



The

Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
June 2016, Vol. LXI, No. 6

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

JUNE 2016

Monthly Theme: Simplicity

June 5: Our annual Coming of Age service. This multi-generational service celebrates our coming of age youth after this year's period of extended study, reflection and service work in our community. Join us to hear their Credo Statements. Rev. Jude and Starr Austin lead the service with Isabella on piano.

June 12: Our Annual Pride Sunday celebrating LGBTQ people and history. Rev. Jude preaching with choir.

June 19: Our Annual Flower Celebration service. We will share in a multigenerational worship service celebrating our annual flower ceremony, sometimes called a flower communion. Please bring one flower per person to contribute to the ceremony. We will have a few here in case people forget! This is a wonderful service with a rich and beautiful history. Rev. Jude preaching, with choir.

June 26: "Creating Space for Faith" with guest speaker Mr. Hakan Yesilova, the Editor-in-Chief of *Fountain Magazine*. Today, faith traditions are mostly misrepresented, especially Islam. We need to create space for dialogue so that religious traditions' peaceful essence can be made known. Isabella on piano.



FROM THE MINISTER

Happy June, Fellowship! We are entering into a month of celebrations: Coming of Age, Teacher and Volunteer Appreciation, LGBTQ Pride, Board of Trustees transitions, our Unsung Heroes and our Flower Celebration. We have much to celebrate in a community that has accomplished much together over the decades and over this past year. Our monthly theme asks us to imagine what we could be as a *people of simplicity*. Often when we challenge ourselves to simplify, we think of the responsibilities we can let go of in our lives, or the stuff we can get rid of. I want to ask you to imagine what are the impossible expectations you hold for yourself, or our community, that you can let go of? In our busy lives that increasingly demand more and more of all of us, can we imagine new ways to be



together in community that bring us back to basics? How are you connected to the Fellowship? How are you connected to six people here? Where do you enter into service or justice work? This is a great month to assess those three questions and work toward just that. The rest may or may not come with time, but *connection*, *relationship* and *service* are the key steps to religious life. If you find you need help with them, please reach out. I'm here!~ **Warmly, Rev. Jude**

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

The Future of Unitarian Universalism Is in Your Hands

The vibrancy of religious education and family ministry directly relates to whether or not Unitarian Universalism will exist in the future. When we all pitch in to support our families, children and youth we are creating a future where our faith lives on. During our bridging ceremony in May, I mentioned that I would be calling each and every adult member and friend in the congregation this coming program year and asking you to pitch in. The whole congregation must see religious education as core to its mission. For some, this sounds pretty daunting, but rest assured that there is a place and space for every contribution. As we explore what it means to be a people of simplicity, imagine how the simple act of every person making a contribution to our core ministries can enliven and enrich our congregation and the future of our faith.



There are roughly 20 people in the congregation for whom RE ministry is their primary ministry. These volunteers teach, serve on the RE Council and advise our teens. They keep our vision and mission focused on our programming, and help determine the course we take in order to best support our families and seed UU identity. If you are called to this deep ministry in RE, we are so grateful. However, I believe each of us is called to support this work in one form or another; from casseroles at teacher trainings to providing transportation for youth to cons, to moving tables or making art for great multi-gen worship, to helping our families connect to social justice in our community: your contribution is needed. One way to help is to join a RE team. If any of these interest you, please contact me at dre@uufh.org.

Multigenerational Support Team: We need artists, table movers and individuals to do crafts with kids at events.

Youth Ministry Support Team: We need people willing to go to cons with our teenagers, willing to help mentor teens who are in Coming of Age or in their Bridging year, and willing to help manage the calendar of youth events in our region.

Events Support Team: We need organizers, big idea folks and party planners. This team helps with Easter, Christmas Eve and our annual Family Retreat, as well as a few other smaller events throughout the year.

OWL Support Team: We need organized keepers of data, folks who wish to support parents, as well as teachers, about Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive sexuality program. Computer skills are a plus.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Serving as President of the Board has opened my eyes to the amazing members of this congregation who work tirelessly to sustain our Fellowship. The Fellowship has benefitted my family in numerous ways. Opportunities for community service have taught my children the value of reaching out to others. Youth night has provided them an opportunity to socialize with other UU youth. Through the Fellowship, my husband and I have made dear friends who greatly enrich our lives. This community's commitment to a search for truth and meaning is reflected in my children's outlook and empathy for other people. These are only a few of the reasons that it has been a pleasure to serve as President of the Board. As I transition into the role of Past President I wish Michael Amendola, the incoming President and the new Board members all the luck as they take on the challenges of their roles on the Board. I want to thank Liza Burby, the outgoing Past President, whose support and institutional knowledge has been so helpful throughout my presidency. I urge all of you who are interested in sustaining the UUFH to stay informed of the business of the Fellowship. Read the Beacon and the Flash and attend forums and the annual meeting. Feel free to read the minutes of Board meetings on the website, as well as the annual reports of committees. Please plan to attend the annual meeting on June 12 as we continue to work together toward the fulfillment of our mission at UUFH.

