

The

Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
September 2015 Vol. LVIII, No.14

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

September 2015

September 6: "Calling Us Home" (*Labor Day*) - As our national holiday calls us to celebrate and enjoy a break from the hard work of the year, how does the still, small voice in each of us draw us back to home, hearth and maybe even spirit?" **Rev. Jude preaching**

September 13: "Water Communion" (*Ingathering Sunday*) - (**Rosh Hashanah**) Join us for our annual celebration of renewal and beginning. Please bring some water with you to share as part of our water communion service. Whether it's from a faraway place, or your backyard, bring water symbolizing the place or places in our lives that offer us renewal and nourishment. **Rev. Jude preaching; Choir singing**



September 20: "Closer to Fine" (*Religious Education Classes and Adult Journey Groups begin*) As we start a new year of Sunday school classes, and adult Journey groups, may we accept the perennial invitation to be who we are—in all our imperfections and in all our giftedness. **Rev. Jude preaching; Choir singing**

September 27: "Hope, Not Hell" (*Bring a Friend Sunday*) This week, 245 years ago, Universalism was born in the United States. At the height of fire-and-brimstone preaching in America, Universalism asked us to give one another hope and not hell. We'll reflect on our history of welcoming all, without judgement—and what it means to be an inclusive faith. **Rev. Jude preaching**

FROM THE MINISTER

Welcome to the beginning of a new school year! From all my years of school, and then working at a university as an adult before the ministry, I've always seen September as my real "New Year's" celebration. There's a pressing way in which it feels like we turn a page and start anew as summer ends. Our theme this month is *Invitation*. I'm going to try to find all the places where I can make space for newness in my life. For many of us, the summer is a time of rest and renewal. But for others, it's a time that triggers bittersweet feelings as our children move away for work, or school or the military. For some of us, the pressure of work can feel its worst at this time of year. Whether you come to September feeling your best, or look upon the fall with trepidation, give yourself a chance to turn the page with patience and openness.



Brian and I are still in the process of moving from the Village to about 30 miles away. We were unable to sell our home, and are looking into renting it out. I know that for some of us, there is anxiety around this change in my personal home life. If you want to talk about it, please reach out to me directly. I'm here.

~ Warmly, Rev. Jude

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

What does it mean to be a people of invitation?

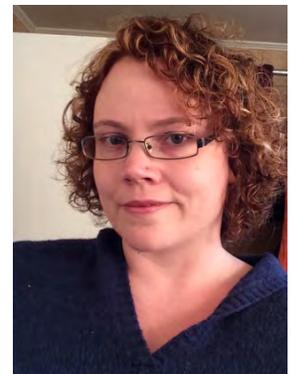
Invitation is more than asking someone to join you; it is meeting them where they are and making the circle wide enough for their full presence and participation. Invitation means daring to open to the unknown, to meet the guest with an open mind and heart. It also comes with responsibility. Even inviting someone over for dinner has a certain responsibility built in. We have expectations when someone invites us to join them. We expect to feel welcomed. We expect to be offered hospitality. What are the assumed expectations when we invite people into our religious community and our spiritual lives? What responsibility do we hold as we make the circle wider?

This month to celebrate invitation we are inviting friends to join us at the Fellowship on Sept. 27. The sermon and religious education activities will be crafted intentionally for welcoming our visitors into Fellowship with us. We will have an extended coffee hour to get to know our guests better.

"A real conversation always contains an invitation. You are inviting another person to reveal [themselves] to you, to tell you who they are or what they want". – David Whyte

Please see page 9 for important information about our Religious Education Program.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of Trustees met throughout the summer months to continue work on issues that sustain our Fellowship. We look forward to reconnecting with the larger Fellowship in the fall! For the fifth year in a row, my family attended Sophia Fahs religious education camp ("Fahs") on Shelter Island. My 7-year-old describes Fahs as "the greatest place on Earth!" It is a place where the principles are put into practice, and it shows. Campers are free to express themselves and create meaningful connections with one another. Staff members work around the clock to provide a special week of activities, religious education and self-discovery. From house parents to religious educators to "sight and sound" staff whose job it is to protect the safety of campers, all staff dig deep to bring their best

selves to the task. Every year that I leave camp exhausted and dirt coated in a minivan filled to the brim with dirty laundry, I am nonetheless filled with wonder at the transformative week that is Camp Sophia Fahs. I encourage any parents of Unitarian Universalist youth from grades three through twelve to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

~ **Jennifer Thieke**

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since my family and I started attending UUFH 11 years ago, the Fellowship has become our spiritual home. Over that time I have seen our Fellowship evolve, reflecting the ongoing commitment and passion of the congregation to our Mission Statement, Vision and Covenant. Through things like teaching RE, serving on the Sunday Program Committee, leading services, mentoring a youth in Coming of Age, writing music for the choir, or playing music for Sunday services my relationship with the Fellowship has also evolved over the years and I have gained many new friends who share like values about our community and the world.

