



The Beacon

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

WWW.UUFH.ORG

March 2017, Vol. LXII, No. 3



SUNDAY SERVICES

MARCH THEME: RISK

March 5 "Love and Loss" As the Christian world enters the season of Lent, we will reflect on what choices we make that open our spirits through vulnerability. Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano.



March 12 "Caught Between Two Worlds" Each of us lives with our feet in multiple worlds. How do we stay true to ourselves when being true means more than one thing? What do we risk with each choice? This sermon topic was "won" by Cathi Zillmann through our annual Services Auction. Rev. Jude preaching; choir singing.

** Second Sunday Potluck follows the service. Bring an item to share.*

March 19 "The Recklessness of Spring" As a new season is fast approaching, what lessons does the natural world teach us about risk in our lives? Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano.

March 26 "Adulthood" Aging and growing up are a series of risks that define a life. Rev. Jude preaching; choir singing.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Sunday Services
- Fellowship Life Columns
- Living Our Values

* SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK MARCH 12 - AFTER THE SERVICE



"SPLIT THE PLATE" MARCH



Lexington School & Center for the Deaf
[FIND OUT MORE>>](#)

SHOPPING FOR THE FELLOWSHIP



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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Sometimes communities with the best of intentions aim for perfection, and the quest for “perfect” can make it harder for us to do well. We all have issues and concerns we feel deeply, and may also be worthy and valuable and needed, and we can’t prioritize everything to be #1. Sometimes in community, we can get into disagreements or even arguments over equally worthy matters. Doing something well, but not “just right,” becomes cause for a sense of failure. When we get lost in judging the people around us, far too often it ends with hurt feelings. We miss the point of the spiritual communal dream: not to judge each individual action, but to see the broader picture and build the beloved community piece-by-piece, mistake-by-mistake, hope-by-hope.

I say all this because I don’t want to see our committed leaders – all also volunteers – burn out. And if you help in any of the thousand things our Fellowship does to help our corner of the world, then I’m speaking to you right now about burn-out. And if you’re about to start helping in the thousand things, remember this as you begin your life-saving work. There is so much the world needs of us and we cannot do it all. We have to pick and choose. But even if we could do it all – if we had super-human powers for social justice – we would still not all agree on the right way to do every one of the thousand things – even the things we each 100 percent agree needed to be done. We’re a community of roughly 250 adults and roughly 75 children and youth. When was the last time everyone agreed on something at your own dinner table, let alone the last family reunion? But we can project onto our much larger community unrealistic expectations of walking lock-step with one another, and that only leads to disappointment – and heartbreak.

When we’re more focused on the barriers others have built, or when we find ourselves judging those around us without owning our own parts, religious community calls us back. As Annie Dillard said: “I am frayed and nibbled...I am not washed and beautiful, in control of a shining world in which everything fits...but instead am wandering awed about on a splintered wreck I’ve come to care for...”. ~ *Warmly, Rev. Jude*

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education with our children and youth has been exciting these past few months with our art program stretching through January and February in preparation for our gallery showing this month. The program was a lively multigenerational event; connecting adults and children around a shared love of art. As we move into spring, our partnership will be with adult gardeners in the congregation. As spring approaches, I am turning my attention to Adult Religious Education. I hope to put together an ARE committee this spring who will help shape the vision and mission of our adult programs. If you have an interest in this work, please contact me. ~ *Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the beginning of the new year you might have noticed that we've had several forums and workshops. These include a New Members Orientation, COM Forum, Committee Chairperson's Forum and the Stewardship Luncheon to kick off the annual canvass. Thank you to the many volunteers and members who made these events successful. These efforts represent a coordination of some of the goals of the Long-Range Planning Committee with the Board of Trustees, Stewardship, Membership, the Committee on Ministry, as well as other committees throughout the Fellowship. LRP was re-established in July 2016 and submitted a plan to the Board of Trustees last December, which includes goals for growth and sustainability. As we realize that growth is everyone's responsibility, this has been an area of focus and concerted energy within the leadership of several committees. The Board is hopeful that these coordinated efforts will produce a result in the coming years that reduces the strain on our budget.

