



# The Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister  
July/August 2016, Vol. LXI, No.7 & 8

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES for JULY & AUGUST 2016

### JULY

#### **July 3: Swing for the Fences**

We're raised to always do our best. But what happens when our best isn't good enough? How do we continue to have faith in our faith tradition when it doesn't provide us all the answers? How do we make sense of a world where swinging for the fences sometimes lands us with a pop-fly instead of the grand slam we were hoping for? **Speaker: Dylan Doyle-Debelis**

*Dylan is a candidate for UUministry who holds a Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. He is a born-and-raised UU who grew up in the youth programs of First Parish Unitarian Church in Concord, MA and First Unitarian Church in Portland, OR.*

#### **July 10: Twitch(Multi-Gen)**

These days we don't play video games anymore; we watch other people play video games. For hours. We build these strange electronically connected families haphazardly in the internet space. What does this mean for the future of healthy community? Is face-to-face interaction outdated? **Speaker: Dylan Doyle-Debelis**

#### **July 17: The Whole Truth**

Lying is always morally wrong, according to philosopher Immanuel Kant. Yet, my Aunt Sally says white lies are okay when they spare someone's feelings. Our attitude toward truthfulness impacts all of our relationships and shapes our expectations for behavior by others. On a larger scale, when our faith in the honesty of our leaders breaks down, society is at risk. **Speaker: Laura Pedersen**  
*Laura is a lifelong UU and member of All Souls Unitarian Church in Manhattan. She's a former New York Times columnist, playwright and the author of 16 books, most recently Life in New York. Her writing tends to embody UU principles.*



### July 24: Raising Hell

In June, 50 people were murdered in a gay night club in Orlando, FL. Mass shootings and hate crimes continue to increase in frequency in our country at an alarming rate. Where is the hope here? Where is our agency in these tragedies? **Speaker: Dylan Doyle-Debelis**

### July 31: The Blame Game

How is blame different than accountability, and how do we live our UU values when there is so much we can't control? **Speaker: Rich Buley-Neumar**

## AUGUST THEME: ROOTEDNESS

**Aug 7: "A People of Summer"** Living life deliberately can be a spiritual practice. If we were to take summer as seriously as we take work or school commitments, what would change? **Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano**

**Aug 14: TBD Sunday Program Committee; Isabella on piano**

**Aug 21: "Putting Down Roots"** In this modern world full of incredible communication, why can it still sometimes feel so difficult to stay connected to one another? **Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano**

**Aug 28: "Breaking Ground"** Bringing newness into our lives often begins with a time of upheaval. **Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano**

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### FROM THE MINISTER

As we end one Fellowship year and begin a new one, I want to thank all our leaders and volunteers who help make this community the strong vibrant religious home that it is. After a year in our nation's history with so many difficult stories of tragedy and challenge, as well as our own more local losses, I have been so grateful for our Fellowship's ability to support one another. As well as our commitment to ever continue to reach out beyond our walls in solidarity with communities who have faced violence or bigotry. Each of us makes it more possible for our religious home to live out its vital mission in the world. We are more for our knowing of one another. ~ *Warmly, Rev. Jude*



### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

A few weeks ago I noticed one of our little ones crying during a hymn. I had asked her before the service to sit somewhere new; we had the Coming of Age youth seated in her normal row. When I saw her crying I left the platform to go down and see if I could assist her mom. I quickly learned she wasn't crying about the location or even about the piano blocking her view. No, she was crying because she didn't know the words to the hymn and everyone else could read! I looked at her tear-covered face and told her I knew a new way to sing this hymn. I quickly began mouthing "ahhhh" instead of words, following the rhythm of the piano, until she joined me.



We have our children in worship each week to teach them **how** UUs worship, to show them that **they belong** with us and are a valuable part of the community, and to learn from one another through **shared ritual**. Ours is a living tradition. We embody our teachings and as a religious educator, that means I sometimes disappear from the platform in the middle of worship to help a family, guide a child or hold a baby. We are always building the beloved community.

