



**The**

# **Beacon**

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister  
March 2016, Vol. LXI, No.3

## **UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES**

### **MARCH 2016**

**Monthly Theme: Liberation**

**March 6: "Just Mercy"** This service, in tandem with our Social Justice committee's year-long prison reform ministry, will look at the spiritual and ethical implications of our criminal justice system. What does "just mercy" mean? This is part of our UUA Common Read this year. This Sunday will also include New Member recognition. Rev. Jude preaching, Isabella on piano.



**March 13: "Remaining Engaged"** In the work of the spirit, and in the quest for a world free from oppression, how do we stay engaged without becoming burnt out by the struggles we face? Rev. Jude preaching, choir singing.

**March 20: "Freeing Yourself From Your Own Prisons"** What keeps us from moving, growing, learning, or loving? We may not even realize that we have built our own prisons. What resources do we have personally, spiritually, and in community to help us break free? Sunday Program Committee service, Isabella on piano.

**March 27: Easter Sunday - "Go and Tell Them"** Join us for our multigenerational family-friendly Easter service. Rev. Jude preaching, choir Singing.

*Any musicians who are interested in performing in a Sunday service, please email Richard Hyman, Music Director: [music@uufh.org](mailto:music@uufh.org). Thank you!*

## FROM THE MINISTER

Henry David Thoreau famously wrote, "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." Less famously, Thoreau's mother would regularly deliver him sandwiches while he lived deliberately in the woods. All this month, we will be reflecting on what it means to be a people of liberation.

Religiously, we often strive to do the work of justice building in our communities. This might be the greatest outward form of liberation ministry toward a society. Inwardly though, we don't always liberate the dusty corners of our spirits as we strive to make the outer world reflect our ideals.

This month, let's reflect on who is "making our sandwiches" as we live deliberately. When we become strident, who is keeping us real? When we raise ourselves up high, who is keeping us fed? As we move through our lives, where are we using our outward efforts to hide our own dusty corners? In March, we're leaving the winter quiet behind us, and move into a springtime that can also be one of the spirit. How will you live into it? ~ **Warmly, Rev. Jude**



## DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

What does it mean to be a people of liberation? In our congregations, we are a people of liberation. In our principles we promote the democratic process and the responsible search for truth and meaning in our lives. In our religious education program, our children and youth are encouraged to question. Rather than feed our children one specific theology, we equip them, and their families, with tools to develop a deeper faith and build a meaningful personal theology grounded in our UU identity and values. What does it mean to be a people of liberation in the world? What does it mean to intentionally align ourselves with the oppressed, the forgotten, the abandoned? I invite you to reflect on these words by activist Lilla Watson: "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that all of you are able to attend the volunteer fair on March 6. So many opportunities for meaningful volunteer work exist at the Fellowship. This month I want to thank some of the volunteers who provide invaluable parenting support to our family. Specifically, I am truly grateful for the Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Coming of Age (COA) volunteers. In our house, sexuality education is not our strongest suit. My husband was raised Catholic, not exactly the most open religion when it comes to sexuality education. Though I was raised Unitarian, OWL didn't exist and sexuality almost never came up as a topic of conversation. My husband and I would like to think we have progressed beyond the limitations of our own upbringings. We would be fine answering questions about sexuality, probably, but we are not great at initiating these important conversations with our children. The OWL volunteers bridge the gap for us. They have the conversation and help open up the possibility of conversation at home. I am also grateful to our COA volunteers for their work with faith development, UU identity and community building, among other things. I pointed out to my daughter who is currently in COA, what an amazing opportunity it is to have one person focus exclusively on her for her betterment, and someone who isn't under any obligation whatsoever. Some people never have that experience in a whole lifetime. To the volunteers who find it in their hearts to give of their time, experience and love, thank you. I urge all parents in the congregation to take advantage of these amazing programs when the time comes. ~ **Jennifer Thieke**

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Does living our values present a challenge? Many of us that attend the Fellowship are like-minded on most issues, so on Sundays it's easy to speak candidly and share our thoughts without much pushback or conflict. At the January 31 service, our guest speaker, the Rev. Karyn Carlo, reminded us of our UU heritage in regards to social justice issues and challenged us to consider if how we are currently living our values in the community is enough. I know it's something that I struggle with. It's not as easy out in the world, where business and personal relationships present a different environment. When does talk at the water cooler or on the commuter train turn to something other than sports or what was on TV last night? Do you share your honest feelings with co-workers or clients? What do you do when a childhood friend, with a very different viewpoint than yours, posts something online that you strongly disagree with or feel is offensive? Do you engage or start a discussion? Are you willing to take criticism in return, risk being "unfriended," or even receiving hate mail? How do we find a balance between our convictions and how we live during the week outside of the Fellowship and our homes? I'm curious as to how we all handle this. Let's start a dialogue. Email me or grab my elbow on Sunday and let me know how you navigate these tricky waters.