Additionally, the Board is looking forward to reading the yellow survey sheets collected by the Stewardship Committee, which will help us identify areas within the Fellowship in which our members would like us to focus our resources. If you haven't filled one out and would like to, please see me or someone on the Stewardship Committee. We want to know your thoughts. The Board is committed to making well-informed and responsible decisions to secure the health and sustainability of the Fellowship and information such as this is helpful in moving forward not only with this year's budget, but also toward planning for the long term.

~ *Michael Amendola*

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week, I somehow overlooked two separate emails, each important and requiring a response. I had glanced at each quickly but failed to flag them or even take mental note of them, and they slipped quickly down to the depths of my inbox, buried in a nonstop avalanche of emails. Don't get me wrong, I love email, and in general it is my preferred method of communication. But I receive way too many emails, and I know I'm not alone. All of our staff members are inundated with email, as are many, if not all, of our active volunteers. I am pointing a finger, yes, but all my other fingers are pointing right back at me because I know that I too have been guilty of contributing to this problem, and now I'm going on the record to say that I'm going to try to change my ways, starting today.

Here are my personal email resolutions: 1. *I will avoid the use of "reply all" unless every single person in the "To" line really needs to see this email.* Enough said? Keeping everyone "in the loop" all the time was a nice goal before we all had hundreds of unread emails in our inboxes. 2. *I will consider picking up the phone instead.* Sounds crazy, right? And yet, sometimes a quick phone call to the right person can solve a problem or answer a question faster than an email blast to a dozen people. 3. *I will wait 20 minutes before hitting "send."* There are a few reasons for this. The most important, for me, is that I almost always think of something else I want to say right after I hit send. Rather than add to the email traffic by sending multiple follow-up emails, I'm going to wait a bit before hitting "send." This is also a good rule to follow when responding to an email that makes me feel defensive or irritated. I think we all know that tone is easy to misinterpret in emails and texts. Sometimes I have an immediate defensive reaction, which turns out to be unwarranted (or perhaps it is warranted, but a defensive reaction won't help matters). In all our interactions, sometimes it's good to pause and consider before responding. I've come to believe this is especially true of email. Thoughts or comments? Let's talk in person next Sunday! ~ **Elisa Fante**

TREASURER AND FINANCE MESSAGE

By now, you should have received a statement from the UUFH on the contributions you have made the past year. This is a perfect opportunity to give my heartiest thanks to Jennifer Sappell, as she has been the one doing much of the work on our systems behind the scenes in getting those statements out, as well as volunteering to be the point person for answering questions that may arise from that. If you have not received it, or do have questions, please reach out to her at connie.uufh@gmail.com or 516-492-6064.

We are actively looking for anyone who has an interest to inquire about joining the Finance team. I fear that people feel they may need to be an "expert" in finance, and that is not the case. While it would help, if you are able to do what was done back in the stone-age and balance a checkbook, we can use you (and that is not a prerequisite). Not to worry; you won't have to do that. The main thing is as long as you are not intimidated by doing that, you have the aptitude to help in a number of ways. Please reach out as we are looking for additional and new faces to join.

As mentioned last month, we (the Finance team) will start on the 2017-'18 budget at Jean Marra's home at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, March 8. From there we will pick dates to follow that the majority of the team can attend. To set expectations, there will *not* be a lot that will be done to craft the new budget, but is more of a look at where we are, and get a feel of our situation and any challenges, and have a broad discussion. For people outside the Finance team that wish to attend, please either email me at: bdarcohen@hotmail.com or call my home at 631-261-6139. If you would like to attend, but just can't attend that one, please let me know that, as the next meetings will be shortly thereafter, and will not make future editions of the Beacon.

There is a Budget & Finance forum on May 21, currently scheduled at 11:45 (may be pushed back to accommodate teachers to attend). As well as reviewing the proposed budget, we can also discuss questions and/or concerns on your mind as to financial matters regarding the UUFH. Even if you do not have specific questions or concerns, and want to give suggestions, or just listen, you are more than welcome to attend. Thank you all. ~ **Brian Cohen, Treasurer**

UUFH 2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

We, the Nominating Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, are pleased to present nominees for the Board of Trustees. Voting for these positions will take place on April 23, at the first of our two annual Congregational Meetings. The positions begin July 1. We have sought a balance of age, gender, amount of time as members, along with an appreciation of each person's strengths, as well as our need to integrate newcomers into the life of our Fellowship.

