Director of Religious Education Starr Austin, Music Director Richard Hyman, office manager Susie Byrnes, communications specialist Bridgette Nicolini, bookkeeper Marianne Reuter and pianist Isabella Johnson. Each one of these people does so much for us all year. Please join in providing a special holiday gift to show them our appreciation. Send one check (to be divided among the staff), payable to UUFH, and denote "Holiday Gift" on the memo line. Mail your check to the Fellowship office attention Treasurer, or put it clearly marked in the collection basket on Sunday morning. Please submit your checks no later than by January 8.

~ **Brian Cohen, Treasurer**

******* HOLIDAY GREETINGS *******

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all.~ Susan Peters

Best Wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year.~ Marilyn Kopp-Hecker and Bill Hecker

Warmest wishes to all my Fellowship family for a joyful holiday season and health and happy 2017.~ Elizabeth Koehn

Dear Fellowshippers, may your holidays be joyful and may the New Year bring you and your loved ones good health and good cheer! We thank everyone for the care and concern you have shared with Bob and me during his illness. Love to all.

~ Mary Jane Wochinger

In this time of concern about our larger world, we're even more grateful for our Fellowship family. May your New Year be healthy, happy and bright.~ Steve and Liza Burby

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FORUM - FEBRUARY 5 - 12:15 PM

Attention All Committee Chairpersons: Please join the Board of Trustees for a Chairperson Forum in the Main Hall on Sunday, Feb 5 starting at 12:15 pm. Board VP Elisa Fante will host with BoT Liaisons. We will hear an important presentation by the Long Range Planning Committee, as well as sharing useful insights and ideas with each other. We hope to see you. Bagels provided!~ **Elisa Fante**

CASTLE CARE 2ND SATURDAY SHARED MAINTENANCE - SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 - 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – CASTLE CARE

Please join us to help keep our building in tip- top shape. All types of jobs available, from simple straightening out to more complex tasks. We need “hands” to help. Contact Susan Peters. speters@optonline.net

ATTENTION YOGIS & YOGINIS

Yoga classes will resume according to the following schedule: Wednesday 10:15 AM class resumes Jan. 18, 2017; Friday 11:30 AM class resumes Jan. 20, 2017; Tuesday 6:30 PM class resumes March 7, 2017. If there are any questions please call Nancy Hume at (631) 239-6808.

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR COMMITTEE’S WEB PAGE

Have you looked at your committee’s web page on www.UUFH.org lately? So much is happening in our Fellowship that as we start 2017, it’s the perfect time to make sure that your page reflects all your committee accomplished in 2016. Maybe you’d like to change a photo? Highlight the events and accomplishments your committee achieved? Update the information that people curious about joining your committee need to know? To submit a website update for your committee:

1. Create a Word document and paste the url on the top of the page. Save it and name it the heading of the web page.
2. Select and copy and paste the text from the current website and make the changes you need and save it.
3. Attach any new photos you’d like to add, mentioning the photo credit if needed.
4. Email your attached document to communications@uufh.org with the subject line “Website Update” (and the name of the page).

If you have any questions, please contact Bridgette Nicolini at bn@rfimedia.com or 631-271-1808. Making these updates not only keeps us all informed, it helps with traffic to our website as well, so that others can learn all the wonderful work we do here.
~ **Liza Burby**

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR JANUARY ~ PROPHECY

PICK A DAY AND MAKE IT PROPHETIC

This month is full of prophetic holidays. But too often our culture turns them into parties or excuses for another day off, or worse yet, ignores them all together. In one way or another, we allow these holidays to become small. This exercise invites us to not let that happen. Your assignment: Pick at least one of the major holidays of January and find your personal way of keeping it “large,” keeping its radical and prophetic potential alive.

LIVING OUR VALUES

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY FORUMS – January 17 & January 25

The Committee on Ministry (COM) has scheduled two forums in January. The first forum will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017 in the Main Hall immediately following the service at 11:45 AM. If you cannot make that one, you are welcome to join us in the Board Room on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

As was mentioned in a previous Beacon article, the primary goal of the COM is to strengthen the quality of ministry within the Congregation. Are we, as a congregation, committed to our Mission, Vision and Covenant (MVC)? Can we grow, not just in numbers, but in our ministry to each other and the world around us?

The UUFH operates through collaborative leadership, shared by the minister, the staff, the lay leaders and each individual congregant. Together, we’re all responsible for ensuring that our congregation is in good standing with these three important documents (MVC).

