

The Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
April 2015 Vol. LVIII, No.10

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

April 2015 - Theme: Trust



April 5

"Easter Sunday" - Rev. Jude Preaching, Choir Singing, Multigenerational Service for all ages.

April 12

"Having Trust in Trust"

How do we know if our trust is built on a stable foundation? Does the start of trust come from inside or outside ourselves? And what happens if we are wrong? How can we trust in trust? This is an SPC service presented by Rich Buley-Neumar, with music by Isabella Johnson.

April 19

"Perception, Reality, and Open Mindedness" A Services Auction Sermon chosen by Ralph Taliercio. What is the distance from an object as it is to the person as they are? This service will explore the nature of opinions, optics, illusions and the role of trust. Rev. Jude Preaching; Isabella on piano

April 26

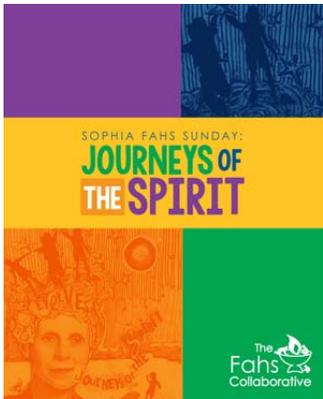
Annual Bridging Sunday "Journeys of the Spirit"

- Come celebrate the journeys of our graduating seniors and learn from stories across our UU faith tradition. Rev. Jude and Starr Austin leading the service. Multigenerational Service for all ages. Choir singing.

tradition. Rev. Jude and Starr Austin leading the service. Multigenerational Service for all ages. Choir singing.

To all congregants: If you are interested in performing music at a Sunday service, please contact Richard Hyman at music@uufh.org

FROM THE MINISTER



On Sunday, April 26, we'll celebrate another class of Senior Youth graduating from our Religious Education program. We'll hear their faith journeys within our community; celebrate their successes; and make good use of our tissue boxes as they decide their next big steps in life. This year, we'll be celebrating Bridging Sunday with a Sunday service that was originally crafted by a denominational team of musicians, religious educators, ministers and seminary faculty. It will be the beginning of what is being called Sophia Fahs Sunday in honor of the great religious educator that we also name our beloved Summer Fahs camp after. I had the honor of being part of this inaugural planning team as their liturgist. It was organized by our UU seminary, Meadville Lombard. In addition to hearing from our Senior Youth, we'll hear the reflections from religious leaders throughout our denomination, related to the journeys of the spirit throughout our lives. At present, we know of over 150 UU congregations that will also be using this multigenerational liturgy sometime this year. Starr, Richard and I will be making it our own for our community, but we will be taking part in something that many, many congregations will be echoing as well. ~ **Warmly, Rev. Jude**



DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

What does it mean to trust, deeply trust, in religious community? In my years in congregational work I have heard over and over again the importance of trust: trust the leadership; trust the staff; trust each other. What I haven't heard enough of is: trust yourself. This is one piece of what we attempt in religious education, to help our young people develop a sense of trusting one's self. After all, how do we cultivate trust in others if we don't yet trust in ourselves?

This month we will explore trust as a community. Is trust a religious virtue? Do we trust one another? Do we trust ourselves? What about the unseen, a sense of something larger than ourselves? How do we trust in what we cannot see? What do we do when trust is broken? How can our covenants serve us in our endeavor to continue developing a deep well of trust in our community? Through sermons, Journey Groups and the monthly Parent Guide we will explore all of this and more. See more on Religious Education below ~ **In Faith, Starr Austin**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On a snowy Feb. 14, at the invitation of one of the four remaining members of the Muttontown congregation, I made my way through the empty building to pick up 13 hymnals they had left as a donation for our congregation. It was a bittersweet moment for me to walk through what had been a spiritual home for our kindred UUs for over 50 years. But the congregation had dwindled to a few and they had sold the building. All that was left in the echoing rooms were the hymnals and a podium we decided we don't have room for. I dropped the hymnals off in the UUFH office to "deal with another day," and then got too busy with other UUFH matters to attend to them.

