

The

Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
March 2015 Vol. LVIII, No.9

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

March Theme: Doubt



March 1 "The Reverence of Doubt" Closing our last 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. As part of the kick-off for our Stewardship program, we'll look at the life-saving messages our faith tradition offers the world. Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano

March 8 "My Mind Stayed on Freedom"

We mark the 50th anniversary of the historic march in Selma, Alabama and honor the brave activists who worked for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The dream marches on. Join us. Choir singing

March 15 "UN Celebration Sunday"

In celebrating the United Nations, our Unitarian Universalist faith reinforces our commitment to our faith's Sixth Principle: *We covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.* Guest speaker: Bruce Knotts, Director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office.

March 22 "Rebirth and Renewal"

Vernal Equinox/Multigenerational Service, Rev. Jude preaching with Starr Austin; Choir singing

March 29 "Selma Revisited"

Following the 50th anniversary pilgrimage to Selma earlier this month, we'll reflect on the social justice needs of today. In a world of complexity and suffering, how does doubt help to show the way forward?" Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano

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

After a year and a half with our Fellowship, I've had the chance to meet and get to know many members of our congregation. Some I work with every week, and others I may only get to say hello to during coffee hour, or on the receiving line at the end of each Sunday service. I would like to encourage each of you, especially those who I haven't had the opportunity to speak with directly, to consider reaching out and scheduling a time to meet with me. Although my formal office hours are during the day on Mondays and Wednesdays, I do also meet with folks before evening committee meetings every week. I would love to hear from you, and to get to know you! What are your hopes for the Fellowship? What spiritual questions are you working through? Do you need some extra support right now, or are you looking for a new way to share your talents with the world? Please let me know. I can be reached by phone through our office, or you can email me directly at minister@uufh.org. I look forward to hearing from you soon!



~ Warmly, Rev. Jude



DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

THOUGHTS ON A THEME: Doubt

"Doubt everything. Find your own light."

— [Gautama Buddha](#)

Unitarian Universalism embraces doubt. We encourage questions. We teach our children to wonder and to ask why. I didn't grow up Unitarian Universalist and in the religion I was raised in it was not okay to doubt your faith, the church or God. Doubt was considered a sign that something was wrong with you. I learned quickly to keep my doubts to myself. When I found Unitarian Universalism I was shaking off a lot of attempted programming. I embraced doubting. I still do. It took me a few years to realize doubt and faith aren't actually opposites. Within Unitarian Universalism doubt is part of our faith, part of what leads us on our individual searches for truth and meaning in our lives. To have faith doesn't mean to be free of doubt. This month we will explore how doubt serves us in our faith and in our journeys, how it leads us to seek justice, and how it can actually work to build a sense of faith in our lives.

READ MORE on Religious Education below.

~ *In Faith*, Starr Austin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I attended General Assembly last June, one of the sessions I went to was "When Everything You Thought You Knew Isn't Enough." As I mentioned during the GA Sunday service in February, this session focused on what we as UUs thought were best practices for growth and how in this rapidly changing social landscape, that is no longer sufficient. The discussion centered on some intriguing concepts, such as the question: What three things if your congregation *stopped* doing them would contribute to its growth? In other words, what do we do as a congregation that gets in the way of our ability to pursue our mission? They also



asked us to find out: What are we known for around Huntington? What or who do we show up for? What generates the largest turnout from our congregation? What brings us the most joy or creates the loudest buzz, our sweet spot, so to speak? And when is our congregation most obviously UU? We were also asked to consider: Where are we called to serve? What are the three most exciting places in our community? What are the three places that break our hearts? Is our congregation present in these places and if not, why not?

This week you will receive the board’s “State of the Fellowship” letter, which celebrates all we have accomplished together, and also talks about the hard truths of how much it costs us financially to make that happen. On Sunday, March 1 we will have a Stewardship Luncheon at which we will discuss why we are called to be a congregation and why it matters to us all. And we will ask for your pledge of financial support. But as we do so, please think about the questions I posed above. Who we already are as a congregation and our potential are the source of great joy and promise. Let us continue to explore these ideas together. As always, feel free to contact me at 631-549-4483 or lizaburby@verizon.net

~ *Liza Burby*

VICE-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In keeping with the theme of giving back to the Fellowship, I would like to reflect on a wonderful experience I had recently that brightened my spirits during this long and snowy winter. I took advantage of a “Second Chance Auction” offering, whereby members of the Fellowship can purchase available spots at events that were originally offered at the Services Auction in November. I had the opportunity to participate in a “Paint the Town” party. Upon arrival at the party I got settled at an easel, where brushes and paint awaited me. I learned that many of the participants had already voted to paint a sunflower, a perfect contrast to the weather outside. I enjoyed painting the bright yellow and orange flower with white highlights on the petals, and hearing the laughter of amateur artists as we all attempted to create something approximating the sunflower. The laughter, creativity, and bright colors made thoughts of the ice and snow I navigated to get there melt away. I continue to enjoy those cheerful colors every time I enter the bathroom in my home where my very abstract sunflower is now prominently displayed. I encourage everyone to stay tuned to the Second Chance Auction postings for more opportunities to breathe good cheer into these long winter months.