Please join us. The vibrancy of our Fellowship is more important than ever in today’s world. As always, please feel free to contact any of us, in confidentiality, if you have any questions and/or concerns. ~ **The Committee on Ministry: Bob Bader, Liza Burby, Andy Feigin, Dave Schulman, Ann Scolnick and Nikki Willard**

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION: JOIN THE SHELTER ROCK BUS TO THE WOMEN'S DC RALLY

The Shelter Rock Congregation has spots left on their bus to the Women's DC rally January 21 and they're inviting us to take them. Please contact Lisa Simon at (516) 554-7833 if you want more information. Social Justice co-chair Diana Weaving says the "fare is dynamic and increases." She recently paid \$85. There is also a rally in New York City that day, and many in the congregation are planning to attend. People interested in joining the DC march or the NYC march should contact Steve. ~ **Steve Burby and Diana Weaving, Social Justice Co-Chairs**

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Rev. Jude and Starr have been offering a class, Coming of Age in Adult Faith, on the second Sunday of each month. We've had very low attendance and as such will be asking people to register for the January session to determine if we should continue with the course. In the class we are exploring UU theology and what makes Unitarian Universalism unique from our faith neighbors who hold similar values. In the class you will learn the basics of our theology and how to answer the question, *what do UUs believe?* To register for the class please visit <https://www.cognitofirms.com/UUFH1/RegisterForComingOfAgeInAdultFaith>

Are you in a monthly small group? We meet monthly to explore the theme by reading a short essay and exploring thought-provoking questions to guide our discussion. Materials are uploaded each month to the website. We offer groups on the first and third Sundays of each month from noon to 1:30pm in the board room. We also have a group meeting on the second Wednesday of each month 1pm-2:30pm in the board room. ~ **Starr Austin**



We are looking for four to five artists to participate in a special RE program on Sunday, Jan. 8th. We are preparing for our children and youth art show in March and would like to connect our RE artists with adult artists in the Fellowship. If you can come on Sunday, Jan 8, please email Starr. We want you to bring a sample of your artwork, meet the children and

youth, and talk about your love of art. Email Starr at dre@uufh.org



THANKS AND FILM FOR H2 EMPOWER

RE and h² Empower collected family DVD's to use in the community library in Ethiopia for both learning English and for fun. Thank you to all those who contributed children's books and DVDs. There is still a basket in the RE wing if you want to add to the collection. If you have any mouse pads lying around, we need 24 for our computer room. Feel free to put these in the basket too.

Thank you also for your generous support of H² Empower during our fall service. There was an outpouring of interest and many purchases of our handicrafts. I appreciate your always being there for us.

Families and adults are welcome to attend a showing of the Ethiopian Film, *LAMB* on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017 at 1:30 at Cinema Arts Centre. A reception will follow with Ethiopian snacks and our handicrafts will be available. This coming of age Cannes Film Festival Entry will give you a picture of the beauty of the country as well as the traditional culture which is still practiced today. Tickets are \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers. For tickets go to <http://tinyurl.com/LAMBtickets> Hope you join us. ~ **Helen Boxwill**

SPLIT-THE-PLATE CHARITY FOR JANUARY



League for Animal Protection (LAP)

The League for Animal Protection of Huntington, Inc. (LAP), is an all-volunteer, non-profit established in 1973 dedicated to the rescue, care, rehabilitation and placement of stray, abandoned and abused animals in the Huntington Township. In 1982, under an agreement with the Town of Huntington, the Grateful Paw Cat Shelter was built. This refuge, without cages, is a temporary home to kittens and cats managed and staffed by volunteers and supported solely by contributions to the League. All felines are vet checked, FELV and FIV tested, inoculated and spayed or neutered before being placed for adoption. LAP volunteers also support a dog placement program. Volunteers evaluate, exercise, socialize, train and groom the dogs housed in the shelter. Some dogs are placed in foster care until they are able to find a permanent home. LAP also cares for beloved pets when owners are no longer able to. Most importantly, all animals are given a LAP volunteer's love and attention. LAP's primary goal is always to place an animal in a permanent home. LAP carefully screens all potential adopters and follows up to ensure that both owner and pet are adapting well, maintaining a lifelong commitment to its animals. We hope you can give generously.

~ **Ralph Taliercio for Beyond Our Walls Committee**

CALL FOR BEACON ARTICLES

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE BEACON

Please submit all articles in a Word documents, saving the document with the article's name and Beacon month and year. Email to communications@uufh.org with the subject line as BEACON – JAN. 2017 (or appropriate month and year). For more info: <http://www.uufh.org/new-guidelines-for-uufh-publications>

We're looking for feature articles about committee work we do here at UUFH, with a focus on how we're all living our values. Tell readers what it means to you to work on committees like Social Justice, the Development Committee, HIHI, the Grow to Give Garden, the Gallery, Sunday Programming, Not Necessarily Seniors and more.

ONGOING EVENTS & NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



VISIT: For daily updates and ongoing events.

<http://www.uufh.org/members-corner/events-calendar>

<http://www.uufh.org/news-announcements>

The Beacon

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Richard Hyman, Music Director
Susie Byrnes, Administrator
Michael Amendola, President

Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon: February edition
By the first week of February.**

**Beacon Deadline for submissions:
January 15, 2016**

**See New Guidelines for Beacon
Submissions.**

[http://www.uufh.org/new-guidelines-for-uufh-
publications](http://www.uufh.org/new-guidelines-for-uufh-publications)