Just a month later I learned of the horrible destruction to another Long Island congregation, Southold, and like all of you, I was shocked and saddened and wanted to do something. Though it seemed a drop

in the bucket, I thought of the neglected hymnals. I mentioned them to Rev. Jude and he was able to hand them to the Southold minister two weeks ago. It is indeed a small gesture, but to me the poignancy of those hymnals being passed from one local UU congregation to another is yet another example of what connects us. I wanted to share the story with you.

Less touching, but of great importance to us all, is the status of the parking lot. There have been many minute details to attend to all winter, such as adjustments to the plans to prepare them for the town. The paperwork is now with the town, and we wait for what we hope is a "waiver of site plan approval," which is the best-case scenario. If we're not granted this, there will be a full application process, and I don't yet know how long that could take. Meanwhile, we are finalizing bids and details with two contractors, so we're keeping things moving as we wait. Like you, I wish the parking lot had been done yesterday. But we certainly made it through a most challenging winter with a variety of terrible conditions. Now as we experience more hospitable weather conditions (I hope), I ask for your patience as we move ahead as quickly as we can, understanding that all the painstaking preliminary work we've been doing will make the project move quickly once we get town approval. And I will continue to tell you what I know when I know it.

I have the great honor of sharing excellent news about some of our members. The Metro District has selected the following for prestigious awards: Sue McGovern was chosen to receive the Unsung UU Award; Ben Testa, the Winifred Latimer Norman Award; Joanne Polichetti, the Youth Empowerment Award; and Alley Wolff, a Youth Scholarship. These awards will be presented by Metro District at their annual meeting, May 1-2 at the Hyatt Morristown in New Jersey. See elsewhere in this Beacon for details about the event. We are so proud of Sue, Ben, Joanne and Alley. And I wanted to once again mention that thanks to the hard work of Ben and Alley, the UUFH received the UU-UNO Blue Ribbon Award for the fourth year in a row.

What a vital and empowering congregation. I hope you keep this in mind if the Nominating Committee calls on you to serve on the board or another committee. Yes, volunteering takes precious time. But participating in the work of this Fellowship with other members who care about the UUFH as much as you do is a rewarding experience. You will get far more back than any hours you put in, and it's a chance for you to become part of this Fellowship's history. So if you are called to serve, please do consider it carefully. Feel free to contact me to discuss it. I'm a little busy with my volunteer work for this Fellowship, but I consider all I do as much a gift to me as it is to the congregation. Call me to chat about it at 631-549-4483 or email me at lizaburby@verizon.net ~ **Liza Burby**

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tis the season when the Nominating Committee is operating on overdrive, charged as they are with finding volunteers to staff all of our Fellowship committees. To those of you who are considering how to best share your talents with the Fellowship, I offer this letter I received from my daughter last year right after I had accepted a position on the Board. I am not sure it will make your decision any easier, but I hope it makes you laugh:

To: Mama
From: Charlotte

Please read this (no one else but Mama). Please hand this back to Charlotte after you read and sign. Urgent.

Dear Mama,

Why did you sign up for the Board? You can spend more time with us if you don't go to the meetings. Think of how much time you would give your best to church instead of us kids, especially if you become the President!

Love (I hope you change your mind),
Charlotte

P.S. Didn't somebody say that being Vice President was harder than being President and then you said you would be the Vice President?! Do you remember saying that? Circle Yes or No.
Are you still going to be on the Board next year and be the President? Circle Yes or No

Can you read my handwriting? Circle Yes or No. ~ **Jennifer Thieke**

FINANCIAL FOR YOUR INFO—F.F.Y.I

Being a member of our beloved Fellowship is a positive experience in so many ways. Unfortunately, one of the positives is that it is "positively expensive."

DID YOU KNOW.....

