



The Beacon

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

WWW.UUFH.ORG

November 2016, Vol. LXI, No. 11



SUNDAY SERVICES

Monthly Theme: Story

November 6 "All Souls' Day" Our annual service honoring those who have died in the past year. All are invited to bring in photos of those we wish to remember and honor. Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano

November 13 "People of Story" This Sunday some of us will be at our first annual Fellowship Retreat in eastern Long Island and some of us will worship together at the Fellowship itself as usual. Rev. Jude and Starr Austin will be crafting a matching worship service for both groups. At the Fellowship, lay leaders will read their words and the choir will sing; while Rev. Jude and Starr lead worship at the Retreat. *Note: There is no religious education program today due to our congregational retreat. Children up through age 4 are welcome in the nursery. We invite families to worship together in the Main Hall.*

Second Sunday Potluck Follows the service.

November 20 "Hunger Communion" Our annual service ritual acknowledging the struggle millions face with hunger in our world. Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano
And later that evening

At 7:30pm, the 45th Huntington Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held here at our Fellowship.

November 27" Reframing Our Story" How can we shape the narrative of who we are to bring forward the best in us while still honoring whatever scars and hard truths we carry? Starr Austin, preaching; choir singing.

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SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK NOV. 13 - AFTER THE SERVICE



"SPLIT THE PLATE" NOVEMBER



**HiHi
Huntington Interfaith
Homeless Initiative**
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SHOPPING FOR THE FELLOWSHIP



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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



This month marks the 45th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Our Fellowship will be hosting it this year on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 7:30pm. We are known in the wider town for showing up in great numbers to this multi-faith gathering, and I hope we will continue that tradition this year, as we're the hosts! As the wider national landscape is challenged with strong negative reactions toward interfaith work, our Fellowship continues to commit to religious pluralism and good faith dialogue. Our music director Richard Hyman is leading the collaboration of music with at least two local cantors. This looks to be our first, major wider-community event we will be hosting following the completion of our parking lot!

~ *Warmly, Rev. Jude*

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

What's the Story in RE?

Religious Education (RE) is a vibrant and large ministry. The children and youth programming alone is enough to require over 20 volunteers just to accomplish the basics! The adult programs require another 10 volunteers. We shine as a congregation when we all take part in some small way in RE.



I hope you have joined a small group ministry to meet monthly and discuss our theme of the month, are taking part in one of our many spiritual practice programs (everything from meditation to poetry), or are planning to sign up for the adult coming of age classes Rev. Jude and I are co-leading beginning this December. To enroll, please email me at dre@uufh.org.

In our children and youth ministries, we need one more adult willing to be a con adviser. This involves sleeping on church floors for one weekend a year.

I'm also looking for someone interested in serving on the RE Council holding the young adult ministry portfolio. We have several students in college and with the technology at our fingertips, our thematic ministry, and our college box program there is room for us to reach out and make sure we stay connected to our young adults over their years in college. Is that person you? Email me if interested.

The story in RE is we always need help, because what we do is so important. We walk alongside families in these challenging times; help instill a sense of UU faith identity; ask our adults to keep seeking and growing in faith; provide support for families; provide sex education grounded in our religious values; talk about hard stuff; and learn to live fully into our covenant and our values. We are stretching, growing, transforming and this work stretches, grows and transforms us. Join us. It will change your life – for the good. ~ *In Faith, Starr Austin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the things we do best as a congregation is acting with a sense of community. Whether you have visited someone sick at home or in the hospital, offered a word of sympathy, sent a thoughtful card, purchased items for a Fellowship event, helped a member with a chore, hosted a meeting at your home, stopped by the office to drop off an important item, given somebody's child a ride to or from a RE or LIAC activity, babysat for someone while they attended to a personal family matter, were a last-minute volunteer to assist in a RE class, or simply brought a dish to share at Potluck, all of these deeds do not go unnoticed and are truly appreciated. I'd like to offer a thank you to everyone for all of these actions and more on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire Fellowship.

If you are a member in need of anything, please know that all you have to do is make us aware or ask for assistance. The support is available and members are always willing to help. ~ *Michael Amendola*

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many years ago, when I was new to UUFH, I joined a committee. The committee was concerned with a subject matter in which I had an interest. I hoped to be useful, to "make a difference," as people like to say. After a couple of meetings, I felt confused and discouraged. I had understood the committee to have a specific goal, but it seemed that this was not the case. In fact, it was not clear to me that the committee had any particular goal. The committee seemed to be simply a discussion group, usually dominated by one or two people who had a great many things to say--things that often seemed to have little or nothing to do with the purported purpose of the committee. The committee drifted along in this way and I drifted away. I declined most

subsequent invitations to join committees.