~ *Jennifer Thieke*

NOTICE:

ADD YOUR EVENT or ANNOUNCEMENT						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

POST TO: The Flash, Beacon, Facebook, OOS & Web Calendar

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** if it is your first time submitting: <http://uufh.org/pdfs/NEW-UUFH-e-PUBLICATIONS-GUIDELINES.pdf>

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 & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK!!! - MARCH 8

Please gather after service Sunday, March 8 for a potluck lunch in the Social hall. It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones.

This event is possible only with your help. Please drop off your offerings in the kitchen before service. Ovens will be on to keep things hot. Please pick up your dish after the service and bring it to the serving table. Members of the Membership & Hospitality committee will be available to help. We ask everyone to chip in to help clean up as you are able.

Everyone is welcome even if you were not able to bring a dish. We always make sure there is extra!

Next 3 Potluck Dates: April 12, May 10, June 14

~ Royal Forest

SECOND CHANCE AUCTION - MARCH 14 - A Few spots available: March 14, 7pm



Enjoy live jazz music, wine and delicious hors d'oeuvres while mingling with your fellow competitors. Then be seated and get ready for a friendly, challenging and fun-filled evening of trivia! There will be general clever questions (and clever answers) as well as one special UUFH category! ..And oh, yes there will be silly prizes and one grand prize! \$15.00 email: uufhauction@gmail.com or Call Ralph at 631.499.6686 to purchase.



MARCH 15 - SEDER SIGN-UP BEGINS
Social Hall, Sundays after the service

Come to the UUFH ANNUAL PASSOVER SEDER
APRIL 4th - 6:00 P.M

and enjoy a delicious, traditional home-cooked Passover Dinner while we read and sing through our Unitarian Universalist

Haggadah. Watch our talented children & some courageous adults perform this year's UUFH Passover skit.

Limited seating. **No reservations taken after March 29th.**

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.

~ Harriet McKenna & Debbie Cohen

SPLIT PLATE CHARITY FOR MARCH is The “Every Child Is Our Child” Program



Did you know that more than 14 million children who live in Africa, that are under 15 years of age, have lost one or both parents to AIDS? Even more troubling, these children are slipping through the cracks — they remain largely unwanted, uneducated and at a very high risk of being infected by the virus themselves. There is no social welfare system and no safety net for these children regardless of what African nation they live in.

The Unitarian Universalist Association’s Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) through its “Every Child Is Our Child” Program (ECOC) is helping these children directly, whose goal and associated objectives are

to enable the children to reach their full potential by providing the opportunities to attend school and receive the medical attention they need.

As part of the UU-UNO mission, the ECOC Program focuses on universal primary education, fighting HIV/AIDS, reducing hunger and poverty and promoting gender equality. This effort is guided by the partnership that has been established with the Queen Mothers Association in the Manya Krobo region of Eastern Ghana. With your generous support, our UU-UNO efforts currently buy and ensure the distribution of school uniforms, supplies, books, shoes and other necessities, coupled with providing the means to give basic medical attention that these wonderful children require.

Together we can maintain and even expand our UU-UNO efforts to provide humanitarian aid, be an example “walking the talk,” and directly show those watching what can be done by an activist liberal faith community.