- Our dishwasher was replaced at a cost of \$3,000? Thankfully, one of our UUFH "angels" covered the cost.
- This extraordinarily snowy winter put us at least \$7,000 over our budget.
- Melting snow revealed many leaky roof issues which needed to be addressed immediately and will also involve electrical repairs the cost of which is yet to be determined.

We feel proud that over the past years we've been able to finance the cost of improvements, renovations and repairs... among them:

- \$17,000 social hall renovation
- \$60,000 new heating and air conditioning in the main hall, social hall and gallery
- \$50,000 roofing
- \$13,400 chimney repair
- \$58,000 renovations to cottage and apartment

In addition to all of the above, our UUFH "bottom line" has suffered because of the loss of members who have passed or moved away.

We must express our heartfelt thanks to members and friends who have stepped up to help "fill the gap," most recently with individual contributions towards our Parking Lot Fund.

With the Congregation's help we will continue to be "positively wonderful!" ~ **Your Finance Team**

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting - Sun., April 26 - 12:15 pm

UUFH Main Hall

The first of our Annual congregational meetings will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 12:15 in the Main Worship Hall. At this meeting we will vote to elect officers to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Committee. At this meeting we will also vote to elect the candidates for the nominating committee for the succeeding year and approve the minutes of the last congregational meeting in June of 2014. Please read them here, though there will be limited copies available that day: <http://uufh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Congregational-Meeting-June-8-Minutes.pdf>. There will be a presentation about the new UUFH Safe Congregation policy. Other business may be addressed by the Board of Trustees or may be brought up by a member from the floor. Bagels and coffee will be served. All members of UUFH are encouraged to attend. ~ **Kim Schultze**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

We, the Nominating Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, are pleased to put forth the following names and the positions sought starting in July 2015. The voting for these positions will take place at the congregational meeting on April 26, 2015 so everyone is encouraged to attend. For the Board of Trustees: Michael Amendola, vice president. For the Nominating Committee: Lisa Moskowitz, Judie Gardner and Barbara Yanuck. For the Endowment Committee, Jan Brenner. Their bios are below.

We will be presenting two BOT trustee names and two COM names for the congregation to vote on at our June congregational meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Brenner, Judy Greene, Jenna Kern-Rutile, Ben Testa and Lee Kurfist.

Board of Trustees Candidate:

Michael Amendola, Vice President of the BOT

I began attending UUFH with my wife, Jerilyn Fortsch, and my two sons, Michelangelo and Theo, in 2004. I served as a member of the Religious Education Committee and chaired the committee from 2010 to 2012. I also served on the Sunday Program Committee where I led services, most notably a service about the spirituality of John Coltrane in February 2013. As a saxophonist and former professional musician, I have played music in service as well as composed pieces for the choir. I lead the Intergenerational Orchestra in the Family Christmas Eve service. Currently I am active as a Religious Education teacher, teaching grades 5 and 6.

Nominating Committee Candidates:

Judie Gardner

I joined the Fellowship in 1998 and have been active in a variety of ways since then. I was an office volunteer for about five years and a Meeting Point facilitator for two years. I have been working as the Coordinator for our Fellowship's Care/Share program for the past 10 years. Most recently I have led our UUFH Women's Group for the past two and a half years. I have done the floral decorating of the Main Hall and the décor for the Services Auction for years. I make the signs you see when you enter our lobby area and I also prepare the New Member Bulletin Board. I have participated in and chaired the Nominating Committee in the past and look forward to working with the Nominating Committee again.

Lisa Moskowitz

My children and I have been attending the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington for the past six years. I have served four years on the Religious Education Committee, including an additional year as co-chair to assist with changes in the program. I have also had the pleasure of teaching the High School RE class during several semesters. Last year I had the wonderful opportunity to help develop and assist in the Ballou RE class where we worked on creative projects and facilitated discussions with some of our young adults who were seeking a place to call "home" within our Fellowship. I am currently assisting the Stewardship Committee to develop and implement its mission, in coordination with UUFH leadership and various other committees. I am looking forward to serving on the Nominating Committee, helping to identify the skills and talents within the UUFH and helping people connect with opportunities to serve the Fellowship and to create a stronger community.