For the Board of Trustees, we nominate:

- **Vice-president, Karen Mazzotta**
- **Treasurer, Jean Marra**

- **Trustee, Peter Montemurro**
- **Secretary, Brigitte Zimmer**

Below are the biographies for each of the nominees. We recognize we are still are working on filling positions on Committee on Ministry, Endowment and our own Nominating Committee, and these nominations will not meet the six-week notification required in the Bylaws. But our committee is doing its best to notify the congregation in a timely fashion.~**Respectfully submitted by Judie Gardner, Chair, Gwen McHugh, Lisa Moskowitz, Amy Olander and Barbara Yanuck**

Karen Mazzotta- VP Nominee

With a lifelong curiosity about spirituality (I even minored in theology in college), the Fellowship was recommended to me by a friend. It was the religious home I was always seeking. My husband, Tom and I, both raised Catholics, raised our boys Luke and Paul UUs here from toddlerhood. Some of their fondest life memories are of Sophia Fahs Camp and Unirondack where they landed life-long friends, as well as the Renaissance Faire. Tom often captained Sir Galahad's Grille while I focused on Faire event publicity—though I was known to bun many a bratwurst. He and I taught religious education classes for more than 10 years. I also served a stint on the ministerial relations committee for the RE director. I am a former English teacher who moved on to magazine communications and publicity after a strike. I spent many years holding board positions on the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education. Today, I have a boutique communications practice. Recently, I've been serving on the Beyond Our Walls Committee, the last two as chair. I have also been supporting our Communications team, mostly in the area of social media, driven by the need to let the community (heck, the world) know who we are, that we exist and have so much to offer. I am honored to take on a greater role in service to the Fellowship's good.

JEAN MARRA-Treasurer Nominee

I began attending services at the UUFH in the spring of 2001 at the invitation of a friend and long-time UUFH member. That first Sunday morning, I knew I had found my spiritual home, something I had never felt during my years faithfully attending Catholic mass each week. After being a friend for many years I finally signed the book with Rev. Paul in 2009. Gardening is one of my loves and I joined Joyce Williams and Don Knight as a garden keeper and do my best to maintain the annual Sunflower Garden in memory of Alfred Roy Carey, my dear partner.

I served the Fellowship as your Treasurer from July of 2013 through June of 2016 and feel honored to be asked to serve once again in that capacity. We find ourselves in difficult financial times together with many other faith communities and I will do my very best to assist the Board of Trustees and the Congregation in navigating this "Ship" we all love so well.

Peter Montemurro - Trustee Nominee

I have been involved in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington for a little over three years. It all began with the choir, which embraced me from the start and gave me a place to sing! Thank you, choir friends and Richard Hyman, our fantastic director, for making me feel so welcomed. As my involvement in the UUFH grew over the course of the last three years the Fellowship became an important part of my life in so many ways. I attended the weekly services and got to know more of the members, helped out at Last Licks and participated in the annual Service Auctions. I felt the positive energy and support of so many wonderful people and I also learned about, and developed a deep appreciation for, the Fellowship's mission and values.

I officially became a member about a year ago, and most recently I have had the opportunity to serve on the Fellowship's Long-Range Planning Committee. In the past I have served on the boards of two other not-for-profit organizations: a psychiatric rehabilitation agency called Venture House, where I was previously employed as the manager of the agency's Transitional Employment Program, and a local community theater group called The Little People's Theater. In addition to working in vocational rehabilitation, I have conducted training seminars in communications and management for a small Organization Development consulting firm and for the past 20 years I have been the General Manager of an aviation company at Republic Airport in Farmingdale.

I have been a resident of Huntington for 18 years and love our community with its tradition of tolerance and its abundance of art and music. I believe the UUFH is an important part of our larger community and that it can play a vital role in promoting and preserving our most cherished values in the years to come. I am honored to have been nominated to the UUFH Board of Trustees and look forward to working with the Board and membership to preserve and grow our wonderful Fellowship as we live and promote our UU values and principles.