~ Jennifer Thieke

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was pleased to see this quote from Archibald MacLeish appear on Facebook last month: "Religion is at its best when it makes us ask hard questions of ourselves. It is at its worst when it deludes us into thinking we have all the answers for everybody else." It was posted by one of our members and liked by several others. I'm not going to name names, but thank you Maria Nielsen for sharing! MacLeish was a poet, writer and a Librarian of Congress appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Here's another great quote: "What is freedom? Freedom is the right to choose: the right to create for oneself the alternatives of choice." Was MacLeish a UU? I don't see any evidence in doing some brief research that would indicate that, but you can't deny the commonality of those thoughts with our principles. I really like the fact that our professional staff and members put themselves out there on social media with their beliefs. It's a wonderful contrast to a lot of the other things that one sees and it's heartening to see when it's shared and supported by others. Let's keep widening the circle.

~ Michael Amendola

TREASURER'S REPORT

2016-'17 UUFH Budget on Website

The UUFH 2016-'17 budget, created by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees, is available on our website. This budget was introduced in detail to the congregation at the finance forum held on May 15 and its acceptance will be voted on at the second Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, June 12. ~ *Jean Marra, Treasurer, Brian Cohen, Finance Chair*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ENDOWMENT NOMINEE

At the April Congregational Meeting the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers and other committee members to be voted on, but had not yet selected a member for the Endowment Committee. We're delighted to announce that Jim Ammerman has accepted our request that he become a member of the Endowment Committee. We are certain he will be an important addition to the committee. The vote to make it official will be at the June 12 Annual Congregational Meeting. Jim's bio is on page 4. ~ *Judie Gardner, Chair*

Jim Ammerman

I became a UU while living in the Bible Belt of Texas when I joined a small fellowship (now called the UU Church of the Brazos Valley) almost 25 years ago. I eventually served many roles in that fellowship, including board president at the time they were first able to call a full-time minister. I have since been a member of the River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda, Md., and the UUFH (since 2009). At UUFH I've served on the BOW Committee, taught OWL and currently serve on the committee that prepares the PowerPoint presentations for Sunday services. I'm married to Kristina Heinemann and am currently the Science Coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study, the EPA National Estuary Program working to protect and restore Long Island Sound. Previously I was a faculty member and administrator in marine sciences at several universities and hold an Adjunct Faculty position at Stony Brook.

MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL CARE

In a fellowship like ours, where mutual support is "the way it's done," most help flows naturally from member to member in the sub-circles of our fellowship family. An ear to listen, a ride to the mechanic, a call after a lapse in meeting: they all happen as a matter of course. But private and unexpected crises can be missed, even in our close circles. Now, the minister is our go-to provider of Pastoral Care. This means that he is ready with a listening ear and a friendly shoulder, if you would like to share what's happening in your life, especially at those challenging moments that we all face. In all the best senses of the old title, he serves as our 'pastor', though in our case the title can't be thought of as exclusive. One minister, you see, cannot meet all the untended needs for pastoral attention in a congregation of our size. So, the **Pastoral Care Associates** complement and broaden that ministry. It's one way in which we share the ministry of this fellowship. The associates are first responders when the minister is away and at times of emergencies. One of us is always on call.

In addition to being available in moments of crisis, the minister and the **Pastoral Care Associates** will help complete a "team," including those who are already part of an individual's friendship circle, so that we provide the kind of "chosen-family" support that we have in the past. When permission is given, **Pastoral Care Associates** will share Joys and Concerns with the larger fellowship. And when certain specific tasks arise, **Care/Share** can become part of the support team. (see below)

Pastoral Care at the UUFH only works when the minister or an associate is aware of the need for this care. Information that is shared is always confidential and handled with discretion.

If you need further clarification about **Pastoral Care Associates** at UUFH, please be in touch with the minister, or one of our current **Pastoral Care Associates**: Sue McGovern, Gerri Farrell, Barbara Grastataro, Evelyn Krell, George Murphy and Jon Nielsen.

CARE/SHARE

Care/Share is organized to provide hands-on help to UUFHers in temporary need. The volunteers may offer meals, rides to appointments, visits, occasional respite for other care-givers involved in intensive situations, and other such assistance. **Pastoral Care Associates** work in cooperation with the **Care/Share** Volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer some hands-on service that you can give, please speak to Judie Gardner or Peggy Koulias. ~ **George Murphy for the Pastoral Care Associates**

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FELLOWSHIP NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPLIT THE PLATE CHARITY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE: GATEWAY COMMUNITY GARDEN

The split plate charity for June is the Gateway Community Garden in Huntington Station. Since its first season in 2010, with generous support from UUFH ever since, Gateway has been growing food and community with plans this year to add garden beds for veterans, eco-literacy programs for low-income neighborhood children, and donations of food every week to the needy. Funds will go to the children's programs, replacement of tools and leadership training to ensure continued success of the garden under its new, gardener-controlled, nonprofit corporation.