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

Click here for Application: <http://uufh.org/faith-in-action/beyond-our-walls-bow-major-philanthropy>

The Beyond Our Walls (BOW) Committee strongly encourages the SUBMISSION OF BOW GRANTS by the April 15 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

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 these names to submit your nominations: Kim Schultze (BOT Secretary) 631-897-1001, Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com; Sue McGovern (2014 Unsung Hero), 631-239-5638, smcgover@suffolk.lib.ny.us; Bob Bader (2014 Unsung Hero), 631-673-9130, baderbro@aol.com

~ *Kim Schultze (BOT Secretary)*

FEATURED EVENTS

NOTE: All scheduled Events for this month and future months can be viewed on the uufh.org Web Calendar <http://uufh.org/featured-events>

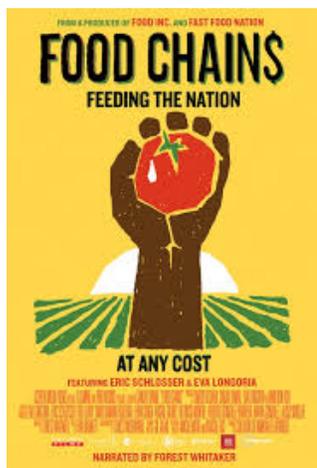
CHILDREN'S ART GALLERY RECEPTION

Sun., March 1 - 1 pm

There will be an art reception for the Children's Art Gallery. Please plan to attend and have dessert and view the art created by our children and youth.

An Art in Worship team is needed for upcoming multigenerational services. Do you like to create art? Would you be interested in being part of a team to bring visual art into our worship services for our upcoming multigenerational services on March 22 and April 5? Email me at dreuufh@gmail.com.

~ *Starr Austin - Director of Religious Education*



JTW Co-sponsored Screening of *FOOD CHAINS*

Sun., March 1 - 1:30 pm - 4 pm

Cinema Arts Centre 425 Park Avenue Huntington

MEET FILM MAKER SANJAY RAWAL AT JTW's

In this expose, an intrepid group of Florida farm workers battle to defeat the \$4 trillion global supermarket industry through their ingenious Fair Food Program, which partners with growers and retailers to improve toxic labor conditions for US farm workers. *Food Chains* reveals the human cost in our food supply and the complicity of large buyers of produce like supermarkets

and fast food operators. Executive producers Eva Longoria and Eric Schlosser expose this lack of corporate accountability to the unwitting consumer in order to ensure a dignified life for farm workers and a more humane, transparent food chain.

A panel discussion follows, featuring Nathan Berger of the Rural Migrant Ministry; Jeremy Cruz, a professor of theology and religion from St. John's University; Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster of T'ruah, a representative from the CIW Fair Food Alliance; Rosa Niave Kenny, a former migrant child field laborer now teaching in Brentwood with a Doctorate from Dowling College; and Anita Halasz (moderator), Executive Director of Long Island Jobs with Justice.

Join us for a post-panel reception with film maker Sanjay Rawal in the Sky Room where a delicious organic meal can be had before the screening as well. Partial proceeds raised will support the Fair Food Alliance and the Fair Food Program. CAC & UUFH members pay \$10 / public \$15.

~ *Diana Weaving*

NOT NECESSARILY SENIORS

Wed. March 4

UUFH Social Hall

WHAT A TREAT FOR NNS! Members of the Korean Bible Church Dancers (UMC), located in Dix Hills, will perform five different Korean folk dances for us at the March 4 meeting. Marcia Thompson will accompany the dancers with a description of each dance as it is performed. We will have our usual bag lunch (yours) with coffee, tea and cookies in the Social Hall from noon to 1 pm, immediately followed by the Korean folk dance performance. Everyone is welcome so please join us for this very special event.

~ *Dorothy Burns (NNS)*

THE GREATER COMMUNITY

Unitarian Universalists and the Lenten Season

For those who are not familiar with Lent, or familiar with it only as a traditional Christian practice, there are a growing number of Unitarian Universalists who are using this period of quiet time during the transition from winter to spring as one of reflection and renewal. This year many UUs around the country are participating in a practice focusing on one word per day that actively embodies our living faith, and invites you to meditate on it in whatever way inspires and motivates you. More information about this and other ways to observe Lent are in this 2015 Lenten Guide for UUs I created <http://uufh.org/pdfs/Lenten-Guide.pdf>.

~ *Starr Austin*

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

Congratulations to our 2015 Coming Of Age Participants, their families and their mentors!

This year we have 7 participants, and each month we will feature one of our youth for you to learn

more about them, and the Coming of Age Program. This month—meet Ben Sussman! Ben had this to say after attending our first Coming of Age session, “COA is the one thing that I have been looking forward to. It is nice to be able to learn more about myself and other people. I appreciate the opportunity to think about my religion and what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.”

Ben’s parents, Mary and David had this to say about Coming of Age, “The COA program offers an incredible intergenerational opportunity. Both the adult mentors and youth learn from each other. We have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to mentor several youth from our congregation. And now we have the pleasure of watching Ben go through this positive, self-affirming experience.’