~ **Michael Amendola**

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! - Volunteer Fair in the Social Hall

**Sunday, March 6 - 11:45 am - 12:30 pm**

Are you looking for a way to become more involved at the Fellowship? If so, please come to our Volunteer Fair on March 6 immediately following the service in the Social Hall. There will be representatives from our many committees to answer questions and to help you find a volunteer opportunity that aligns with your passion, interests, and talents. There is something for everyone. We hope to see you there. ~ **Michael Amendola**

### UUFH T-Shirt Design Contest



GET READY! GET SET! - for the first UUFH T-shirt design contest in more than 20 years. All ages welcome to enter. Pick up entry forms at the Development Committee table after services. The shirt will need to have a design on the front and another on the back. The contest will be judged, and the winning design will be printed on our new UUFH T-shirts later this spring. Enter as many times as you like before April 3. Shirts will be available for purchase in both kid and adult sizes later this spring. Start sketching your ideas today. ~ **Judie Gardner**

### How Old Is the Beacon?

It's funny how sometimes you can look at something and simply not see it, which is why many issues of our newsletter, the Beacon, have been published without any of us noticing that our volume number in the logo hasn't changed in a few years. I knew just who could answer the mystery of how old our Beacon is: our archivists Mary Jane Wochinger and Lois Ann Sepez. They gamely headed into the archives and discovered that the first Beacon we have in our "Oldest Documents" file is "Vol. I, #1 on Sept. 6, 1955. Mary Jane said that a cursory glance disclosed that the volume numbers since then do not appear to be strictly chronological. And so, by the power invested in me as an editor, let it be stated that henceforth we will all pay attention to our volume numbers. From this point on, we will change the volume number every January, and the number of the issue will simply follow what has been published so far this year. Sure there are bigger problems to worry about, but isn't it nice when they're easy to solve? Thank you, Mary Jane and Lois Ann. ~ **Liza Burby, Communications Liaison**

## The Security Team - Looking for a Few Good UUs

We are looking for a few good people to join our brand new UUF Security Team. In order to ensure the safety of the congregation, the Security Team was established by our Safe Congregation Policy, which was enacted by the Board of Trustees in 2015. Now we need to find volunteers to step up to the challenge. The idea is to have a team of volunteers in place at all services and special events to provide security. The security team will be trained to interact with a disruptive individual and/or intruders, assist in medical situations, take the lead during a fire, weather-related and other emergencies, and act as a liaison to emergency responders.

In addition to security purposes, the security team will assist the DRE and the REC in informing religious educators when the service is ending, in locating parents during a service, and helping with parking at services and special events. If anyone is interested in serving as a "Red Shirt," (and you don't have to wear a red shirt, and it will be a lot safer than being a "Red Shirt" on Star Trek), please contact me. ~ **Michael Goldsmith, Safe Congregation Chair**



### **SORRY IF YOU MISSED IT!**

We're sorry you missed the February 28th Annual Fellowship Luncheon with the theme: "Watch Our Garden Grow." It was a wonderful event and a chance to make your pledge for the 2016-'17 year. We can't do anything about your missing the superb lunch, entertainment and fun, but we still need you to make your pledge for the coming year. You will be contacted soon about pledging and we hope you will be as generous as possible so our UUFH can grow "Inch by Inch, Row by Row."

Stay tuned. ~ **Canvass Committee, Jan Brenner, Joan Caly, Renee McGloin and Sue McGovern**

## Unsung Hero Nominations Needed

Every year the UUFH tries to honor and thank members who go above and beyond to continually do jobs or provide services here. The tradition dates back to June 20, 1993, when 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 rarely 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 me at 631-897-1001 or [Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com](mailto:Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com) to submit your nominations.