Discussion groups are awesome (if you would like to join one, talk to Starr!), but most of our committees have goals beyond discussion. If you're serving on a committee and asking yourself, "What is this committee supposed to be doing, anyway?" something has gone wrong. Each committee should have a charter, and each committee member should be familiar with that charter. Each committee should ideally also have a covenant that governs how its members will conduct themselves and interact with each other. If you're serving on a committee (or leading a committee) and believe that the committee has gone astray, please speak up. Talk to your fellow committee members about your concerns, and feel free to reach out to the Board. The Board is decidedly not here to micromanage the work of committees, but we can help if a particular committee is stuck, adrift, in conflict or seeking clarification and guidance. Each committee has a Board liaison--if you don't know who yours is, send me an email. Let's each do our part to contribute to the happy, healthy, well-functioning committees that are absolutely vital to the life and success of our congregation. ~ **Elisa Fante**

TREASURER AND FINANCE NEWS

NOVEMBER 6 –UUFH BUDGET & FINANCE FORUM

Please join us in the Main Hall at 11:45 am Nov. 6 for a UUFH Budget & Finance Forum. At that time we will be able to present how we finished the 2015-'16 Fiscal Year (our Fiscal Year ends June 30), as well as how this Fiscal Year, 2016-'17, has started. (We should have final numbers on the first quarter, which runs from July 1 -September 30.)

As well as having an overview, 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.

UUFH BEQUEST REMINDER

We here still and will forever miss the presence of long-time members who have passed. End-of-life planning is not always a welcome subject for any of us. We need to make plans for our immediate family and our extended family. Won't you consider following the examples of many passed members and include the UUFH in your estate planning?

If you would like information on doing so, please contact Brian Cohen, Treasurer, or Jennifer Sappell and/or Susan Peters for ways to do just that. ~ **Brian Cohen, Treasurer and Jean Marra, Finance Chair**

HOLIDAY SHOPPING TO BENEFIT THE FELLOWSHIP

As you do your online holiday shopping this year, you can help the Fellowship by logging on to our website www.uufh.org and look for the magnifying glass at the top of the opening page. Type in "shopping" for a link to Amazon.com or iGive.com (which has hundreds of shopping sites, including department stores, airlines and car rentals). When you shop through these sites, the Fellowship will get a percentage of what you spend, at no cost to you. It is easy and takes very little extra effort. The dollars do add up. Several hundreds have come in to us through the years in this way.

Please help us out. After you register the UUFH as your charity, you will be given instructions on putting a direct link on your home page to make it even easier. Please feel free to contact me at speters@optonline.net if you need help in finding your way through the sites. ~ **Susan Peters, Finance**

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LOUISE CURTIS SEIDL

There will be a memorial service for Louise Curtis Seidl on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 pm. Louise is a long-time member who passed away on Sept. 13, 2016 in North Carolina, where she moved a few years ago to be close to her family. Please share the announcement of Louise's memorial with friends and groups who knew and loved her over her many years in New York and with those who might want to attend the celebration of Louise's life.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR NOVEMBER ~ YOUR SIX-WORD FAITH STORY

Each month we will feature a spiritual practice connected to the theme we are exploring together as a congregation. Spiritual practice can be an important component to living with intentionality, connecting with the divine or centering oneself. We hope you will try the spiritual practices featured each month as part of your ongoing faith development. ~ Starr Austin

Six-word stories are a common exercise in writers' groups because they vividly display of the power of brevity and encapsulation. Think of Caesar's famous quote: "I came. I saw. I conquered." (And it was only three words in its original Latin: *Veni, vidi, veci.*)

This month, you are invited to apply the power of pithiness to your spiritual journey: Describe your personal religious journey/story in six words!

LIVING OUR VALUES

50TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND AT UUFH

Our Development Committee has been pursuing an unusual and exciting opportunity which permits us to demonstrate our interest and involvement in protecting our natural environment. At the same time, we'll be recognizing the birthplace of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), which many UU members already support and which was founded by a small group of Long Island scientists in 1966. On Dec. 3 from 3 to 6 pm at the Fellowship, we're having a celebration to recognize the 50th anniversary of the EDF's founding.