This process is continuing as I start as vice-president. I am pleased and honored to serve on the Board. I'm excited to continue to work with several members who I know and to start relationships with a few who are new to me. I've seen that when we come together for shared purpose, our strength is in the varied beliefs and experiences that many of us have and through the support and respect we offer for differing perspectives and opinions. I look forward to continued work in this manner with my co-board members toward a committed stewardship of the Fellowship.

~ **Michael Amendola**

FINANCE MESSAGE

We owe quite a "debt"...

Perhaps we should not have used the phrasing of the title considering our financial situation. However, in this case it is a debt that we are fortunate to owe, since it is a debt of gratitude. We wanted to get your attention and this does relate to finance.

Our debt of gratitude is to the Finance and counting team. We can tell you we had no idea of the time and effort necessary to do something that most people have not thought of, and that is the time and effort spent in recording the money collected each Sunday, as well as funds that come through the mail. It is time consuming.

- Each envelope gone over, each check read to make sure it is properly deciphered (handwriting challenges; deciding is it for the current year or next year when it is close to the fiscal year cutoff time; unclear language; split checks since that check needs to be recorded multiple times; etc.), and, of course, running and re-running the figures to make sure it all balances to be deposited.
- Make sure it is recorded overall by our bookkeeper.
- Input per individual into our database to make certain everyone is properly credited for their financial contribution.

All this is done behind the scenes representing lots of grunt work performed diligently by a number of people who also are invaluable when we are working on our finances and budget, which is no easy task.

So a big THANK YOU to the Finance and current counting team of: Joan Caly, Liz Koehn, Shel Lipsky, Susan Peters, and Ann Scolnick. Also to Carol and Frank Towne, and Brigitte Zimmer who

are currently on "injured reserve."

We also want to give a special note of thanks to Shel Lipsky. Shel is our Excel guru. He has helped tremendously behind the scenes in putting together and keeping track of our many budget and finance sheets. He has also made the counting easier and more efficient by creating a program streamlined to our specific needs. It has not only saved tons of time by capturing the inputs in multiple ways, it has also made it easier for those team members originally intimidated by making it essentially simple data input. All of Shel's improvements mean if YOU can read a check and turn on a computer, you too can join the counting team! We are inviting more volunteers to help with finance and counting, so please contact us if you are interested!

In closing, thank you, Shel, and the rest of the Finance and counting team for what you have been doing behind the scenes. It is much appreciated!

~ **Brian Cohen: Trustee and Finance Chair**
Jean Marra: Trustee and Treasurer

FELLOWSHIP NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Service: for Marion Sullewsky - Saturday, September 12 –1pm.

UUFH Main Hall

A memorial celebrating Marion's life will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Huntington on Saturday, September 12 at 1pm.



Do you have a couple of hours to spare this Saturday?

Saturday, September 5, 10 am - 4 pm

UUFH

Starr could use some help cleaning out the upstairs classrooms in preparation for the upcoming RE year and for potential rentals. Email Starr at

<mailto:dre@uufh.org> if you have a couple of hours THIS Saturday 9/5 to help out. ~ **Starr Austin**

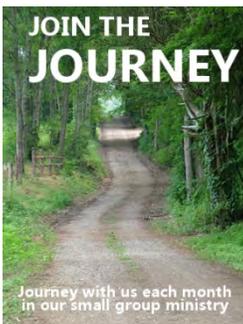


We need Coffee Heroes

LOCATION: UUFH Social Hall

All summer long our Cold Drink Heroes have been tirelessly working to provide lemonade, ice tea and other refreshing cold drinks for the Social Hour, but now we need to have our bellies warmed. Thank you very much to all!