Barbara Yanuck

I have been attending the UUFH, with my husband the three children, since 2001. I have taught religious education regularly and currently serve on the Board of Sophia Fahs Unitarian Universalist Religious Education Camp. I am finishing a three-year term on the Beyond Our Walls Committee, where I have served as chairperson for the past year. If approved to serve on the Nominating Committee, I will use my knowledge of the Congregation, as well as increase my knowledge, toward the goal of finding individuals who would be most appropriate for each position.

Endowment Committee Candidate:

Jan Brenner

As a retired member of our congregation, my attention has naturally turned towards the subjects of estate and long-range fiscal planning. I have been an active member of our congregation for over 15 years. I began teaching RE when our son was a participant in the program and I continue to teach, when needed, as a substitute for the 5th and 6th grade RE class. We met our first friends through the RE program and continue to enjoy time spent with them at the Fellowship and out in the community. I served as the Communications Cluster Coordinator for two years, which gave me the opportunity to get to know many of my fellow members and learn how the UUFH “business model” works. As a HIFI volunteer, I had the privilege of working with Mary Beth Guyther and Bea Coryell when they set up the program. I eventually became the HIFI Coordinator and managed the program three years. Since many of our members volunteer for the HIFI program, I was able to get work with members and volunteers of all ages and represent our Fellowship in the outside community.

I have also served on the New Membership Committee, volunteered at Sophia Fahs Camp and assisted on a variety of other short term, task focused assignments. I am currently ending my term on the Nominating Committee, but continue to sing with Richard Hyman and the members of our UUFH choir.

The Endowment Committee encourages and helps manage bequests from members and makes recommendations in response to proposals for how funds will be invested and spent. My past employment experience in banking and current interest in getting my own house in order financially round out the reasons why I will be a good candidate for the Endowment Committee.

FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPRING PLANT SALE - ORDER NOW THROUGH SUN., APRIL 26

What springs to mind when we say “spring?” Certainly not sub-zero temperatures, white-outs and gale-force winds. Think sun, warm breezes and lots of color: pink, lavender, blue, yellow and red flowers and carpets of green, green grass.

The **UUFH Spring Plant Sale** starts Sunday in the Social Hall after service where you can place your order. Pick up will take place on **Sun., May 3** for Mother’s Day hanging baskets and **Sat., May 16** for

all other plants on the patio outside the Social Hall.

We have listened to plant quality complaints over the past two years and for the first time we are using a new grower – Jamesport Greenhouses. Their pricing is competitive and their plant quality is superior. To buyers who have had problems in the past, we trust you will give this grower the

opportunity to decorate your gardens this year, and support the UUFH at this much-needed fund raiser. If you have any questions, call Jean at 631-673-3287. ~ **Debbie Cohen & Jean Marra**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES OUR FELLOWSHIP

The UUSC annually thanks and celebrates the strongest supporters of its mission to advance human rights and social justice around the world.

This year we (UUFH) have been recognized with a Creating Justice Banner Society Award for a congregation with 25-49 percent UUSC membership, as well as a James Luther Adams Award for congregations that contribute a budgeted gift of \$1-\$24 per member.

Thank you for your generosity on Christmas Eve and to Guest at Your Table. Take a minute to visit the UUSC on YouTube. You'll be impressed by all the "we," collectively, can accomplish in the world by working together. ~ **Marilyn Kopp-Hecker**

***** DEADLINE *****

BEYOND OUR WALLS COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



We Want to Help You Help Others: Beyond Our Walls (BOW) Application Deadline: April 15, 2015