Brigitte Zimmer- Board of Trustee's Secretary

In 1967 I came to the US from Germany. The first year I spent in Washington, DC, then moved to Queens, later to Long Beach and eventually settled in Huntington. Always interested in humanism, I joined the UUFH in May 2008, where I was glad to find like-

mindful friends. At the end of that year, I retired from my career as a graphic designer, which gave me more time and opportunities to participate in religious education programs and volunteering at the Fellowship. My volunteer activities have included doing graphic design work on the Adult Religious Education program guide from 2010 to 2012, as well as other printed projects; helping out at HIHI, the ServicesAuction and the flower sale; serving as an usher and, for two years, as the scribe to the Board of Trustees. I have a bachelor's degree in fine art and a master's degree in social work. I cherish UU values and principles and would consider it an honor to serve as secretary to the Board of Trustees.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REMINDER ABOUT MISSION- AND/OR VISION-RELATED PROJECTS

At the Board liaison-chair meeting on Feb. 5, the Long-range Planning (LRP) Committee presented our plans to date for the rest of this Fellowship year. We talked about the fact that as the world faces many challenges, the UUFH can be a beacon of hope to those seeking a safe and welcoming place to come together. By sharing our Mission, Vision and Principles we can make a difference and thrive as a congregation. And we asked all committees to be a part of that plan by:

- (1) Intentionally envisioning, investigating, implementing and promoting *one new Mission- and/or Vision-related project* no later **than March 15**. If you need more time to implement your plan, a status report is fine.
- (2) Finding ways to work with other committees; and
- (3) Asking that your committee has membership materials available at all events that draw from the community, and when possible;
- (4) Mentioning who we are as a congregation at all events that draw from the community.

Whether or not you attended the meeting, by now you should have been contacted by your Board liaison with this information. In your committee work, you should already be envisioning, investigating, implementing and promoting one new Mission- and/or Vision-related project. Below is your LRP contact if you have questions of us before March 15. You can email or call us. We'll have a celebration Sunday service in May to highlight what each committee has done to promote growth.

Our Home Cluster: BOT liaison, Cathi Zillmann; LRP rep, Sue McGovern

Infrastructure Cluster: BOT liaison, Jennifer Thieke, LRP rep, Liza Burby

Ministry Cluster: BOT liaison, Elisa Fante, LRP reps, Gerald Moss and Peter Montemurro

Faith in Action Cluster: BOT liaison, Peggy Koulias, LRP rep, Diana Weaving

Resources Cluster: BOT liaison, Brian Cohen, LRP rep, Susan Peters

Personnel Cluster: BOT liaison, Judy Greene, LRP rep, Frank Towne

~ Liza Burby, chair, Sue McGovern, Peter Montemurro, Gerald Moss, Susan Peters, Frank Towne and Diana Weaving

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING BEHIND THE SCENES - A REPORT FROM CASTLE CARE

In case you are new to the Fellowship, there is a committee called "Castle Care," which helps with ongoing, everyday maintenance of our Fellowship building. Replacing light bulbs, hanging storms and/or screens, putting in and taking out AC units seasonally, straightening the pantry, kitchen cabinets and coat room, checking emergency lights monthly, solving minor plumbing issues – these are just a few of the on-going jobs that need to be done.

The past two months have been busy. New door closers were installed on the new kitchen door and the outside door near the family room; new thermostats were installed in the social hall and foyer; repairs done on the outside apartment door; there's a new towel dispenser in lavatory by RE wing and mapping of electrical panels, plus our usual day-to-day incidental repairs, such as a repair to a broken toilet paper holder, wheels replaced on the book stall, some spackling and sanding, just to name a few.

Larger issues, such as recommending major expenditures like new windows, repairs to the heating system, and painting are also part of the committee's job, along with the input from our administrator, Susie Byrnes, who oversees so much of what we have to hire professionals to do.

We need more help. Members knowledgeable in any area and those who have no expertise but who are willing helpers, please let the office know that you are available, even on your own hours, to help out. But, we do meet at the Fellowship every second Saturday in the morning to tackle some of the jobs that are "doable" by volunteers.

NOTICE: Our March 11 and April 8 Second Saturday maintenance are cancelled due to conflicts in scheduling. We will be meeting March 25 instead. Hope to see you then. *~ Susan Peters*

GETTING TO KNOW US - LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP AND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

You are invited to get to know us better through two sessions designed to introduce newcomers to Unitarian Universalism (UU) and the Fellowship here in Huntington. These sessions will give newcomers and new members an understanding of who UUs are today and where we have been throughout our long and rich history as a denomination and faith tradition. This provides an avenue for deeper involvement with the denomination and with the UUFH. You will have the opportunity to interact with our Minister Rev. Jude Geiger and our Director of Religious Education Starr Austin.