It's that time again! As autumn approaches and the temperature drops our minds turn to a nice warm drink after the service. Yes, we need Coffee Heroes again! Please, be a hero and volunteer to make coffee for Coffee Hour. The sign-up sheet is in the Social Hall next to the serving area. ~ **Christine McDonald**



Take the Journey! Sign up Sunday, September 6 or 13 for Sept. 20 start

Journey Groups, our small group ministry for adults, are launching again. You will have the opportunity to sign up to join a group on Sunday, Sept. 6 & 13. Our first meeting of Journey Groups will be Sunday, Sept. 20. There are also group options during the week. Journey groups meet monthly. You attend the same group each month so you can deepen your relationship with a small number of congregants in

your group throughout the year. This is a great way to build some new friendships in the Fellowship.

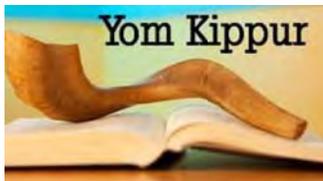
Here is how it works. Sign up to join a group. We will send you the monthly packet a couple of weeks before your group meets. Read the packet and explore the exercises and questions at your leisure. Then, attend your group for 90 minutes each month to discuss the theme. Journey Groups will meet monthly Sept-June.
~ **Starr Austin**



Parent Orientation - September 13 - 12:15 pm - 2 pm
UUFH Main Hall

Parents, please mark your calendars to attend orientation after the service and potluck on 9/13. We have many exciting new programs in Religious Education this year and we want to share with you our new approach and opportunities for deeper connection. We also want to hear about your goals for your child or youth this year in RE. We will have childcare and food.

~ **Starr Austin**



Yom Kippur

YOM KIPPUR "KOL NIDRE" SERVICE
TUESDAY, SEPT. 22 - 7:30 P.M.

UUFH Main Hall

This one-hour service is a UU adaptation of the Jewish Yom Kippur services. The liturgy dwells on recognizing our human limitations and fallibility with humility, as a source of compassion for and connection with others. Join us in a solemn reflection on our individual and collective lives during this past year through shared readings and music, and a "turning" or re-dedication to those values which are life-affirming. Contact: hjmckenna1@gmail.com

~ **Harriet McKenna**



POETRY AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE - Starting Wednesday, September 23 6:30 pm - 8 pm

UUFH Board Room

Join us on the *fourth Wednesday of each month* as we explore poetry as spiritual practice. Bring your favorite poems to share, a notebook and your favorite pen. We use writing prompts to write together, share our work, and read the work of poets who inspire us. ~ **Starr Austin**



Bring a Friend Day! - Sunday, September 27

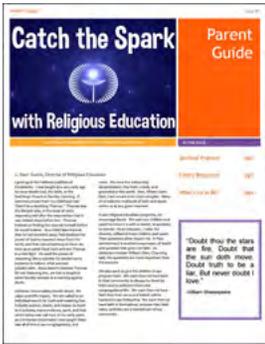
10:30 am - 1 am

UUFH SUNDAY SERVICE

This month we are extending an invitation to the larger community to join us for worship and fellowship. Bring a friend to the service on Sunday, Sept. 27 and stay afterward for a celebration of community. The sermon and RE lessons will be specifically designed to be inclusive of our guests.

This is an opportunity for us to let people know about Unitarian Universalism and our Fellowship. So we ask every person to bring a friend on Sunday, Sept. 27.

~ **Starr Austin**



MONTHLY PARENT GUIDE

The monthly parent guide is designed to help families explore our monthly theme at home. Useful for all congregants, the guide provides a chalice lighting, spiritual practices, and other resources.

Click or paste the link below to view.

<http://uufh.org/pdfs/SEPT-2015-PARENT-GUIDE.pdf>

~ *Starr Austin*



SPLIT PLATE CHARITY FOR SEPTEMBER 2015: h2Empower

h2Empower, working in Hosanna, Ethiopia, sees more girls start first grade but by eighth grade many drop out and don't continue their education. An African proverb says, "If we educate a boy, we educate one person. If we educate a girl, we educate a family – and a whole nation." H2 Empower wants to work with female leaders to empower girls and help them succeed in school. Using local facilitators and an approved 12-session training program for teachers in 20

schools, the hope is to begin to change the school culture and positively impact the life of girls, the family and future generations.