With additional support nationally from a wide circle of scientific and legal associates, this Long Island group convinced both Suffolk County and the Town of Huntington in 1967 to officially ban the use of DDT. Since that effort the EDF has grown to become "one of the world's great environmental advocacy organizations defending our climate, ecosystems, oceans and public life."

The UUFH is proud to have been chosen as the site for this birthplace program. We're expecting attendance from many individuals from public and private sectors. Our seating and reception facilities are limited. The EDF has already committed to 150 seats. We'll offer the balance (probably 90) first to UUFH members, and then proceed quickly to outside individuals.

The program will start at 2:30 on Saturday, Dec. 3 with a press conference, followed by presentations from the EDF and others and then a networking and reception period. The cost of a ticket to attend is \$30; \$25 for seniors. Register by Nov. 25 at the Development Committee table on Sundays. ~ **Spencer Ross**

YOUR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AT WORK

As our June 2016 Year-end Report indicated, July 2015 to June 2016 turned out to be a formulation period that most importantly allowed the committee members to develop a sense of what fundraising at the Fellowship was going to involve. After reviewing many suggestions, the Committee concentrated on "low-hanging fruit" fundraisers. This allowed us to avoid taking on "too much, too soon."

Having gained some insight into what the fundraising process needs to be, it has become evident that better integration is needed between fundraising and other processes. Thus, the Development Committee is presently formulating a fully documented fundraising process.

By the time you read this, two more fundraising events will have taken place. LEARN (Let's End All Racism Now) Weekend, held the weekend of Sept. 30, included a panel discussion and workshop. Hats off to the Social Justice Committee. We were so glad we could support this endeavor. Also, the Gold Coast Ghosts Halloween-oriented event was held Oct. 15, coordinated by Chris McDonald. The Third Retro Video Game event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5. Liaison Amy Olander reports revenue growth. Our primary fundraiser, the Services Auction, will be held Nov. 19. All members are involved. Continuing to support the arts, the next Opera Night is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017.

Our sincere appreciation to all who have stopped by our Social Hall Table after Sunday Services or have talked to one of our members. Volunteers are our life-blood. Without your help, we cannot achieve the Committee's goal and objectives. ~ **Ben Testa, chair, Laura Childs, Barbara Kent, Johanna Leopold, Marc Leopold, Milt Masur, Chris McDonald, Amy Olander,**

A WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Who are we and what do we do? Many of you have been asking these questions. Many of you have not! We're a committee of six members serving staggered, three-year terms working "to strengthen the quality of ministry within the Congregation."

What does this mean? The Committee on Ministry (COM) endeavors to support the ministry of our entire congregation. UUFH operates through collaborative leadership, shared by the minister, the staff, the lay leaders and each individual congregant. Together, we're *all* responsible for ensuring that our congregation is in good standing with our Mission, Vision and Covenant. COM is the Fellowship body that oversees this and seeks to make sure that it's happening.

Speak in confidence with any COM member about any concerns, questions or feedback regarding our shared ministry. Reach out to us for help in maintaining or restoring "right relationship" between members. Engage us personally at UUFH, call any of us, or email to our confidential address: UUFHCOM@gmail.com. Come to one of the forums we'll be scheduling throughout the year to learn more and bring feedback to us. We're here with you and for you.

~ *Nikki Willard, chair, Bob Bader, Liza Burby, Andy Feigin, Dave Schulman and Ann Scolnick*

YOUTH ENVOY

I am Julia Moskowitz and I am a high school student here at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Huntington. I have been a Unitarian Universalist - United Nations Office Youth Envoy for this fellowship for the past two years.

Youth Envoy Program provides an opportunity for youth to take an active role within the Fellowship by linking information from the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations to our Fellowship. Youth Envoys "spread the news" and increase awareness within each congregation regarding UU/UNO programs. Our programs include LGBTQ/SOGI Human Rights, Climate Justice, Women's Rights, "Every Child is Our Child" and Racial Justice.

Two years ago, I joined our then Youth Envoy, Alley Wolff, in attending the UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar in NYC. The topic was International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative.

What I learned about our criminal justice system has stayed with me these past two years and inspired me to participate in a Sunday Service on mass incarceration, solitary confinement and the death penalty. Since then, I have attended each Spring Seminar and I would encourage anyone to attend. This year's topic is Interfaith Action to End Armed Violence.

I am thrilled to be working with fellow Youth Envoys', Ben Sussman and Declan MacDevitt, along with our advisor Ben Testa. I firmly believe that through envoying, youth have the opportunity to help make a more peaceful world. I am grateful for this opportunity and the support our Fellowship has provided and I am very proud that this congregation continues to maintain its Blue Ribbon status in supporting the work of our United Nations Office.