After the hymn ended and I returned to my seat on the platform, I felt so much gratitude that this young child showed me why I am here each week: to raise our voices together in a song of joy, celebration and love – words or no words.

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

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As you read this I hope you are enjoying the warmth of summer and having an opportunity to relax. In my final Beacon column as president I would wholeheartedly like to thank the entire Board of Trustees for their hard work this year. Despite our many challenges throughout the year, some ongoing, the Board managed to respect each other's points of view and to work together. Liza Burby, Jean Marra and Amy Olander are rotating off the Board. Elisa Fante, Peggy Koulias and Cathi Zillmann are joining the group. I want to thank the congregation for approving the budget at the annual meeting on June 12, 2016. Thank you for recognizing the hard work of the Finance Committee, who continues to work toward a balanced budget that cannot be achieved overnight. Please stay informed of Board business through reading the Beacon and the Flash. Please plan to attend congregational forums and meetings that take place throughout the coming year. Remember that Board of Trustees meetings are open. Contact a member of the Board if you wish to attend, or read minutes from our meetings in the Member's Corner section of the new website. Together we will continue to be a thriving community! ~ *Jennifer Thieke*

### **VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

In thinking about this past year, my first on the Board of Trustees, I see the continued commitment and accomplishment of our community and members working together. One only has to look at the Annual Report to realize all that takes place here over the course of the year. This work is not only done by individual committees, but also by many people working in concert. For example, Steve Burby and Diana Weaving on the Social Justice Committee were the impetus for the recent installation of our "Black Lives Matter" banner, but that process included meetings with the Board of Trustees, digital design from Communications Specialist Bridgette Nicolini, carpentry skills from Bill Hawkins, and coordination with DRE Starr Austin and several of our youth as volunteers to do the physical install. It's a great accomplishment; we should be proud. It's also the realization of a long-held goal for many, and from start to finish the process took over a year. Likewise at our June Congregational meeting I witnessed the passion and commitment of so many members who expressed their feelings to move forward and break ground with the new parking lot. This idea and desire was originally voiced at this Fellowship over 25 years ago, and diligently worked on over the last two and a half years by Liza Burby and others on the Parking Lot Committee in order to obtain all the necessary approvals from the Town of Huntington.

As incoming Board president I know that we have a strong community and that I can rely on the support of so many in our congregation along with our staff and members of the Board and in sustaining the Fellowship and realizing many of our goals. Several of you have already expressed positive words and offers of advice. I very much appreciate that and I will not hesitate in asking for opinions and assistance as we move forward. Have a great summer! ~ *Michael Amendola*

### MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL CARE

#### For Pastoral Care Joys & Concerns

Please contact: UUFH office (weekdays only), 631-427-9547 or Gerri Farrell, 631-271-5989.

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - UU & YOU: COMING OF AGE IN ADULT FAITH

What does it mean to you to be a Unitarian Universalist? In this class we will take a look at living a UU life of faith and putting some words to why we are all here in this religious community. Dylan Doyle-Debelis, a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry, will be leading this three-part series. Dylan will guide the group each week in finding the connection between our personal belief systems and the theological underpinning of Unitarian Universalist religion. Email Starr to indicate your interest. Classes will be July 3, 10 and 24 from 12-1:30pm in the Main Hall.

### SUMMER IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We will be wondering together this summer through art, nature, music and circle groups exploring our values. Each week will be slightly different, so be sure you are receiving the Friday parent emails. Additionally, if you want to organize a family event during the summer let me know, we can get together for beach days, picnics, park days, movies, etc. Let's celebrate summer in our UU community! ~ *Starr Austin*

### BACKPACK BLESSING! - AUGUST 28

Bring your backpack for a blessing in our worship service. The backpack blessing gives us a moment of intentionality as we prepare to enter the school year. Let's move through our year with our UU values in the forefront of all we do! ~ *Starr Austin*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ANTI-RACISM WEEKEND WITH CHRIS CRASS SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2

Mark your calendar for the first weekend in October! On Saturday UUFH will be hosting a dynamic workshop/worship weekend with noted UU anti-racism activist Chris Crass! You will want to be a part of this weekend of action and living out our UU values! Chris Crass has spoken at many UU congregations and at GA. He is an author as well. His latest book, *Towards the "Other America:" Anti-Racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter* (2016, Chalice Press) shows us how to begin our work. Plans are still in development, including the possibility of a panel discussion on Race on Long Island for Friday evening, Sept. 30. Contact Social Justice Co-Chairs Steve Burby and Diana Weaving if you have any suggestions or questions!