~ *Michelle Byrne*

UUFH FUNDRAISING EVENTS



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

OCTOBER 3 & 4, 2015

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*



Retro Video Games! Buy, Sell, Trade

October 17, 2015

10 am - 6 pm

LOCATION: Main Hall, social Hall

Buy, sell, or trade your vintage video games with local video dealers. Participate in a tournament of the hit game Super Smash Brothers. Reminisce as you play some of your favorite old games. Who knows? The games you have sitting in a junk draw may be valuable. Check the upcoming Flashes for

more details on how you can participate and volunteer for this fundraiser. \$5 admission; \$50 per table rental. Contact Ben Farrell at 631-335-1505. ~ *Amy Olander - Development Committee*

Interactive Peacebuilding Workshop and Sunday Service

On **Saturday, Oct. 3, from 1:30 - 4:30 pm** Dr. Ann Kelleher (see her bio below) will present an interactive workshop **World Politics in the Twenty-first Century – Is Peace Possible?** The workshop addresses these issues, including the mix 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 free workshop, part of our new Global Perspective Event Series, will offer a local approach to learning about global issues.

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. Pre-registration for the workshop can be made to the office either by phone (631-427-9547) or email info@uufh.org. A \$10 donation is suggested at the door. 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 Ben Testa.

~ **Sunday Program Committee**

Who Is Dr. Ann Kelleher?

Currently Dr. Ann Kelleher serves as a Senior Researcher and Educator for The Junction, a peaceorganization in Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland. In this capacity she has completed a book manuscript to be published this year, *Pioneering Peacebuilder: A History of Holywell Trust*. Previously, Dr. Kelleher taught several courses in the field of International Studies and held various administrative positions at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA over a 31-year period. She ended her formal career as Executive Director of the Center for Global Engagement at Gonzaga University in Spokane WA, holding that position for over 7-years.

Listed as subfields within international studies, her areas of expertise cover world politics, international development, war and peacemaking, plus most recently, peacebuilding. Dr. Kelleher's scholarship includes articles in academic journals, more recently as peacebuilding case studies, and books: *Global Perspectives: A Handbook for Understanding International Issues*, and *Norway's Peace Policy: Soft Power in a Turbulent World*. In 2000-01 Dr. Kelleher taught at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey funded by the Fulbright Program.

Dr. Kelleher's practical international experience involves designing, negotiating and administering overseas programs in Jamaica, Ecuador, Thailand, Egypt, Namibia, Norway, and Northern Ireland. She has researched in and published about issues in Thailand, Namibia, Turkey, Macedonia, Norway, and Northern Ireland, as well as engaged in research/writing about Sudan and Central America.

~ **Ben Testa**



SAVE THE DATE:

**2015 UUFH-OPLY Service Auction Event
Saturday, November 7 - Start time: 6 pm.**

LOCATION: UUFH Main Hall

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. 7**, we've chosen the theme **UUFH-opoly**—just to “up our game” on an already exciting evening. We decided to “toss the dice” and take liberties with the Monopoly theme. Remember: *It takes more than fake money to get our Fellowship past GO*. Expect to have a fun time with plenty of surprises, including an appearance from Mr. Moneybags himself, as well as the Community Chest, and some life-sized game pieces, like the car and dog.



Want to join us? It's your move! Look for more details in the coming weeks about how to sign up for dinner and your bidding number. Dinner starts at 6 pm and the auction kicks off at 7:30 pm.

Meanwhile, in order to have interesting options to auction, we'll need your promissory notes, which will be available soon. These are the forms to fill in what you'd like to offer. Start thinking about that now. How about offering a kayak trip? A triple chocolate cake? A mystery dinner party? Handyperson help? Instructions will be on the forms, but you can always ask us for advice on offering ideas.

We're also asking anyone with photos of the 2014-15 auction events/parties, to please email them to lizaburby@verizon.net for our slide show. The one shown above is the “Paint the Town” event in February offered by Amy Olander. For more information or to volunteer, please stop by the Development Committee Social Hour Table. ~ **Liza Burby**



TO SEE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER AUCTION ITEMS DETAILS:

Intergenerational Scavenger Hunt - Sun Sept. 20, 2015 Noon

Ghost Stories by the Harbor - Sun Oct 4, 2015 7 PM

CLICK OR COPY & PASTE

<http://uufh.org/pdfs/UUFH-second-chance-auctions-May-27-2015.pdf>

FEATURED EVENTS



CUUPS Fall Equinox Celebration - Sunday, September, 20 Noon - 2 pm

LOCATION: UUFH Board Room (location may change)

Please, join CUUPS (The Covenant of UU Pagans) as we celebrate the Fall Equinox (also called Mabon). It is the time of the autumn equinox, and the harvest is winding down. The fields are nearly empty, because the crops have been plucked and stored for the coming winter. Mabon is the mid-harvest festival, and it is when we take a few moments to honor the changing seasons, and celebrate the second harvest. It is also a time to remember the year and appreciate which of our plans came true (good harvest) and assess how we want to proceed if they didn't. The school year is starting and life continues.