Do you have a local social justice project or agency you're involved with? The UUFH Beyond Our Walls (BOW) program is designed to discover opportunities to support the important social justice work that needs doing in our community. Currently, BOW has funds available to support several projects. In the past, BOW provided vital funding to Community Gardens, Burundi Scholarships, the Huntington Food Council, Housing Help and HIHI. Apply for a grant today. Deadline for 2015 projects is April 15. To download an application, go to:

uufh.org/faith-in-action/beyond-our-walls-bow-major-philanthropy and click on the grant application link. Please submit directly to the committee at BOW@uufh.org. Looking forward to hearing from you. ~ **Karen Mazzotta**

STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The application deadline for summer 2015 and the 2015-16 academic year is April 15, 2015. Applications and more information about the Program are available on the LIAC Website <http://www.liacuu.org> or by contacting Linda Pfeiffer, Coordinator of the SAF Program by e-mail <mailto:lpfeiffer@optonline.net> or 631-584-6854.

The **STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND** is a grant program funded by the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock that enables Long Island UU high school seniors and undergraduate college students to perform significant community service while earning money to help finance their education.

The purpose of the Student Activity Fund is to encourage our students to live their religious values through internships in social action, advocacy and service provision. Through the years, students have participated in the program in their home towns and all over the world. The program is open to students who will be high school seniors and undergraduate college students next fall and whose

families are members of Long Island UU Congregations. Read about the experiences of last year's student participants on the Long Island Area Council website, www.liacuu.org. ~ **Linda Pfeiffer**

2015 METRO NY DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING MAY 1 & 2 - REGISTER SOON

The 2015 Annual Meeting takes place Friday, May 1 – Saturday, May 2, 2015, at the Hyatt Morristown in Morristown NJ. Check-in is from 4 pm to 7:30 pm on Friday and again on Saturday morning from 7 am to 9 am. The meeting closes at 5 pm on Saturday.

For a full roster of activities and information on event registration and hotel reservations please visit the 2015 Metro NY District registration website at: <http://uumetrony.org/am15/index.htm>
Keynote Address: Rev. Scott Tayler - Director of Congregational Life at our Unitarian Universalist Association: The Space Between—Building a new day by strengthening the ties that bind. Something new is in the air. Our focus on independence and individuality is making room for a new found hunger for interdependence and connection. Our districts and our congregations are realizing that we truly are stronger together. There is much organizational efficiency to be gained through deeper connection.

But much spiritual power as well. Our faith reminds us that a “holy creativity” arises as we heal the spiritual and organizational disconnection between us. Where is that sacred creativity leading us? And how is it calling us to change? ~ **Susie Byrnes**



FIFTH ANNUAL JOAN McWADE & TODD STUTZMAN MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE Sun., May 3- 9:30 am to 2 pm

The Fifth Annual Joan McWade & Todd Stutzman Memorial Blood Drive will be held in the Social Hall from 9:30 am to 2 pm on Sunday, May 3. The drive had to be postponed from its original date in February, due to weather conditions. Donations have been lower due to winter weather, even as demands have risen. Please consider donating blood and sharing this lifesaving gift. Sign-up sheets to schedule an appointment will be on a table in the Social Hall on April 11, 18 and 25 after Sunday services*, or you may call Marilyn Kopp-Hecker at 631-427-4898 or Johanna Leopold at 631-673-3539 to schedule an appointment. Coffee will be set up as usual on the kitchen counter, but people are asked to take their coffee into the gallery as the social hall will not be available.

*Those who had signed up for the February date do not need to sign up again, unless they wish to donate at a different time slot. ~ **Johanna Leopold**

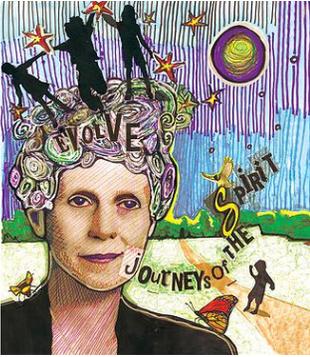


SPLIT PLATE CHARITY FOR APRIL Southold Congregation Fire Recovery

As many of you know, the First Universalist Church of Southold experienced a devastating fire March 14—a huge loss of their beautiful spiritual home.

