



**The**

# **Beacon**

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister  
October 2015 Vol. LVIII, No.15

## **UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES**

### **October Theme - Letting Go**

**October 4:** “The Paradoxical Role of the UN,” A Peacebuilding Service.

The UN is a group of sovereign states that is a moral body at its base. This service will focus on its role as a force for peace in the world.

**Guest Speaker:** *Dr. Ann Kelleher is an author and senior researcher and educator. Isabella Johnson on piano.*

**October 11:** “Making Anger Your Friend” This family-friendly, multigenerational service will explore how we can break the control of anger in our lives. *Rev. Jude Preaching; choir singing*



**October 18:** “Saving Gaia (Mother Earth)” Celebrating our 7th Principle. **Guest Speaker:** *Beth Fiteni is an environmental advocate, writer, outreach professional, radio show host, former adjunct professor and green home consultant. Isabella Johnson on piano.*

**October 25:** “Living into Today” We often react to change with fear or trepidation, and revere traditions as holy and sacred. Yet, our world is always changing and new. This can be a central source of suffering in our lives. How can we find hope in letting go? *Rev. Jude Preaching; choir singing*

## FROM THE MINISTER

*When cast into the depths, to survive, we must first let go of things that will not save us. Then we must reach out for the things that can.*

— **Rev. Forrest Church**

*All [of us] must leave room for the acts of the spirit. — Ursula LeGuin*

Autumn seems to always energize me. Something about the smell in the air, and the falling leaves, feels like nature is giving me vitality as it prepares for its winter slumbers. Letting go can be a real way in which we make room for finding energy and renewal after a period of stagnation. When we hold onto what was for too long, our hands are often not ready to take hold of what is now, or what will be. Our services this month will all explore how letting go helps us to live into the world we hope for and the world that is right before us

~ **Warmly, Rev. Jude**



## DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

This month we are exploring what it means to be a people of letting go. I don't know about you, but I sometimes find myself clinging so tightly to something that I don't make room in my life for joy or new experiences. What are you holding on to a little too tightly? For me, it's my desire to be on top of everything. This manifests as holding too tightly to my calendar, emails, and even Facebook (a major tool for connecting with both congregants and colleagues). It's daunting to imagine what it would look like if I let go of this just a bit. In October I hope to make some time to do, well, nothing. What will you be trying to let go of this month?



**Please see Religious Education News & Announcements on page 4 for important information about our Religious Education Program.**

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2015-'16 Board of Trustees is informed, committed and hard at work. In September, the Board of Trustees held three gatherings in eight days. Andrea Lerner and Reverend Hope Johnson, both from the Unitarian Universalist Association, led a very productive team-building meeting that included the Board and the Committee on Ministry. Those present left the meeting feeling that the ministry and governance of the Fellowship are working toward common goals. Reverend Jude led an informative retreat in which we explored various modes of communication such as talking, active listening and "holding the space." Holding the space means to protect boundaries in a way that enables people, or committees, to self-direct. Interpersonally, "holding the space" is an exercise of our Unitarian Universalist values in that it is the ability to be present to someone on his or her journey without judging or trying to influence the outcome. We talked about how these communication styles are relevant to our roles as leaders. At our first business meeting of this program year it was evident that the Board comprises a wealth of experience and perspective. Throughout the coming year as we all work together to keep the Fellowship running smoothly, know that the Board can be trusted to always keep the best interest of the Fellowship foremost in their proceedings.

~ **Jennifer Thieke**

## **VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It struck a chord with me hearing Rev. Jude speak about how he sees September as his real "New Year's" celebration in that I feel much the same way. Both life at home and at the Fellowship get back to a more regular schedule, although sometimes hectic, and many things start anew. It's not that nothing happens over the summer, but come fall there is a sense that we get back to doing some of the real work. One of the things I was able to do over the summer as VP was to help update some of the committee rosters within our Ministry Cluster. I added new names, took off names of members who had served their terms and rotated off, as well as seeing who some of the new chairpersons are and how some committees were reorganizing their structures to improve the ways they feel that they can best serve UUFH.