The celebration is scheduled to start in the building but may be moved outdoors if the weather permits. Please, bring a symbol of the season and drums or rattles if you have them. Free; all are welcome including children (with a parent/guardian.)
~ **Christine McDonald**

THE GREATER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



UN International Day of Peace - Monday, September, 21, 2015 - 6:30 pm LOCATION: The New Apostolic Church, 145 Crossways Park Dr. West, Woodbury, NY 11797

The Long Island Council of Churches, The Long Island Multi Faith Forum & The New Apostolic Church invite you to the fifth anniversary celebration of the UN International Day of Peace. ~ **Susan Peters**

Caring for the Dying and the People Who Love Them – Saturday, October 3, 9:30 am - 3 pm

LOCATION: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook, 380 Nicolls Rd in East Setauket

In this workshop you will learn about the dying process and the wide range of feelings experienced when people grieve; practice listening and gain practical skills for responding; and identify ways to manage your own feelings and take care of yourself. This workshop is for congregational Pastoral Care teams and anyone who wants to care for people who are dying and those who love them. It will be led by the Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson, a UU minister whose community ministry is bereavement services. \$40 per person registration fee covers the workshop and breakfast/lunch. Bring a team of 4 from your congregation; pay for 3 and get the 4th free. Register online at www.uumetrony.org/events or call **631 751-0297**.

Interfaith Youth Retreat on Racial Justice - October, 11 - 12, 2015

LOCATION: Camp DeWolfe in Wading River

A group of LI faith communities, including the UU Fellowship at Stony Brook, is coordinating a program called Dialogues for Racial Justice and Social Change: An Interfaith Youth Leadership Retreat, which will take place Oct. 11 -12 at Camp DeWolfe in Wading River. Youth entering grades 9-12 are eligible to apply. If you are interested, please see Rev. Jude or Starr for an application which needs to be completed and received by August 30. For more information, contact Rev. Kate Jones Calone at (631) 941-4271.
~ **Mary Beth Guyther**

Religious Education

For Children & Youth

Why Parent Orientation?

Starr Austin

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Mark your calendars to attend parent orientation Sunday, September 13th 12:15pm-2:00pm in the Main Hall. Why? Because you are your child's primary religious educator and you are not alone.

This year we are focusing on partnering with families, building relationships, and bringing our themed ministry throughout religious education at all ages.

Come learn about our new approach to RE, small group ministry with children and youth. Come find out about social justice Sundays and our multigen services.

We will have calendars for families and registration sheets present at orientation. You can also register now online. [Click here to register.](#)

Communication

We are trying out a new communication style this year. Instead of the weekly RE News for everyone, families will receive weekly emails tailored to the age group of your children or youth. This gives you vital information about the programming for your children. Occasionally we will still do a mass email for everyone. If you have not received an email communication from me in the past couple of weeks, let me know. It could be that I do not have a current email address for you. You can e-mail me to let me know.

Arts in Worship

We are putting together a team of people who want to work on bringing more visual arts into our multigene services. This will have room for participants to create art or facilitate the creation of art by other congregants for upcoming services. [Contact Starr](#) for more info.

Important Dates

Sunday, Sept. 6th:

- Covenanting Project with Starr in RE

Saturday, Sept 12th:

- District Middle School Retreat at Camp Herrlich in Patterson, NY.

Sunday, Sept 13th:

- Ingathering & Water Communion
- Congregational Potluck
- PARENT ORIENTATION 12:15-2p
Childcare provided

Wednesday, Sept 16th:

- Youth Night! Begins. 6:30pm-8:30pm for 6th-12th graders.

Sunday, Sept 20th:

- First day of RE
- Journey Groups for adults! Childcare is provided during this small group ministry program for adults 12:10-1:45pm

Friday, Sept 25th:

- Cluster Con for High School Youth, here at UUFH. Doctor Who theme!

Sunday, Sept 27th:

- Bring a Friend day! For all ages. We ask you to invite a friend to the Fellowship. RE programming will be geared for visitors and there will be a small celebration following service

The Beacon

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**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Huntington**

109 Brown's Road
Huntington, NY 11743

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday,
9:00 AM - 2:00PM
Fridays, 11:30AM - 1:30 PM
Tel.: 631-427-9547

Email: office@uufh.org
Website: www.uufh.org

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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:
Thursday, October 1, 2015**

*** Beacon Deadline:
Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

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