Our April Split Plate collection is devoted to the recovery of Southold. We hope you'll give generously. ~ **Karen Mazzota**

APRIL 26, SPECIAL SPLIT-PLATE COLLECTION: The Fahs Collaborative



In honor of the “**Sophia Fahs Sunday: Journeys of the Spirit**” liturgy that will be conducted April 26, the Split Plate recipient for this Sunday will be the “The Fahs Collaborative,” an innovative Meadville Lombard Theological School think tank whose mission is to creatively inspire congregational life. Our very own Rev. Jude Geiger is a member of the six-person “collaboratory” (i.e., creative team) responsible for designing this inspirational, multi-generational, multi-cultural liturgy. We hope you'll give generously. For more info on Fahs Collaborative visit www.thefahscollaborative.com/#!/fahs-sunday/c6jn
~ **Karen Mazzotta**

FEATURED EVENTS

NOTE: All scheduled Events for this month and future months can be viewed on the uufh.org Web Calendar <http://uufh.org/featured-events>



APRIL ART GALLERY APRIL ART EXHIBIT LOCAL WATERCOLORS BY MIA BECHTOLD Reception, Sunday, April 12 from Noon- 2 pm

Spring's welcome is reflected in the airy, colorful watercolors of Mia Bechtold, Northport artist in the gallery during April. Through her sensitive, skillful vision, her subjects include landscapes and water scenes. Many will be familiar and recognizable to local residents. Please join Mia at her reception on Sunday, April 12 from Noon- 2 pm. ~ **Connie Wain-Schwartz**

PASSOVER



UUFH ANNUAL PASSOVER SEDER- SAT., APRIL 4 - 6 pm, Social Hall

Come and enjoy a delicious, traditional home-cooked Passover dinner while we read and sing through our Unitarian Universalist Haggadah. Watch our talented children and some courageous adults perform this year's UUFH Passover skit. Limited seating. **No reservations taken after March 29.** If you and/or your children would like to be involved with the skit, food preparation, main hall set-up, or music, please speak to Debbie or me. ~ **Harriet McKenna & Debbie Cohen**



EASTER EGG HUNT, ON THE GROUNDS - Sun., APRIL 5 - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Our junior and senior youth are hosting an Easter egg hunt for children after service on April 5. Children of any age may participate. Bring a basket! ~ **Starr Austin**

ON BEING DISCUSSION GROUP - Wed., April 8, 2015 - 7 pm - 9 pm
Board Room

TOPIC: THE ART & DISCIPLINE OF NON VIOLENCE
CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

Krista Tippett sat recently with John Lewis, U.S. Representative for Georgia's 5th congressional district. The episode is titled *The Art & Discipline of Nonviolence*. We are all familiar with the amazing life and words of Congressman Lewis, but, as always, Krista is able to capture him speaking of faith in a very special way. Please join us as we listen and then discuss their conversation. I hope to see you there.

~ **Andrew Feigin**



[To See All Second Chance Auction Item on the UUFH website. Click here.](#)



FEATURED AUCTION ITEM:

The Spirituality of Dr. Who April 18, 6 pm

Hosted by Rev. Jude (the person you've entrusted for your spiritual guidance, do you really want to not bid on this?). A multigenerational potluck party at UUFH. Rev. Jude will show one Dr. Who episode and engage party-goers in a discussion of the spirituality of Dr. Who related to the episode. There will be some kid-friendly activities for small groups, and we'll make a great night of it. Let's continue this new UUFH tradition! Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Film at 7:00 p.m. \$10/person; \$30/family max. A lot of seats available.

SECOND CHANCE AUCTION SQUARE DANCE - Fri., April 10, 2015 - 7:30 - 9:30 pm
UUFH Social Hall

A traditional square dance party for children and adults with professional caller and live music. For families and singles. Simple squares and circle dances. No experience needed. No partner needed. All dances taught and prompted throughout by Annette Kirk.