UU's are known for "walking the talk" and this is clearly evident when you look at the participation of our membership. It's heartening and inspiring to see so much done by volunteers, people stepping up to contribute with energy and passion. I'd like to say a big "THANKS" to all of you and I'd like to encourage us to thank each other. Take a moment if you are attending Sunday service or another Fellowship event and give a quick smile and thank you to the folks helping out that day, whether you are reading the video board in the Main Hall, getting an order of service or a cup of coffee, lighting a candle, picking up a child from RE, attending a special service or enjoying a pot luck meal. Let's say "Thanks" and give support to each other for all that we do. ~ **Michael Amendola**

## **FINANCE MESSAGE**

"Thank you For Close The Gap Contributions! We extend a sincere "thank you" to Fellowship members who contributed \$12,000 towards "closing the gap" in our budget.

We have closed the financial books on the fiscal year that ended June 30. As we had discussed at our June Congregational meeting, it was necessary to withdraw \$36,000 from our Ameriprise accounts in order to satisfy our cash flow needs for this past fiscal year and to pay for current and anticipated Castle Care expenses.

To assist our Sunday Counting team, please continue to indicate your desired contribution allocation on your checks and envelopes, be it pledge, Charity of the Month, or any other purpose.

~ **Jean Marra: Trustee and Treasurer**

## **PARKING LOT UPDATE**

Last October this congregation passed an historic vote to have our parking lot paved. The parking lot committee then worked with contractors to get bids and clear out the existing drywells to get rid of the extreme flooding we had when it rained. Then early this year we learned the town wanted us to go through an application process. In April, the Town Planning Department told us we probably would not be able to go with our original plans because town codes had changed. They tried to help us avoid the Zoning Board of Appeals by coming up with a plan that gave us the town's new legal setback of 50 feet, but would mean cutting into our great lawn. None of us were happy with that. When other certificate of occupancy issues came up in the process, the parking lot committee knew the situation had gone beyond our pay grade as volunteers. With the generous donations of some members, the BOT hired an attorney to see if the Zoning Board would accept the variance granted us in 1983, which I'm happy to report was given to us last month. That means we do not need a 50-foot setback and can use our original parking lot plans.

What happens next is this: We have resubmitted our application to the Town Planning Department. Once Planning approves it (at an administrative hearing) we will receive a resolution, probably the

end of Feb. 2016. Then our plans get submitted to the Building Department for a work permit, which will hopefully be granted in April, so that construction can begin by spring. Meanwhile the parking lot committee will talk to contractors about what, if anything can be done to make the lot safe this winter. We'll get back to you as soon as we know more. Thank you for your patience. It may mean one more winter, but we are finally getting closer to a brand new parking lot. ~**Liza Burby, BOT Past-president**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Adult Religious Education** is an important aspect of our Fellowship. One way we continue to work on our faith formation is through participation in a Journey Group. These small groups meet once a month to discuss material related to our monthly theme. Materials can be found online under the religious education tab of our website. <http://uufh.org/journey-groups> If you haven't signed up to join a Journey Group, email Starr. Don't miss out on the opportunity to deepen connections with other members of the Fellowship and to make time for your own faith development. You're worth it.

### **RE Communications**

If you want to know what is going on in religious education programming and you are not currently receiving a weekly email, contact Starr. Our RE communications have changed a little this year and we don't want to leave anyone out of the loop! Another way to stay up-to-date is to check out the RE bulletin board and RE table. These are located right of the main entrance as you head down the RE wing. You can also pick up our brand new RE family wall calendar! These are on the RE table.

### **LIAC Road Show October 4, Noon-2pm in the Main Hall**

If you want to learn more about programs such as Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Coming of Age, or if you just want to hear more about what LIAC is all about and why we participate in programs as a member congregation of LIAC rather than doing all of our programs in house, come to the road show!

