

The

Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
May 2016, Vol. LXI, No.5

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

MAY 2016

Monthly Theme: Blessings

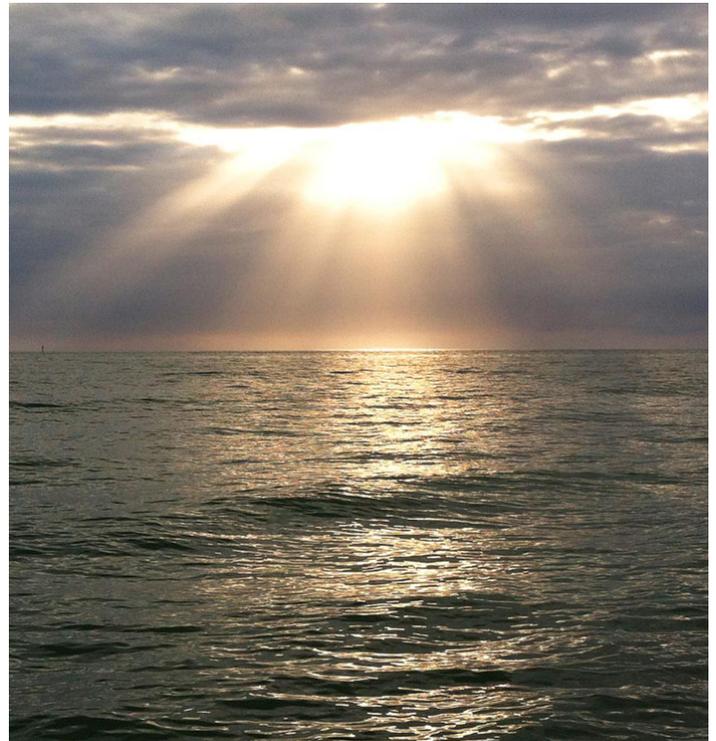
May 1 - "Choir Sunday: Many Windows, One Light" We each respond in a unique way to the experiences of life, and we each forge a personal path in the search for what is true. In that light, the choir will perform choral pieces that demonstrate how composers' individual viewpoints lead them to interpret the same words in diverse ways.

May 8 - "Mothers' Day" This national holiday is one full of joy for many, and one that is full of more challenge than Hallmark cards will ever allow for. This service will honor our mothers while making space for the range of feelings we share. This multigenerational service will be engaging for all ages. Rev. Jude; Isabella on piano

May 15 - "Bridging Sunday" We celebrate our senior high youth graduating from Sunday school and transitioning from youth into adulthood. Join us for this family-friendly service, and hear from our Bridging Youth! This multigenerational service will be engaging for all ages. Rev. Jude; choir singing

May 22 - "What We Can Learn From Catholicism" This sermon topic was selected by Maria P. Nielsen, who purchased a topic of her choice at the Services Auction. Rev. Jude; Isabella on piano

May 29 - "Necessary Discomfort" If we are to be a people of blessing in our world we must work to fix broken systems, to eradicate oppression of marginalized people, to eliminate racism. If we are to do these things, we must be willing to sit in our discomfort. Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, preaching; Isabella on piano



FROM THE MINISTER

Happy May everyone! We made it out of long winter and into another season of warmth and light! I know when I finally was able to step outside after two weeks recovering from dual-foot surgery, I was so grateful for spring to finally have arrived. When we're going for a long pace through difficulty, when things finally change, they can feel so miraculous.



In our Fellowship life, spring also means a time of celebrations. Two of our biggest annual rites of passage happen in May and June for our youth. In May, we celebrate our graduating high school youth who are finishing Sunday school and becoming adults. They help lead worship on a special "Bridging" Sunday. It's a powerful service that often requires extra Kleenex boxes in the Main Hall. Join us on May 15 for a service that celebrates 18 years in the making. Our Coming of Age youth will celebrate graduating from childhood into youth group in early June, after a long program focused on helping them prepare for the challenges that teenage years offer. Both of these services signify some the best of Unitarian Universalism. ~ **Warmly, Rev. Jude**

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

"Today I wake up empty and frightened. Don't go to the door of the study and read a book. Instead, take down the dulcimer; let the beauty of what you love be what you do. There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground; there are a thousand ways to go home again." – Rumi



Being a people of blessing sounds nice, doesn't it? Blessing makes me think of prayers, child dedications, candle lighting and aromatic oils. The ritual of blessing can feel overwhelmingly important. Some of us shy away from providing blessings because we don't feel special enough to do so. Rumi writes there are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground. I think this kiss is blessing. Blessing can begin with gratitude: gratitude for life, for community, for breath. We begin each week taking a breath together, centering ourselves in this shared community to worship with one another. In this simple act, we ready ourselves to be a people of blessing. We are each capable of blessing the world with our gifts and our work.