Through my activities as an envoy, I am able to strengthen my faith as a UU by actively participating in social justice, defending our rights for equality/equity, and making strides against climate change. ~ *Julia Moskowitz - Youth Envoy to UU-UNO*

SPC? ME? BUT I HATE PUBLIC SPEAKING!

Have you ever come to a service presented by the Sunday Program Committee (SPC) and thought, "I could never do that." "I hate public speaking!" If you have the impression that SPC members must get up and talk in front of the congregation, you are mistaken – but you are not alone. That's on us, so we want to set the record straight.

SPC's goal is to enhance the Sunday morning experience. For some, it means getting up to the podium. But there are so many other behind-the-scenes tasks that need attention, you could be a member of the committee and never speak into a microphone at all.

Most SPC tasks involve creativity and planning. We brainstorm possible topics for the one or two lay-led services per month that work with our monthly worship theme, our principles, holidays, current events, spiritual ideas that are important to us... or any combination of these. Then we decide who can best speak about the topic. Sometimes we tackle it ourselves, but we have been making a concerted effort to bring in exciting speakers from outside our congregation, to give us a well-rounded perspective. Our job then includes keeping in touch with speakers, offering transportation if needed, and welcoming them to UUFH. Then there is choosing hymns, coordinating the other music, preparing the Order of Service, and getting the information

to publicity and the folks who prepare the presentation for our big Main Hall screen.

Of course, if you want to do some talking on a Sunday, you may get the opportunity! But there is plenty of room in SPC, and no shortage of ways you can participate. If you are interested, contact ~ **Ken Buley-Neumar**, *SPC Chair* - kenbnken@gmail.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE HOSTS THREE-DAY RACIAL JUSTICE EVENT

This year has seen a sharp rise in reports of killings of black people by police, and while we have not seen this phenomenon on Long Island, Unitarian Universalists across the nation have been standing up in support of black Lives. This summer, the UUFH installed our own Black Lives Matter sign, which has already been vandalized on two separate occasions. But we have not let that deter us—if anything, it has made the problems faced on a daily basis by black Americans even more evident. Thanks to our Van Roy Speakers' Fund, we were able to bring in well-known Unitarian Universalist writer and activist Chris Crass for an uplifting and energizing three-day event we dubbed the LEARN (Let's End All Racism Now) Weekend. Friday, Sept. 30 featured a Racial Justice Forum with Chris, local activists and a representative from the Suffolk County Police Department. On Saturday, Oct. 1, Chris led a day-long workshop titled "Courage for Racial Justice," with nearly 30 participants.

Chris closed out the weekend on Sunday, Oct. 2 by delivering a sermon titled "Building the Beloved Community." About 200 people got to hear Chris's message of strength and heroism in support of black lives. Sunday, Chris had the entire congregation on its feet, channeling our inner wizards, shouting "You Shall NOT PASS!" The Social Justice Committee will be looking for more heroes in the days to come. ~ **Steve Burby for the Social Justice Committee**

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE HOSTS FILM AND DISCUSSION

On Friday, Oct. 7, Helen Boxwill of the UUFH Social Justice Committee hosted the film *Sankofa* by filmmaker Haile Gerima, followed by a discussion facilitated by Norman Daniels, the Suffolk County Multicultural Affairs Director. According to the *New York Times* film review, "In *Sankofa*, a contemporary African-American woman travels back in time and experiences slavery. Haile Gerima's poetic and precisely detailed film takes its audience into its heroine's life and mind as her moral sense is challenged and changed. No viewer can avoid the discomfiting questions the film so eloquently raises." The Social Justice Committee is planning other upcoming events and activities. Anyone with suggestions should contact me or Diana Weaving, Social Justice co-chairs. ~ **Steve Burby for the Social Justice Committee**

FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISERS

KEEP PLUGGIN VIDEO GAME EVENT FALL EDITION

SAT. 11/5/16 10am-6pm

EVENTBRITE
ONLINE
PRESALE: \$12
\$6
AT THE DOOR:
\$15
\$8



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RETRO VIDEOGAME VENDORS

PRESENTED BY AND LOCATED AT:

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington
109 Browns Road, Huntington, NY, 11743