~ **Kim Schultze, BOT secretary**

## SPLIT THE PLATE CHARITY FOR MARCH 2016 IS: UUFH's own GROW TO GIVE GARDEN

The G2GG grows nutritionally sound, organically grown food for the needy. The G2GG is located on our property, was created by, and is run by our UUFH members. We've contributed food to the local food bank for the past two years. We have attainable plans to increase both the planting area and efficiency of our garden so we can Grow to Give even more. We need your help, both in the split plate basket and volunteering. Visit our info table set up in the social hall all month. ~ **Ralph Talierno**



### **March Gallery Exhibit - March 1 – 31** **Reception: Sunday, March 6, UUFH Gallery**

The March Gallery will exhibit artwork by our children and youth on the theme of liberation. Please join us after service Sunday, March 6 for a reception to celebrate these youngest artists. ~ **Starr Austin**

## **NOT NECESSARILY SENIORS - Wed., March 2 - Noon - 3 pm, Social Hall**

On Wednesday, March 2 NNS will have a planning meeting. Please come with ideas for topics to be explored or local trips for when the weather is warmer. As usual, we will lunch from noon to 1 pm and the planning session will start shortly thereafter. Everyone is welcome, so bring a bag lunch and join us from noon to 1 pm then stay for the planning session. Coffee, tea and cookies will be available.

~ **Dorothy Burns**



## **K/1 OWL Parent Orientation - Sunday, March 6 - 12:15 pm - 2 pm** **5/6 OWL Parent Orientation - Sunday, March 13 - 12:15 pm - 2 pm** **RE 8 Upstairs**

Parents of kindergarten and first graders, we're hosting our required parent orientation for our K/1 OWL program. OWL, Our Whole Lives, is comprehensive sexuality education taught throughout the lifespan in developmentally appropriate ways. All parents and guardians of OWL participants must attend this orientation.

Please RSVP to [dre@uufh.org](mailto:dre@uufh.org) and indicate if you need childcare for your children. ~ **Starr Austin**



## **New Member Ceremony, Sunday, March 6**

Have you recently joined the Fellowship? Or, perhaps you are now ready to join. We will have a new member ceremony in our worship service on Sunday, March 6. We want to formally welcome you into membership in our congregation. Please email me at [dre@uufh.org](mailto:dre@uufh.org) to confirm your participation or for more information. ~ **Starr Austin**

## **Just Mercy Common Read, Parts 2- 3: Sun., March 6 - Noon - 1:30 pm**

### **Room RE 7 - Room at the Top**

We have once again rescheduled (from Feb. 14 to March 6) the final Common Read discussion of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. All are welcome, even if you didn't attend the other discussions.

~ **Christine Pisani**



## **Sources Supper - March 12 - 6 pm - 8 pm**

### **Main Hall**

The 2016 UUFH Sources Supper - in an ALL NEW FORMAT! Now in our fourth consecutive year (fifth in total), we are excited to once again come together to remember the stories of our Unitarian Universalist heritage and explore how those values are relevant in our faith today.

The event has been fully redesigned, moving away from the shared script, to lively storytelling through skits and song - allowing us more time for discovery through conversation and shared activities.

As we remember the important roots of our history, we will connect the relevancy to six important values we cherish today: freedom, tolerance, reason, spirit, love and grace. And with the special involvement of our Coming of Age middle and high school youth, we will together explore our personal and collective journeys. Please join us in this very special celebration deepening and broadening our connections with Unitarian Universalist heritage.

Full dinner is provided, including soft drinks and dessert. Alcohol is BYOB, only. Suggested donation \$5 per person; max \$15 per family. Please RSVP to the office, or on Sundays in the Social Hall. This is an event for all ages. We sincerely hope to see everyone there! ~ **The Sources Supper Team**  
~ **Michael Goldsmith, Susan Rizack, Starr Austin, Lisa Moskowitz, and Ralph Talierno**

## SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK! MARCH 13

Gather after service in the Social Hall to enjoy a meal together while meeting new people and reconnecting with old friends. Bring a dish to share. Please bring food to the kitchen and help bring it out to the serving table after service. Extra food will be available. so everyone is welcome. Help is always welcome. Come at 10 am for set up or after you eat, come lend a hand in the kitchen for clean up. Future Potluck Dates (Every Second Sunday through June): April 10, May 8, June 12. Questions email me at, [rforest@gmail.com](mailto:rforest@gmail.com) ~ **Royal Forest**

## UUFH FUNDRAISERS



### SECOND CHANCE SERVICES AUCTION

**18th Annual Poker Party at UUFH - Sat., March 5 - 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

#### Social Hall

Join us for the poker party of the year. There's a beginners' table for those a bit rusty or new to the game. Games of your choice. Chips a nickel, dime and quarter. There will be delicious snacks, including pigs in a blanket, refreshing beverages, dessert and coffee. Lots of laughs, good fun and camaraderie guaranteed. Please call Liz