**Junior High Owl** registration is due October 5<sup>th</sup>! Parents, there is a mandatory parent meeting October 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms can be found on the RE table or on the LIAC website.

**College Boxes!** This is an important young adult ministry we do each year in the fall. We will be putting together boxes for all of our young adults who are away at college or with the military. The boxes include photos, drawings from our children, cards from Fellowship members, a homemade chalice, and other items related to Unitarian Universalism as well as snacks. This ministry keeps our young adults connected to the Fellowship while they are off with a college or military career. Look for cards in the social hall to sign on October 25<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour.

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

**REGISTER NOW FOR**  
**Interactive Peacebuilding Workshop, Oct. 3, 1:30 - 4:30 pm**  
***World Politics in the Twenty-first Century – Is Peace Possible?***



A common perception at the end of the Cold War assumed that a "new world order" would ensue, allowing a peaceful engagement among world powers. Yet while world large-scale interstate wars have diminished, intrastate wars have escalated to the point where we now talk about failing and failed states. So what happened to the hope for a more peaceful world?

On Saturday, Oct. 3, from 1:30 - 4:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, Dr. Ann Kelleher, an author and senior researcher and educator for The Junction, a peace organization in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland, will present an interactive workshop **World Politics in the**

**Twenty-first Century – Is Peace Possible?** The workshop addresses these issues, including themix of long-term trends and chronic issues impacting specific world regions, among them the legacies of colonialism, including arbitrarily drawing state borders without regard for local identities or interests; declining quality of life and standards of living; autocratic rule often accompanied by cronyism and denial of human rights; and an erosion of the natural environment's capacity.

The workshop, part of our new Global Perspective Event Series, will offer a local approach to learning about global issues. **Sign up by calling the UUFH office at 631-427-9547, or emailing [testabp@gmail.com](mailto:testabp@gmail.com) or just come on Oct. 3. There's a \$10 donation at the door.**

At the 10:30 service on Oct. 4, Dr. Kelleher will speak about **The Paradoxical Role of the United Nations**. "The UN is a group of sovereign states. It cannot be looked to as a policy-making body," she says. "It is, however, a moral body at its base, so it must keep presenting itself as a force for peace in the world."

The Oct. 3 workshop, as well as the service, are open to the wider-community, and we ask that you help spread the word. Refreshments will be served. This event is made possible by the generous bequest of long-time UUFH member Johanna Van Roy in living memory of her son Peter. For more information, please contact Liz Koehn or Sue Peters or Ben Testa.

**~Development Committee**



**SPLIT THE PLATE CHARITY FOR OCTOBER IS SAFE HARBOR**

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery involving the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States and even Long Island. Human trafficking is a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Safe Harbor is a program that works with child victims of human trafficking in Suffolk County. The program is focused on direct services for victims and children at high risk of being trafficked. The funds raised from the UUFH collection will go towards helping its girl empowerment groups, which

serve up to 20 girls who are at high risk of being trafficked or have already been victimized. Funds raised will help to provide much-needed supplies for successful group therapy programs, including journals, art therapy material and other necessities. Safe Harbor is a program of the EAC Network, a not-for-profit human services agency with a network of 70 programs throughout Long Island and New York City. Thank you in advance for your generous support. ~ **Ellen Keller, Beyond Our Walls Committee**



**Ready to Join?- November, 8- Noon- 2 pm**  
**UUFH Main Hall**

New Member Ceremony

Have you been considering joining the Fellowship? We will be having a new member ceremony in worship on Sunday, Nov. 8. Please reach out and let us know if you feel ready to sign the book and make a commitment to the Fellowship by emailing Rev. Jude at [minister@uufh.org](mailto:minister@uufh.org)

## UUFH FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### **Interactive Peacebuilding Workshop & Sunday Service with:Dr. Ann Kelleher**

**OCTOBER 3 & 4**

**LOCATION: UUFH Main Hall**

**WORKSHOP - Oct. 3, 1:30-4:30 pm**

***World Politics in the Twenty-first Century - Is Peace Possible?***

An interactive workshop about the local approach to global issues - \$10 donation