The first session, PART I, will be held Sunday, March 5 from noon to 2 pm in the Main Hall at the UUFH. It will be led by Jude and the Membership Committee. Join us as we explore the individual spiritual journeys that have brought each of us here today and take a look at the principles and sources that form the foundation of our faith. This session will give you both a deeper understanding of our theological roots as well as a sense for our future. Please RSVP to krheinemann@gmail.com or 631-385-3121 or email or call the Fellowship at office@uufh.org or 631-427-9547. Childcare is available for all sessions, but please give us advance notice the week before. ~ *Kristina Heinemann*

UNSUNG HERO NOMINATIONS NEEDED

We need your nominations for those Unsung Heroes at UUFH. The UUFH Unsung Hero Award was initiated in 1993. The Board made these selections until 1996 when a Volunteer Recognition Committee was formed to solicit ideas from the congregation and then suggest names to the Board. Since 1999, this committee has included the Unsung Hero Award recipients from the past year, along with the Secretary of the Board. This year's Volunteer Recognition Committee is Marilyn Kopp-Hecker and Ann Scolnick as our 2016 Unsung Heroes and Kim Schultze as BOT Secretary. The committee's task is to request nominations for the award from the congregation. The award is presented annually to two UUFHers who spend countless hours at tasks that few people know about. The awards are presented at the Celebration Sunday in June. Please contact either Marilyn Kopp-Hecker, 631-427-4898, mjkopp@optonline.net, Ann Scolnick, 631-549-8581 annbern23@verizon.net or Kim Schultze, 631-897-1001, kim.schultze@cbmoves.com with your 2017 Unsung Hero nominations.

FEELING A GENTLE WIND IN OUR SAILS



The UUFH Stewardship Committee is happy to report that so far we have received 85 pledges totaling \$202,826 in response to our Appreciation Luncheon held on Jan. 29. This gentle wind in our sails is encouraging and exciting. However, to get the SS Fellowship fully under sail, with a sound budget and clear sense of direction and purpose, we need to receive feedback and funding from all of our Members and Friends.

Our Appreciation Luncheon was a thank you for all you give to our Fellowship: your time, commitment and money, as well as an opportunity to socialize, learn, grow and enjoy one another's company. The Stewardship Committee appreciates ALL that you do, but now we must focus on gathering pledges. The Fellowship can't realize our dreams and reach our goals without *your* pledge. **Pledges equal future income: money that is counted on as real, anticipated income** when our Budget Committee meets. Your financial pledges are the true "wind in our sails," the power that moves us forward to meet our needs as individuals and as a congregation.

So, if you haven't already done so, please send in your pledge by March 15. Forms are available from the office or the Committee. You can also email your pledge to: uufhcanvass2017@gmail.com. Please state the amount and whether it is a one-, two- or three-year pledge. Any questions call Sue McGovern at 631-239-5638 or email her at suemcgovern45@gmail.com. For the Fellowship to continue to be the extraordinary liberal religious home we love, we must all actively contribute. PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE by March 15. Thank you for your support. ~ *Your Stewardship Committee: Jan Brenner, Joan Caly, Renee McGloin, Sue McGovern*

COMMUNICATING ABOUT THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

You may already be aware that our Communications team, which includes communications specialist Bridgette Nicolini, me, Carol Towne and Karen Mazzotta, as well as Rev. Jude, handles all the internal communications, like the Flash, Beacon, eblasts, flyers and posters, and also all external communications, like social media, publicity, press releases and working with media contacts. It takes countless hours to promote all the many activities taking place at the UUFH. But we know that getting all the information to us can sometimes be confusing. Most of what you need to know is here: <http://www.uufh.org/posting-guidelines>. We're also in the process of adding to that line all the steps you need to know about publicizing your events. Meanwhile, Carol Towne is available to help members who want some guidance on submitting info, and Bridgette is always available via email or phone. We do our best to communicate all you need to know about communications, but it's an ever-changing system. ~ *Liza Burby, chair*

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR FEBRUARY ~ RISK

RESIST STANDING UP AND RISK SITTING DOWN

*“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”
- Winston Churchill*

Winston Churchill’s words are indeed a celebration of the “quieter” acts of courage. Yes, the more assertive risks get most of the attention: speaking up, defending, pushing back, and demanding your voice be heard. And yet, sometimes that instinct to “let them have it” isn’t the brave thing to do; it’s just the easiest. Sometimes speaking up is simply a way to avoid courageously listening to the other side. Sometimes putting yourself on the line to “change them” is just a sneaky way to avoid them changing us. Or a tragic missed opportunity to grow. Yes, we should urge each other to “bravely keep going” and “courageously take control.” Yet, there are also times when what’s most needed is the risk of letting go of control and just sitting with unknowing.