### SUMMER ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

The July-August 2016 gallery artist will be Liz Ehrlichman and the Fellowship's curator Connie Wain-Schwartz will be holding an artist reception in the Gallery following the service on July 17 from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm.

Artist Liz Ehrlichman shows work with a wide range of media and expressive intent. Each grouping is a part of a larger series that the artist created around a theme. They are varied in color and style, as well, the latest of the works being the large scale "Jumbled Clothing" paintings, which were not only an explosion of color and ideas, but also, says the artist, "such a lot of fun to paint."

Themes for the various series that Ehrlichman produced include: The text and music of Brahms' German Requiem; the beaches of Huntington; fruit; The Little Lady (a fantasy about a wooden figure come to life); wetlands and marshes; and Edgar Allen Poe's poem Ulalume.

The show will run through the end of August and is curated by the Fellowship's Connie Wain-

## FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISERS

### GREAT NEWS: PARKING LOT FUNDS!

Our dream of a safe, environmentally responsible new parking lot and beautiful grounds is almost a reality.

Liza Burby reported at our Congregational Meeting that the total cost for the Parking Lot Project will

require an additional \$100,000 due to new Town requirements. Since that meeting, we have received **\$85,270** in donations! Thank you to everyone who has contributed!



OUR GOAL!!!

**\$100,000**

**With your generous donation, we can reach our goal of \$100,000 by July 15 so construction can begin. Please make your contribution, ASAP.** Checks with "Parking Lot" in the memo line can be sent to the office or placed in the Sunday collection. To make a pledge or for questions about your donation, contact Sue McGovern at 631-239-5638 or [suemcgovern45@gmail.com](mailto:suemcgovern45@gmail.com).

For information on the Project, click here for Liza's report: <http://uufh.org/pdfs/Parking-Lot-Statement-6.pdf>

With your support, we can reach our goal for construction to begin in July and completion by September. **Thank you, The Stewardship Committee**



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### SAVE THE DATE:

#### **The 2016 Services Auction and Call for "Party Coordinator"**

The date for our annual UUFH premier fundraiser is the evening of **Saturday, November 19, 2016.** Please reserve this date on your calendar for an outstanding evening. The theme of this year's Services Auction is "**The Roaring Twenties/The Great Gatsby.**"

The Development Committee is officially asking for a congregant or two who would like to coordinate the Auction. To help in this endeavor, a detailed list with easy instructions has been prepared. If you love to oversee events, knowing that you have a large group of volunteers to help, please give this opportunity your consideration. Please contact me, or anyone on our Development Committee (listed

below) by **Sunday, July 10**. Thank you so much. It is most appreciated. ~**Ben Testa, Chairperson, Laura Childs, Barbara Kent, Johanna Leopold, Marc Leopold, Milt Masur, Christine McDonald, Amy Olander, Spencer Ross, Michael Sussman, Ralph Talierno**

## COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE



This is our double summer issue, so the next Beacon will be for September, with a deadline of Aug. 15. For news, announcements and events, be sure to visit the site all summer at <http://www.uufh.org> look for our weekly Flash and check out Facebook.

Starting in September 2016 the Beacon will have a new format. The focus will be to emphasize the ministries of our congregation. Articles will be about the work our committees and individuals do in our Fellowship community that is meaningful and reflects our values. The Beacon will still highlight the upcoming services and regular columns from Rev. Jude and Starr, our Director of Religious Education, as well as the Board president and vice president. We're also looking for articles about committee work, like that of Social Justice, the Development Committee, HiHi, the Grow to Give Garden, the Gallery, Sunday Programming, Not Necessarily Seniors and all the many others.