Koehn at 549-9397 ~ **Elizabeth Koehn**



### SECOND CHANCE SERVICES AUCTION

**Sun., March 6 - 7 pm - 9 pm**

**Location: Paint the Town Studio, Green St. Huntington**

Join us for Paint the Town Night 2016. For those who missed it last year and asked if we'd do it again, here it is; your chance to paint on a big canvas. Join us as at the Paint the Town Studio in Huntington as we have an evening of painting, wine/beer and laughter. Easy instructions are given, yet we all come out with different paintings. All are BEAUTIFUL. We'll be painting "Monet's Bridge." BTW- anyone with real artistic talent must paint blindfolded and with their non-dominant hand. Bring your friends and co-workers so we fill the studio. **Cost is \$45; check made out to UUFH.** Email [aiolander@gmail.com](mailto:aiolander@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. Check out: [www.paintthetownstudio.com](http://www.paintthetownstudio.com) ~ **Elisa Fante, Amy Olander, Peggy Koulias**



### LAST LICKS CAFE presents: THE FAUXTONES

**Sat., March 26 - 7:30 pm**

(Open mic starts 7:30 followed by main act)

The Fauxtones consists of our very own, Emmett Hughes, guitar and vocals; and Michael Amendola, sax; Mike Nugent, guitar and vocals; Cliff Hackford, drums; and Dave Noyes, bass. Playing an eclectic mix of rock, reggae, Motown, jazz and blues. Not to be missed. **Admission \$15 (\$10 Seniors/Students)** ~ **Jack DeMasi**



## UUFH COMMITTEES - SAVE THE DATES FOR MARCH & APRIL



### Committee on Ministry Forum

**Sun., March 13 Noon - 1 pm & Wed., April 20, 11 am**

#### Main Hall

Committee on Ministry (COM) is committed to supporting our congregation's health and

well-being as we journey forward into this New Year. We are a committee of six who continue to work on issues relative to the health of our ministry together. To that end, we would like to hear from you. In order to facilitate communication, we have created a Committee on Ministry (COM) e-mail address. Please feel free to reach out to us through that e-mail. It is [uufhcom@gmail.com](mailto:uufhcom@gmail.com)

Additionally, we will be hosting two forums. These will be an opportunity for you to meet with us in a small group. You may have questions, concerns, and positive feedback you would like to share.

**The first forum will be on Sunday March 13 at noon.** This is our potluck Sunday. Please prepare a plate and meet with us in the Worship Hall. **The second forum will be on Wednesday, April 20 at 11 am.** This is before a Not Necessarily Seniors (NNS) meeting, so please come join us in the board room before the meeting begins at noon. As always, you can feel free to reach out to any of us through personal e-mails and telephone. We look forward to hearing from you. ~ ***In Fellowship, Bob Bader, Andy Feigin, Dave Schulman, Mary Sussman, Carlene Tockman & Nikki Willard***

### **Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting April 10, 12:15 pm**

#### **UUFH Main Hall**

The first of our Annual congregational meetings for this year will be held on Sunday, April 10 at 12:15 in the Main Worship Hall. At this meeting we will vote to elect officers, fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry and the Endowment committee. At this meeting we will also vote to elect the candidates for the Nominating Committee for the succeeding year and approve the minutes of the last congregational meeting in June of 2015. There will also be an update on the parking lot and the budget. Other business may be addressed by the Board of Trustees or may be brought up by a member from the floor. Bagels and coffee will be served. All members of UUFH are encouraged to attend. ~ ***Kim Schultze, BOT Secretary***



### **SAVE THE DATE - OUR ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP PASSOVER SEDER DINNER - APRIL 23, 6pm**

#### **UUFH Main Hall**

Look for a sign-up table on Sundays in the Social Hall beginning April 3. ~ ***Harriet McKenna & Debbie Cohen***

## **THE GREATER COMMUNITY**



### **Free Organic Vegetable Gardening Workshop Sunday, March 12 - 10:00 am - noon**

**LOCATION: St. Hugh of Lincoln Learning Center,  
Route 110 & 9th St., Huntington Station**

For new and experienced vegetable gardeners of all ages, including everyone who helps with the UUFH Grow-to-Give Garden or wants to start their own garden, learn how to reduce weeding, watering, fertilization; plus which vegetables are easiest to grow. Presenters: organic farming experts Larry Foglia and Heather Forest of Fox Hollow Farm in South Huntington. ~ ***Frances Whittelsey***



#### **UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016 - Columbus OH - June 22, 2016**

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](http://www.uua.org/ga). contact me at 631-897-1001 or [Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com](mailto:Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com) if you would like to attend. ~ ***Kim Schultze, BOT Secretary***

**The Beacon**

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For For For

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Starr Austin, Director of Religious Education  
Richard Hyman, Music Director  
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Jennifer Thieke, President

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**Next Beacon:  
By the first week of April**

**Beacon Deadline:  
March 15, 2016**

**For Beacon submissions go to:  
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