And so, maybe a bit more space it needed. Maybe it would do us some good to make some room for a “spiritual time out” before we leap into the louder acts of bravery. Maybe it’s good to risk “letting a little more in” before we “let them have it.”

And so, here’s what this spiritual assignment invites us to do: **Find three opportunities to “sit down and listen” when your first instinct is to “stand up and speak.”**

LIVING OUR VALUES



GARDENING TOGETHER

RE is excited to announce a partnership with our Grow to Give Garden team to create a multigenerational program this spring. Our garden helps us live into our Seventh Principle, respect for the interdependent web of which we are a part, and our Second Principle, justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. *Gardening Together* will include spiritual practice, food justice education, multigenerational connections in the Fellowship, and opportunities for families to learn and work together. Gardening Together connects us to our first source: direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life; and our second source: spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions that celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. ~ *Starr Austin*

JOIN US IN THE GROW TO GIVE GARDEN

Just around the corner: the arrival of spring. Warmer temperatures and longer days signal the beginning of the growing season. Time for us to start planning the UUFH Grow to Give Garden (G2GG). During the 2016 growing season, we grew and donated close to 800 lbs. of organic vegetables and herbs to two local food banks. Last spring we expanded the garden (built three raised beds) and erected a deer fence around the perimeter. This season we aim to raise and donate 1,000 lbs. of organic vegetables...perhaps even more than that. There is a huge need for fresh healthy food in our community.

It doesn’t matter if you are an experienced gardener or a gardening greenhorn. It doesn’t matter if you are young or old: 20, 80 or 8. If you are curious and want to contribute to the garden **in any way**, we welcome you. Not all tasks require physical stamina. Once the garden beds are prepared for planting, we need folks who like to plant, folks who like to weed and folks to harvest and deliver what we grow. We’re in search of a G2GG photographer...someone who will take pictures and post them beginning in March (when we prepare the garden for planting), through November (when we put the garden to bed for the winter). And, we are always grateful if you wish to donate money for expendables, such as compost, stakes, seeds and plants.

In just a few weeks, weather permitting, many LI gardeners will begin the gardening season by planting peas on (or close to) St. Patrick’s Day: March 17 which is a special gardening tradition. So it is time for us to start... If we work together to clean up the G2GG garden the first two Sundays in March, we’ll be ready to plant peas on Sunday, March 19. To get the ball rolling, I invite interested UU’s to meet in the UUFH board room on Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 pm to share ideas and to organize for the 2017 season. Please mark your calendars... and join in as your schedule allows:

March 2 : organizational meeting UUFH BOARD ROOM 7:30 - 9pm

March 5: clean up in the G2GG noon-1:30 pm

March 12: prep in the G2GG noon- 1:30 pm

March 19: plant peas noon- 1:30 pm

~ **Beth Feldman**- growtogivegarden@gmail.com - Note: please send me your email if you want to receive G2GG emails.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONVOCATION



In February I was fortunate enough to attend and present a workshop at the UU IWC's conference in Pacific Grove, Calif. This was a special opportunity for me to meet UU women from all over the country and from many countries of the world: India, Philippines, Transylvania, France, New Zealand, Poland and more. We enjoyed spiritual sustenance, stimulating presentations by experts from many disciplines, wonderful music, including Emma's Revolution, and visions of the Pacific Ocean through rain and wind. We gathered in "global sisters" groups in chosen areas of concentration: education, leadership development, economic opportunity, health and reproduction rights and violence prevention. I chose education, of course. One of the highlights was meeting and listening to Bell Hooks, a prolific author, thinker, educator, feminist who inspired and challenged us to think about "mutuality" and the power of love in new contexts. I look forward to future events and to maybe see some of my new friends at GA. For more information, feel free to contact me. I hope each of you will have an opportunity to get involved in our worldwide UU activities. The UU UNO will present "Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet, will be **April 6-8, 2017** in New York City". ~ **Helen Boxwill**

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association. This year it's being held June 21-25 in New Orleans. More info on GA can be found at www.uua.org/ga. **Registration opens March 1st, and local hotels often fill up within 1-2 days!** Now is the time to book your hotel. If you're going and would like to represent our Fellowship as a delegate to the business meeting, please contact our Board Secretary, Kim Schultz at [631-897-1001](tel:631-897-1001) or Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com. Rev. Jude will also be going to General Assembly.