The Coming of Age Program, sponsored by the Long Island Area Council of UU Congregations (LIAC) hosts the annual program for Long Island youth. In addition to our seven youth, there are two youth from each of the Stony Brook, Garden City and Freeport congregations—bringing the total class size to 13. This opens the doors to new ideas, new friendships, and lifetime bonds as our youth learn more about the UU community outside of Huntington. The LIAC COA Leaders are Joanne Polichetti, Patrick MacDevitt, Jim Hawkins from Freeport, and Nancy Hunter from Stonybrook.

The program meets for 5 very engaging Saturdays, one per month, that combine personal reflection, idea sharing, and a variety of learning methodologies to engage the spectrum of personalities and learning styles. Early evening programming combines role play and popular media to help the youth think through faith concepts and discover what it means to them to live a Unitarian Universalist life of faith. Coming of Age has two capstone experiences—our trip to Boston, where we learn how the birth of our nation and Unitarian history are intertwined; and our Recognition Service on Saturday, June 6 at 3:00. All are welcome to attend! Huntington Youth will also read their credo statements and be recognized by our community at Sunday service on June 7.

Stay Tuned: in the next Beacon, you will hear from two more Huntington youth about their experience in Coming of Age.

~ *Joanne Polichetti*



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Invitation to UUA’s General Assembly (GA) 2015
Wed., June 24, 2015 - Portland, Oregon**

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year GA is in Portland, Oregon, June 24-28. The theme for GA 2015 is “Building a New Way.” Most

events will be held in the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97232. UUFH can send 6 delegates and registration begins in March. More info on GA, registration costs and hotel/travel costs can be found at <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. Please contact me (UUFH BOT Secretary) at 631-897-1001 or <mailto:Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com> if you would like to attend. ~ *Kim Schultze*

Religious Education

Casting a Vision

Starr Austin
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Since arriving last August, I have been working closely with Rev. Jude and with the RE Council to improve communications, start small group ministry (Journey Groups) for adults, bring in some best practices for structure and documentation for the program, and to begin focusing on what we call "Full Week Faith" and expanding my role as director to focus on family ministries. I think we've been very successful. Now, we've reached the point in the year when I have to start mapping out what we want our programming to look like for next fall. This is where you come in.

I will be hosting small group meetings with parents and other groups in the congregation to talk about what impact we want our religious education ministry to have on our children, youth, and young adults. I want to know how we can make it easier for families to attend, what support they need, how to help bring our UU faith into our daily lives, and what kind of dynamic programming we can dream up together.

I don't believe this is a conversation only for parents or RE teachers. I need every voice in the congregation to help cast this vision. Who do we want our young people to be and to become? How will each of us take responsibility for shaping our young people as members of our community? So please, drop me an email or give me a call. I want to hear from you. I want to sit with you and create a vision together of the future of Unitarian Universalism.

JUNIOR CHOIR

I am starting to recruit a volunteer junior choir director for next year. Kate Keller is graduating this year and won't be able to direct our choir next year. If you have any interest in directing the junior choir and can play the piano please reach out to me. We can discuss the approach, schedule, and participation in worship as we craft a vision for next year's program.

Adult Religious Education

We value life-long learning, faith formation, and exploration. If you would like to participate in a team of lay leaders who help facilitate our adult religious education offerings, contact Starr at dre@uufh.org

Journey Groups

We offer small group ministry groups called Journey Groups for our members to explore our monthly theme. Why small groups? Small groups build intimacy, ultimacy, and growth. Intimate relationships are forged by meeting regularly with a small group of people you get to know in a deeply meaningful way, ultimacy through taking time to look at both the details and the larger picture of our monthly theme, and growth in spiritual development and Unitarian Universalist identity. Not in a Journey Group? Contact Starr to find out how you can join a group or help a new group to form.

Important Dates

Sunday March 1:

Parents: Stay for stewardship luncheon (11:30-1:00) and children's art reception (1:00-2:00) after service. Childcare is provided in the nursery until 1pm for infants, toddlers, and young children.

Children & Teens: We will dismiss class early and head to the social hall to play board games and eat lunch together. **BRING BOARD GAMES!**

Sunday March 8: Congregational Potluck after service. RE will dismiss early to attend.

Sunday March 22: Multigenerational Worship to celebrate the vernal equinox.

The Beacon

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109 Brown's Road
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Office Hours: Monday - Friday,
9:30 AM - 3:00PM

Tel.: 631-427-9547
Fax: 631-423-1504

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
Liza Burby, President

Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon:
Monday, March 30, 2015**

*** Beacon Deadline:
Monday, March 16, 2015**

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