Looking for ideas? What about the book talks about prison reform that took place this year? Or the Journey Groups? We're an active congregation with many stories to share. If you're not sure what your committee can submit, just contact Communications Specialist Bridgette Nicolini at [communications@uufh.org](mailto:communications@uufh.org) Remember that though the content will change, the word count is still 250 words for each article. Include photos whenever possible as well. Instructions for how to submit articles to the Communications team will be emailed to committee chairs within the next few weeks. After that they will also be posted on the website under **POST FAQs & GUIDELINES**.

Also, since the launch our new website, there are some changes to publication guidelines. [Click here to learn more: NEW GUIDELINES FOR UUFH PUBLICATIONS - July 1, 2016. Also on the website](#)

## THE GREATER COMMUNITY



### THE BURBY HOUSE FIRE UPDATE

First and foremost, a very heartfelt thank you from me and my sister, who is currently residing in safe, albeit temporary (through mid-August) housing in Oneonta. Last Friday, June 24, her ruined trailer home was finally demolished and removed, at a cost of approximately \$4000, the cost of which she was responsible for since she was unable to obtain home insurance, which was unaffordable. Through the generous donations of many friends and members of the UUFH, she has been able to meet the many costs associated with this devastating event. During this entire time she was able to work either one or both of her jobs (one job generously granted her some time off). My niece Beth successfully graduated from Oneonta High School, and is preparing to enter SUNY Oneonta in the fall. Becky is actively engaged in the ongoing and exhausting work of looking for more permanent housing in the Albany area,

where our brother Mike lives with his family, while still providing for her younger daughter, Genny,

who is twelve and will hopefully soon be relocating to a new school district. We are both overcome with gratitude. She is still struggling, but still moving forward. In her own words, "Things are going better some days still working applying for jobs and looking for apartments in Albany....Thank you for all your help!" ~ **Steve Burby**

### **SPLIT THE PLATE CHARITY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY/AUGUST IS: GATHERING OF LIGHT STARTER PACK PROJECT**

How many times do you reach for a fork, plate or coffee mug without a thought? Imagine you've been



homeless and now finally placed in a permanent, new home but without any of these basic life tools. This is the experience of hundreds of homeless Long Island families, some of them coming from domestic violence shelters. A Starter Pack fills this huge gap. Packs may include utensils, pots and pans, dishes, glasses, dust pans, can openers, as well as bedding, pillows, towels and even microwaves. This wonderful project was started by the Gathering of Light Interspiritual Fellowship in Melville and brought to our attention by UUFH member Chris McDonald, who has been active in the program for many years.

Always joyfully well-received, these packages ease real anxiety while providing a sense of self confidence and pride. We hope you'll be as generous as you can. ~ **Beyond Our Walls**

### **UPDATE ON OUR BURUNDI STUDENTS**



We have been working with the Unitarian Church in Burundi, Central Africa for years. Good news: Rev. Fulgence is now safe in Canada and has been granted asylum there. He is busy building a new life while working to help keep the congregation in Burundi going. We have found a way to continue to support the Burundi University students we have been sponsoring there, as well as some refugees in Kenya. There are 15 needy students who need our continued support. A number of students are in the middle of their studies and some are anxious to begin studying. It costs \$500 a year for tuition in Burundi and \$1,000 in Kenya. The chance to study means a future and means a chance for these youth to build a life for themselves. Without this hope they can only sit at home and wait. If they can become a professional they can support their family and themselves. If you want more

information or are interested in how to help these Unitarian young people, feel free to contact me at [hboxwill@h2empower.com](mailto:hboxwill@h2empower.com). Your support means so much to these youth from the poorest countries in the world. Thanks to the UUFH for all that you do to support our work in Africa. ~ **Helen Boxwill**

**The Beacon**

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For more

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

**Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini**

**Next Beacon: September edition  
By the first week of September**

**Beacon Deadline:  
August 15, 2016**

**See New Guidelines for Beacon  
Submissions.**

Instructions for how to submit articles to the Communications team will be emailed to Committee chairs within the next few weeks. After that they will also be posted on the website under POST FAQs & GUIDELINES.