SPLIT-THE-PLATE CHARITY FOR MARCH - LEXINGTON SCHOOL & CENTER FOR THE DEAF: HERBERT F. VOIGT II SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The Lexington School and Center for the Deaf, founded in 1865, is the largest school for deaf students in New York state. Serving children in the metropolitan NYC area and NJ, ages infant to 21, it is unique among schools for the deaf in its use of an innovative teaching model called "mediated learning experience" (MLE). MLE stresses the importance of the adult "mediator" in the child's learning and provides teacher and parent training based on this theoretical framework. Founded on three core values (empower, achieve, lead), the school prepares its students to continue on to college, vocational education, job training, or a placement that will support them to live a responsible, full, productive life. Each year, the Lexington School awards scholarships to top seniors in various disciplines ranging from the humanities to science. This month's split-plate collection will be earmarked for the Herbert F. Voigt II Award, dedicated to helping a student go to college and fulfill his/her dream of becoming an engineer or scientist. Teacher Karen Voigt-Gonzalez will join us March 5 to share more details about the school's important work. We hope you'll give generously. ~ **Karen Mazzotta for Beyond Our Walls Committee**

**** A SPECIAL THANKS FROM DORIS ****

I wish to thank Judie Gardner and her staff: Bea Coryell, Peggy Koulias and Michael Sussman for their kind services extended to me during my recovery. I'm sending a donation to the Fellowship in gratitude to the Care/Share Committee. I'm also extending a special thank you to Marilyn Kopp-Hecker, Bill Hecker, Alice Link, Brigitte Zimmer and Kim Kayal. ~ **Doris Lessuck**



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST "COMMON READ"

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep meaningful conversation.

The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016) has been chosen as the 2016-'17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that now is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call. *The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground

our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

We encourage everyone to join in the UUA common read this year. We will have two book discussions in late March and early April. You can pick up a copy of the book at the UUFH bookstall. ~ **Starr Austin**



ADULT SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Join us for a small group discussion on our theme this month. You will find the short essay and question prompts on our website. Small groups are a great way to get to know other Fellowship members better and continue your own faith formation and religious education. Feel free to join any of the groups below by emailing Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, at dre@uufh.org. We meet the second Wednesday of the month from 1pm - 2:30pm

in the board room and the first and third Sundays of the month from noon – 1:30pm in the board room. ~ **Starr Austin**



COME SEE OUR YOUNG ARTISTS AT THE R.E. ART RECEPTION

Please join us after service on March 5 in the gallery for an art reception celebrating our children and youth. Our art program this winter included meeting adult artists in our congregation, learning about art as a spiritual practice, exploring different mediums, and learning about mandalas, Henry Matisse and Jackson Pollack. Children and youth created works of art at home

and brought them to the Fellowship for our annual show. The reception on March 5 is a great way to get to know more of our children and youth. ~ **Starr Austin**



STONE SOUP & UU THEOLOGY: A MULTIGENERATIONAL NIGHT OF FUN

Join us Friday, March 10 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Main Hall for a multigenerational night of fun, worship and religious education. Bring a pot of soup to share for this Stone Soup Supper. We will be exploring the five smooth stones of religious liberalism together while enjoying food, fun and fellowship. Come learn more about UU theology! Registration is NOT required, but we'd love to know you are coming and what soup you are bringing. Email Lisa Lo Piano Moskowitz at lmoskowitz@gmail.com and let her know.

UU PALS - DID YOU EVER HAVE A PEN PAL?