Our religious educators in the congregation, volunteer teachers, youth advisers and council members, provide blessing through their work with the children and youth. Our Social Justice Committee helps equip us through education and action to best live our values in the world. They bless us with their leadership so that we may bless the world in which we all live. The choir sings and their voices lift blessing into the air, moving through our hearts. The hospitality team puts the food in the oven and then on the table to make sure there is always enough for our potlucks. They brew coffee each week to make room for conversation and welcome of newcomers, blessing us by creating space and comfort. Our youth lead worship for one another, learn how to provide pastoral care at cons, and lead discussions together about creating change in the world. They bless the community by stepping into leadership and providing care for one another.

They model for us what it looks like when we each live into our covenant with one another. This month we will explore what it means to be a people of blessing. May we each we have gifts to offer. ~ **In Faith, Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month for Mother's Day, I would like to recognize all the women in our Fellowship who engage in mothering in any way, to anyone. Mothering skills are often undervalued in our money- and status-driven society. Mothers provide hours of unpaid volunteer work, every bit as challenging and varied as paid employment, often without recognition. The anxiety that moms face can be enormous: Will my daughter pass this class? Will he make friends? Will he or she be safe? The mothering skills that are learned through trial and error, heartbreak and joy, and the passing down of tradition, are so varied that they are difficult to list. I hope my attempt to list them will help moms to appreciate how much you do without giving it a second thought. Moms have many roles: coach, therapist, cook, cleaning woman, health care manager, nurse, advocate, camp counselor, supervisor, event planner, hostess, chauffeur, travel agent, shopper, handy woman, teacher, mediator, fashion consultant... and the list goes on. Not only do children benefit from mothers. Parenting gives rise to habitual nurturing and putting others' needs ahead of our own that seeps out into all our relationships and into society. For all of the expertise, hours of labor, love and sacrifice that women expend in the care of others, I want to wholeheartedly wish all the mothers in our fellowship a Happy Mothers' Day!

~ Jennifer Thieke

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to thank all the members who attended our first Congregational Meeting on April 10. It's great to see the thought and caring in regards to our Fellowship and the input from member comments and ideas is very much appreciated. For those who were unable to attend I can tell you that we had a productive meeting in that we successfully elected new members to the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry, and the Nominating Committee. Congratulations to those new members and thank you for offering your time and effort moving forward. We also were led on a brief tour on the big screen of the new website by Bridgette Nicolini, and past-president Liza Burby gave us an update on the many twists and turns encountered as we continue to proceed toward the realization of a new parking lot. Our Treasurer Jean Marra and Finance chair Brian Cohen presented an overview of our current financial situation and the status of our budget. They will know more as the process for the 2016-'17 budget moves on and will be able to address specific issues at the Budget and Finance Forum scheduled for May 15 at noon in the Main Hall. If you are interested in any issues regarding these topics I encourage you to attend as this meeting is set aside specifically for Budget and Finance information.

With all the "business" aspects that we encounter during the spring it's easy to overlook the activities and actions taking place at our Fellowship that reflect our values within the local community and outward. I can't list them all, but I'm thinking of the work by the Social Justice Committee and our youth towards the Black Lives Matter banner; the efforts by many weeding and organizing the Grow To Give Garden (G2G) in preparation for planting; hosting the Farmworker Justice March to Albany; seeing some of our members Stand on the Side of Love at a memorial and social justice protest in Patchogue'; also things like the Split Plate Charity work we do; the Plant Sale; our fundraising efforts with the Keep Pluggin' Video Game Event; consistent gatherings by groups like Not Necessarily Seniors. And not in the least I'm reminded that our RE Youth are involved in service and social justice projects and that several of them are in the midst of their spiritual COA journeys, taking a trip to Boston, and culminating at their Recognition at the UU Fellowship in Stony Brook on June 4. There's a lot going on and our commitment towards the Fellowship helps to facilitate the many things that we think are worthwhile and worth doing, perhaps the reason that many of us are here.