~ Dave Martin for Beyond Our Walls Committee

REMEMBER THE RED WAGON!

When you come to UUFH for Sunday services, please remember to bring along a toiletry or non-perishable food item (or two) to put in our red wagon (outside the coat closet). All donations will be delivered to the Huntington Community Food Council (CFC) for distribution to Huntington's families. The CFC was organized in 1972 by a group of women who saw a need for a food pantry to provide short-term help for those in need. Through the years, the need has grown as the population makeup in Huntington has changed, and current volunteers (about 60) have seen an increased demand for its services. A note from CFC president Don Proferes to UUFH member Judie Gardner reported the following: People come to CFC from all aspects of our community-- those who have had a financial loss from job layoffs, illness or accidents, or unexpected household expenses; single parents with children; immigrants with uncertain work and no benefits; elderly on fixed income. CFC allows up to seven visits a year, but the majority don't exceed five. CFC is currently averaging 532 clients a month—65 percent adults, 30 percent children under 18, and 5 percent seniors (over 65). Food items presently most needed are canned fruit; canned meals such as beef stew, chili, or canned tuna, salmon, sardines, and chicken; and 1-2 lb. packages of rice. They do have a surplus of soups and pasta at present. Toiletries (such as bath soap, toilet paper, and toothpaste--not covered by food stamps) are always needed. Your continued, weekly support is very much appreciated. Our gratitude to Judie Gardner for blowing some much needed life into this UUFH initiative. *~Karen Mazzotta for Beyond Our Walls Committee*



NOT NECESSARILY SENIORS - Wednesday, June 1 - 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm UUFH Social Hall

Rev. Jude will join NNS at the June 1 meeting to lead a workshop on, "Spiritual

Timelines." It will be a chance to reflect on our spiritual journeys over our life and share the insights and experiences, the twists and turns that have led us to today. This meeting is open to all, so please join us in the Social Hall for a bag lunch from noon to 1 pm (coffee, tea and cookies available) and Rev. Jude's workshop, which will begin promptly at 1 pm right after lunch. ~ **Dorothy Burns**



LAST YOUTH NIGHT THIS YEAR! Wednesday, June 1

We will have a special fire pit closing worship complete with S'mores to end our year. Youth Night will resume in the fall. ~ **Starr Austin**



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:

New UUFH Website will officially launch - Saturday, June 4

Everyone on the email list will receive notification when the site is live, along with changes to how to post your Events and News & Announcements. We're excited to share it with you. The content has been updated based on what was submitted by our committees, but if you see any changes or corrections that need to be made, please email them to lizaburby@verizon.net.

Take note of the easy-to-find and use Events and News submission forms. Also, in order to update and streamline communications, the Fellowship Flash will be changing format starting in July, with easy-to-read condensed content with links to the Events Calendar and News & Announcements section. **Coming this fall:** The Beacon will be changing format starting in September to be more focused on articles, rather than events. Stay tuned for more information.

~ **Liza Burby, Communications Chair**

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 12, 2016 - 12:15 pm

UUFH Main Worship Hall

The second of our Annual Congregational Meetings for this year will be held on Sunday, June 12 at 12:15 in the Main Worship Hall. At this meeting we will be voting to fill a vacancy on the Endowment Committee being presented by the Nominating Committee. We will also be voting on the budget for next year and voting on the meeting minutes from the April 10 Congregational meeting. There will also be an update on the parking lot project. Bagels and coffee will be served. All members of UUFH are encouraged to attend. ~ **Kim Schultze, BOT Secretary**



Intergenerational Wildlife & 7th Principle Program

June 19 - 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

UUFH Main Hall

Please join us for 90 minutes of Inter-Generational friendship, fellowship and fun as we explore our 7th Principle, the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. There will be a live animal demonstration, a discussion about how our 7th Principle can lead us to embrace something larger than ourselves, and an arts and crafts project in the Social Hall for children and the young at heart. Children, youth and adults; all are welcome. Bring a friend! We look forward to seeing you there! - The REC Inter-Generational 7P Team - Lorraine-Bondi Goldsmith, Michael Goldsmith and Starr Austin. ~ **Starr Austin**



Intergenerational Beach Day! - Friday, June 24 - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

LOCATION: Robert Moses Field 5

Join us to kick-off summer with Long Island UUs! There is a playground for the younger kids We will have snacks and beach games. We welcome everyone to join us! Parking is free. The event is co-hosted by UUFH and

UU Connect. ~ **Starr Austin**

AA and Al-Anon at the Fellowship

UUFH-RE Room 7 (Upstairs)

Alcohol Anonymous meetings are held weekly at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington. These helpful community meetings are open to the general public. They are held on Fridays at 7:30 pm in RE7 (upstairs).