Please join the REC Council in this new (or renewed for UUFH old timers) program to match youth and adults of all ages so that we, as a congregation, can make connections, learn more about each other and support intergenerational community. In this program, children and youth are matched to a mystery UU adult pal in the congregation. Each week, letters are dropped off in the UU Pal's mailbox. The identity of the adult UU pal is a mystery (parents know) until the event ends with a potluck celebration to meet your UU pal. Anyone is eligible to participate as long as you:

- are age 4 or older
- can commit to delivering letters for 4 weeks; March 26, April 2, 9, and 16 and attend a potluck celebration and BIG REVEAL on April 30.

This is a fun way to connect with an adult or youngster. Many UU Fellowships look forward to this as their annual event and we at the REC Council look forward to hearing your feedback! Look for the registration table in the social hall on March 5 or contact Carla Carlyon for more information: ccarlyon@msn.com.



SERVICES AUCTION SECOND CHANCE: PAINT NIGHT FUNDRAISER- FLOWERPOTS

Help us encourage the arrival of spring with this Second Chance Auction event on March 12 at 7 pm. Join us for Paint the Flower flowerpots at Paint the Town Studio in Huntington. It will be an evening of laughs, drinks and painting. Our instructor will give us directions so we can make two 5 ¼-inch flowerpots to bring home. The cost is \$40. Space is available, so sign up and bring some friends. Non-UUFHer's are welcome. A picture of our chosen design will be available soon. Let's fill the place and make this another great fundraiser! Call or email Amy to sign up 631-258-7911, Aiolander@gmail.com ~ **Amy Olander, Peggy**

Koulias and Elisa Fante

LIAC ANNUAL SPRING DINNER WITH FREE AFTERNOON WORKSHOP

The Long Island Area Council of Unitarian Universalist Congregations (LIAC) serves as a catalyst to promote denominational awareness and effectiveness through communication, leadership and educational programs. LIAC invites all UUs to join the annual dinner on Saturday, April 8 at 6 pm. In addition, there's a free afternoon workshop from 2-5 pm, followed by a cocktail hour from

5-6 pm. The workshop, "Fashioning a Congregational Cluster," will be led by Linda Anderson. This lively interactive and fun three-hour workshop will set the theological, as well as the practical foundation, for strengthening the connections between the 11 congregations in the Long Island Cluster. Through presentation, small group work, roundtable discussion and interactive and entertaining activities, participants will begin to define their congregational strengths and explore ways that congregations will discover together that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The 6 pm dinner costs \$20 per person in advance (payment must be received in advance) or \$25 at the door and \$10 for students. The keynote speaker at the dinner is Claire Deroche. She'll speak about "Creating Compassionate and Humane Communities."

The workshop and dinner will be held at the Veatch House of the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock located at 48 Shelter Rock Rd. in Manhasset. Please R.S.V.P. by April 1. Checks payable to: LIAC, memo line: Spring Dinner. Send payments to: Gretta Johnson-Sally (LIAC Financial Secretary), 5 Reydon Place, Commack, NY 11725. For additional information, contact Gretta, gjsdre@hotmail.com. Learn more about LIAC at www.liacuu.org.

**CALL FOR BOW
GRANT APPLICATIONS
DEADLINE 4.15.17**

CALL FOR "BEYOND OUR WALLS" GRANT APPLICATIONS

Do you have a charitable cause dear to your heart? The UUFH Beyond Our Walls (BOW) committee has been tasked by the congregation to distribute funds for charitable causes through our annual grant program. Based on a percentage of UUFH pledges received for the year, we have \$2,757 to consider for distribution. To download a grant application, please go to the UUFH website link:

<http://www.uufh.org/faith-in-action/in-the-community/beyond-our-walls-grant-program/>. Then email the application to BOW@uufh.org by April 15. If you recently submitted a Sunday Split Plate application, it is not necessary to re-submit for this grant. We will be considering all financial requests at this time. Last year, we were able to provide funds to the Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center, the Huntington Housing Coalition, Guitars for Vets, a Meditation & Butterfly Garden for a Women's Shelter created by a Girl Scout Troop, and even the UUFH Parking Lot Fund. Thanks in advance for your wonderful ideas to do good in the world. ~ **Karen Mazzotta, Chair, Beyond Our Walls Committee**

The Beacon

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
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Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon: March edition
By the first week of April.**

Beacon Deadline for submissions: March 15, 2017

See New Guidelines for Beacon Submissions.

<http://www.uufh.org/new-guidelines-for-uufh-publications>