~ Michael Amendola



Bake Sale Fundraiser for Water.org - Sunday, May 1 - Noon - 2 pm Social Hall After Service

This sale is being held to raise money for Water.org, which helps to give people access to clean water who do not have it. A lack of clean water is a devastating problem throughout the world, and by donating money to this organization we can help those who need it most. Donations of baked goods are also greatly appreciated. Contact Jenny or Catherine Halpern. This is one

of Jenny's COA projects.



SPLIT THE PLATE CHARITY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY: BI-COUNTY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

An annual, one-day event, the only one of its kind on Long Island, the Bi-County Empowerment Conference is

voluntarily run by professional individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness, openly living in recovery and trained to use their life experiences in the system to support their community. For those who have felt isolated and stigmatized, it brings the relief of connection with those with similar life experiences, a focus on empowerment, wellness, hope and creating a life worth living. The conference features a keynote speaker who shares an inspirational story of recovery, educational workshops, as well as a luncheon and some entertainment (e.g., a drumming circle or jazz quartet).

Split Plate funds will go towards scholarships for attendees (most are Medicaid users who may not have the \$40 per head to attend) and transportation (conference organizers are attempting to rent a bus to open up the day to more people). Please give as generously as you are able. ~ ***UUFH Beyond Our Walls Committee***



New UUFH Website Launch

The new website will go live this month! Everyone on the email list will receive notification when the site is live. 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. ~ ***Liza Burby, Communications Chair***

Budget and Finance Forum – Sunday, May 15, noon

The Board of Trustees is holding a Budget and Finance Forum on Sunday, May 15 at noon in the Main Hall. Join the Board, treasurer and members of the Finance Committee for an update, forum and discussion about our current financial situation and proposed operating budget for 2016-'17. Members of the Endowment Committee will also be present. We encourage all members who are interested to attend as we will address any questions or issues in regards to finances.

~ ***Michael Amendola, Vice-president***

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 12, 2016 - 12:15 pm 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 in 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 and update on the parking lot project. Bagels and coffee will be served. All members of UUFH are encouraged to attend. ~ **Kim Schultze, BOT Secretary**

UUFH FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS



Fellowship Fair Trade Coffee for Sale Social Hall

The delicious coffee served every Sunday is now available for purchase in the Social Hall on Sundays. \$10 a pound. ~ **Lynn Cryer**



SPRING 2016 PLANT SALE - May 14 - 11 am - 3 pm

Order deadline for annuals and perennials: May 1.

Pickup of annuals and perennials: Saturday May 14 – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the patio outside the Social Hall.

Pickup of hanging baskets: Sunday, May 1, before and after Services

You can place your annual and hanging basket orders after services in the social hall or:

[Click here to download 10" hanging basket order form.](#)

[Click here for 10" hanging basket flyer with more details](#)

[Click here to download 2016 Plant Order Form.](#)

For more information, contact: Debbie Cohen: bdarcohen@hotmail.com or 631-261-6139 and Jean Marra: wheeski2@optonline.net or 631-673-3287. ~ **Jean Marra & Debbie Cohen**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SOCIAL JUSTICE NEEDS YOUR HELP

May, 15 - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Main Hall and Huntington Venue

200-MILE FARMWORKER JUSTICE MARCH TO ALBANY KICKOFF ON LONG ISLAND

We'll need bagged meal preppers after Sunday service to make breakfast and lunch.

There will be a BBQ with music, farmworker stories, thank yous to Senator Marcellino for supporting the Farmworker Fair Practices and Labor Act.

Rally support is needed in the form of resident turnout, thank you signs, corporate sponsorship in the form of donated food and/or money to help defray the 200-mile, 10-day walk up to Albany.

We'll be hosting the 20 or so core marchers overnight a la HIHI program in our Main Hall. Volunteers are needed for cot set-up, break-down, overnight chaperoning, laundry drop-off. Go to:

www.ruralmigrantministry.org/farmworker-march for details. ~ **Diana Weaving**



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.

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

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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:
By the first week of June**

**Beacon Deadline:
May 15, 2016**

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