AL-ANON meetings are held weekly at the Unitarian Fellowship of Huntington. This is an 11th step which focuses on meditation and spirituality. The meetings are held on Sundays at 7:30PM in RE7 (upstairs) ~ **Susie Byrnes**

THE GREATER COMMUNITY



TRAIN TO ACCOMPANY IMMIGRANTS FACING DEPORTATION HEARINGS - Tuesday, June 14 - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

LOCATION: UU STONY BROOK

A surge of deportation raids targeting mothers and children who sought refuge in the U.S. from the violence in their homelands is gearing up next month by Federal ICE agents. Those accompanied by U.S. citizens to their hearings have better outcomes than those who are alone. Offer consolation and companionship and record what happens. Your presence lets judges and ICE know proceedings are being monitored for fairness. To find out more and register, contact LI Jobs with Justice: ksaget.lijwj@gmail.com or call **Kimberly Saget: 631-348-1170, ext. 317** ~ **Diana Weaving**



DISCOVERING ISLAM - Sunday, June 26 - 10:30 am - 11:30 am

UUFH WORSHIP HALL

WELCOME OUR GUEST FROM THE TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER AT SUNDAY SERVICE

Hakan Yesilova, editor of the *Fountain Magazine* - a publication of the Muslim diaspora, is a member of the TCC on Long Island who will speak to the Fellowship about Islam. As a speaker at Abraham's Table - an interfaith panel including leaders of Judaism and Christianity, Mr. Yesilova has described Islam's tenets and its history to a diverse audience. Stay after service for a chance to ask Mr. Yesilova questions and break bread in fellowship during this Ramadan season in the Social Hall. More details to follow. ~ **Diana Weaving**



FARMWORKER JUSTICE MARCHERS AT FELLOWSHIP

On the night of May 15, the UUFH hosted about 13 marchers on the first leg of their historic March for Farmworker Justice, an 18-day trek from Long Island to Albany in support of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. The march was coordinated by Rural & Migrant Ministry (RMM), a nonprofit working to advocate for and organize farmworkers throughout New York. The group works on the East End of Long Island and started the march in front of Senator John Flanagan's office in Smithtown on Sunday. The group walked eight miles to Brentwood that first day. They enjoyed a festive dinner at St. John's Episcopal Church in Huntington and then came to us for a good night's sleep (after showering at Diana Weaving's home).

Joanne Polichetti and UUFH youth packed bagged lunches and breakfast for the marchers and set

up cots in the social hall. Joanne and I served as overnight chaperones for the tired marchers, who were grateful to have a place to rest for the evening and prepare for another eight-mile trip the following day. RMM Executive Director Reverend Richard Witt, among our guests, thanked the UUFH for its hospitality and also thanked Unitarians for their monetary support. RMM is a grantee of the Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund; grantmaking funds provided by the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock to support social justice work on Long Island.

Farmworkers have historically been left out of state labor laws, and the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act would bring them the right to bargain collectively, a day of rest each week and overtime pay. For more information and to add your voice to support farmworker rights, go to <http://ruralmigrantministry.org>. ~ **Mary Beth Guyther**

Call Your State Senator For Passage Of The Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act

Carl L. Marcellino, dist. 5, 516-922-1811, marcelli@nysenate.gov

John J. Flanagan, dist. 2, 631- 361-2154



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ECO-LITERACY PROGRAM

LOCATION: Tri-CYA and Gateway Garden Huntington Station

Children from the Tri-Community & Youth Agency center in Huntington Station will engage in an eco-literacy/gardening program in July and August. Volunteers are needed to help the teacher both indoors at the center and at the garden, which is only a few minutes' walk from the center. The center serves disadvantaged children from the neighborhood. The children, from first to fifth graders, learn where food comes from, gardening basics, about good and bad insects, what plants need to grow, and eat food from the garden. Program is twice a week, probably Mondays and Thursdays, from 3 to 5 pm. Volunteers could participate once a week, and for only a few weeks. Please contact me at atfcw@franwhittelse.com or 631-271-1945 if you can help. ~ **Frances Whittelsey**



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016 – Columbus, OH - June 22

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 contact me at 631-897-1001 or Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com if you would like to attend.

~ **Kim Schultze, BOT Secretary**

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
Jennifer Thieke, President

Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon: July/August edition
By the first week of July**

**Beacon Deadline:
June 15, 2016**

**For Beacon submissions go to:
[www.uufh.org/e-publication-
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