KEEP PLUGGIN RETRO VIDEO GAME EVENT RETURNS WITH VIRTUAL REALITY DEMOS

November 5, 2016 @ 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Want to experience Virtual Reality with the HTC Vive headset as well as the oldest retro games? Come try out the demos while also buying from a selection of thousands of retro video games. If you have a closet full of old video games you want to turn into cash, find out what they're worth. You won't want to miss the bi-annual *Keep Pluggin Video Game Event: Buy/Trade/Sell/Play!* to be held **Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 am – 6 pm at the UUFH.**

In addition to thousands of retro video games and systems for sale from dealers and collectors (think: Nintendo, Sega, Intellivision, Playstation), the event will feature video game tournaments for cash prizes (Mario Brothers and Super Smash Brothers Wii U), free arcade play (Ms. Pac Man, Space Invaders, Tetris), a handheld gaming lounge to hang out with fellow gamers. And new this fall are free Professional Virtual Reality demonstrations all day long. Take a turn playing a virtual reality game. You'll get to see the evolution of video games and by extension technology, since this event has the oldest retro games up to the next frontier: VR.

The **Keep Pluggin Video Game Event** is part fundraiser for the UUFH. Admission is advance sale: \$12, \$6 (under 10) at keeppluggin.com or \$15, \$8 at the door. Dealer tables are available for \$65. (Contact Ben Farrell at 631-335-1505, ben@keeppluggin.com or at keeppluggin.com to reserve a dealer spot.) You can also order tickets at <https://keeppluggin.eventbrite.com>

We also need volunteers to help with the day of the event, Friday afternoon/evening set up, food donations and shopping, and flyer distribution. Sign up at the Development Committee table or email Amy Olander, aiolander@gmail.com.



UUFH SERVICES AUCTION ON NOVEMBER 19

The Services Auction is our major annual fundraiser, as well as the social event of the year, featuring dinner, entertainment, raffles and the auction itself. Throughout the evening you can bid on parties, excursions, services, food and even your own parking space or sermon topic.

For this year's event on Saturday, Nov. 19, we've chosen the theme UUFH- "Enter, Rejoice and Come In," which emphasizes our welcoming attitude and embodies our welcoming environment to all who participate in our Fellowship. The excitement and enthusiasm of the auction will be fabulous, and the wonderful items will draw you in to bid and compete to be the winner of the prize. It's a good time for the whole family. Come on out and join in the fun!

Want to join us? Dinner starts at 6 pm and the auction kicks off at 7:30 pm. Dinner tickets are available at the Development Committee Social Hour Table. The dinner menu includes several delicious dishes including beef, chicken, fish, vegetarian, vegan, as well as gluten-free options – there is something for everyone to enjoy! **The deadline to sign up for the dinner is past, but we still have room for you, so please sign up on Sunday or email Margie Bell at mbell@intergate.ca.** There will be no walk-ins for dinner the night of the event, so be sure not to miss signing up in advance.

Meanwhile, in order to have interesting options to auction, we need your promissory notes for the booklet, which will be available soon. These are the forms to fill in what you'd like to offer. How about offering a kayak trip? A triple chocolate cake? A mystery dinner party? Handyperson help? Thank you to everyone who already submitted offerings. **We are actually short offerings this year, so if you haven't yet made the time to enter yours, please do so today.** A full book of offerings is the best way to have a successful Auction. Enter them here www.togetherauction.com/uufh. If you need help, please email Ralph Taliercio, ralphbway@yahoo.com. For more information or to volunteer, please stop by the Development Committee Social Hour Table. ~ **Margie Bell, Services Auction Coordinator**

CALL FOR BEACON ARTICLES

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE BEACON

Please submit all articles in a Word documents, saving the document with the article's name and Beacon month and year. Email to communications@uufh.org with the subject line as BEACON – SEPT. 2016 (or appropriate month and year). For more info: <http://www.uufh.org/new-guidelines-for-uufh-publications>

We're looking for feature articles about committee work we do here at UUFH, with a focus on how we're all living our values. Tell readers what it means to you to work on committees like Social Justice, the Development Committee, HIHI, the Grow to Give Garden, the Gallery, Sunday Programming, Not Necessarily Seniors and more.

ONGOING EVENTS & NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



VISIT: For daily updates and ongoing events.

<http://www.uufh.org/members-corner/events-calendar>

<http://www.uufh.org/news-announcements>

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Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon: December edition
By the first week of December.**

**Beacon Deadline for submissions:
November 15, 2016**

**See New Guidelines for Beacon
Submissions.**

[http://www.uufh.org/new-guidelines-for-uufh-
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