**SUNDAY SERVICE - Oct. 4, 10:30 - 11:30: *The Paradoxical Role of the United Nations***



### **First-Ever Retro Video Game Event**

**Buy/Trade/Sell—and Play! Vintage Video Games--Fun for All Ages--**

**OCTOBER 17 ~ 10 am - 6 pm**

**LOCATION: Main Hall, Social Hall**

Want to buy retro video games? There will be thousands to choose from. Have a closet full of old video games you want to turn into cash? Find out what they're worth. Psyched to play Super Mario Brothers again? You won't want to miss this: the first-ever **KeepPluggin Video Game Event:**

**Buy/Trade/Sell/Play!to be held Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 am – 6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington.** Please like and share our Facebook page by the same name.

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 (play Tetris, Mario Brothers and Super Smash Brothers Wii U), free arcade play (Ms. Pac Man, Space Invaders), and a handheld gaming lounge to hang out with fellow gamers.

“Retro gaming is growing by leaps and bounds on Long Island,” says Ben Farrell, the 22-year-old Keep Pluggin event founder, himself a collector with hundreds of games and countless more in his extensive inventory. “Young adults—the kids who grew up with these video games--are the biggest collectors since it taps into childhood memories. Parents also bring their kids to the shows to share

the fun. Then there are the serious collectors who see the value in buying and trading hard-to-find games and systems. Some games can sell as high as thousands of dollars.”

Farrell, who grew up in the UUFH RE program, is not unfamiliar with the collecting business. He is son of member Ken Farrell, the long-time owner of the very successful Huntington-based Just Kids Nostalgia, a pop-culture collectibles shop, which is now exclusively online.

What’s considered a “retro video game”? “Usually, games and systems developed in the 1970s through the ‘90s—that could mean games played on arcade, home consoles as well as portable devices,” says Farrell, “but anything that is not available any longer counts.”

**The Keep Pluggin Video Game Event** is part fundraiser for the Fellowship. Admission is \$5; dealer tables are available for \$50. (Contact Ben Farrell at 631-335-1505 to reserve a dealer spot.) To learn more, stop by the Development Committee table on Sundays in the Social Hall. ~ **Liza Burby**



**TIME TO FILL OUT YOUR OFFERINGS FOR:  
2015 UUFH-OPOLY Service Auction Event  
Saturday, November 7**

**Dinner 6 to 7:30 - Auction 7:30 to 10  
LOCATION: UUFH Main Hall**

We’re getting closer to the exciting Services Auction on Nov. 7. It 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. Our theme this year borrows from Monopoly, and we have many surprises in store for you, like a photo op with Mr. Moneybags, fun decorations, and even a Community Chest for the young guests.

Starting the first Sunday in October, you can sign up for the dinner. Meanwhile, in order to have interesting options to auction, we’ll need your offerings. It can be a party, food, excursion, item, service, or instruction. You can pick up a form on Sundays at the Development Committee table, or enter your items here: <http://www.togetherauction.com/uufh>. The deadline is Oct. 20.

Since that night we also have very popular raffles, with baskets prepared by our committees, we’re asking all committee chairs to start planning what you want to offer. Please put a wrapped basket or box in the board room before Oct. 31. Any questions, contact your board liaison.

We’re also asking anyone with photos of the 2014-’15 auction events/parties, to please email them to [lizaburby@verizon.net](mailto:lizaburby@verizon.net) for our slide show. The image above is of the Christeen Sail offered this summer by a group of Fellowshippers.

For more information or to volunteer, please stop by the Development Committee Social Hour Table. Remember: *It takes more than fake money to get our Fellowship past GO.*

**~ Liza Burby, for the Development Committee**

**The Beacon**

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**Next Beacon:  
Monday, November 2, 2015**

**\* Beacon Deadline:  
Thursday, October 15, 2015**

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