Can't dance? Come to hear the wonderful traditional dance tunes played by Larry Moser (accordion, hammered dulcimer) and Mary Nagin (fiddle). Refreshments served. Info: 631-757-3627.

\$10 at door: **children under 16 free** ~ **Annette Kirk**

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK - Sun., April 12 - 11:30 am

Please gather after service Sunday, April 12 for a potluck lunch in the Social hall. It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends and make new ones.

This event is possible only with your help. Please drop off your offerings in the kitchen before service. Ovens will be on to keep things hot. Please pick up your dish after the service and bring it to the serving table. Members of the Membership & Hospitality committee will be available to help. We ask everyone to chip in to help clean up as you are able.

Everyone is welcome even if you were not able to bring a dish. We always make sure there is extra!

Next 2 Potluck Dates: May 10, June 14 ~ Royal Forest



CUUPS - AN AURA MEDITATION
Sun., April 12, 2015 - 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
UUFH Board Room
Join us for an interactive Aura Meditation. Learn to see and read auras.
~ **Chris McDonald**



LAST LICKS CAFE - Sat., April 25, 2015 – 7pm - 10:30 pm
Wild Ginger & Annie Mark & Chris James
UUFH Main Hall

Open Mic at 7:30 - 8:30; performance 8:30 - 10:30

Annie and Chris move seamlessly from genre to genre- drawing from their vast musical tastes for their shows-Americana, blues, country, folk, rock, whether playing originals or paying homage to those who have come before. Annie and Chris - strong performers on their own- together a dynamic duo- bring their devotion and dedication to serving each song up to each other and their

listeners with all their heart and soul. A powerful, moving, not to be missed show.
\$15.00 (\$10 for student & seniors)

THE GREATER COMMUNITY

LIAC'S 9TH ANNUAL INTERGENERATIONAL PASTA PARTY/ TALENT SHOW

Sat., April 11, 2015 - 6 pm - 9 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stony Brook

UU Connect presents:

LIAC's 9th Annual Intergenerational Pasta Party/Talent Show. Saturday April 11, 2015 at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stony Brook, 380 Nicolls Road, South Setauket, NY 11733

Dinner at 6 pm followed by Talent Show at 7pm.

Can you sing, dance, tell jokes, play an instrument, read poetry or have any other talent that you would like to share? Please plan on joining us. Children, youth and adults are all welcome to participate. It will be a great night. Please respond to David Silver at dre@snuuc.org for more information and to R.S.V.P. No charge to attend this event. Raffles to support scholarships for LIAC programs (Sophia Fahs Camp., O.W.L. and Coming of Age). ~ **Royal Forest**

LIAC'S ANNUAL SPRING DINNER - Sat., April 18, 2015 - 6 pm - 9 pm

UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Social Hall 48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset

Heading in the Wrong Direction: Growing School Segregation on Long Island

Cocktail hour 6pm / Dinner 6:30pm / Speaker 7:15 pm

Guest Speaker: Elaine Gross, MSW, President of Erase Racism

Gross was hired by the Long Island Community Foundation to launch the ERASE Racism Initiative in June 2001. In 2004, ERASE Racism became an independent New York State not-for-profit corporation. Gross has successfully led ERASE Racism, bringing together a cross-section of Long Island leaders to discuss and formulate remedies to persistent regional inequities, resulting from embedded

institutional and structural racism in health, education and housing. Under Gross' leadership, ERASE Racism has been recognized locally and nationally for its cutting-edge work addressing institutional and structural racism, especially in the area of housing and community development. Gross has received numerous awards and is a frequent presenter on the topic of structural racism. Recognizing Gross' leadership and expertise, one of the Ford Foundation divisions invited her to be one of three presenters at an international foundation staff retreat.

Gross also served as a Program Officer for the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock and developed a portfolio of grants across the U.S. focused on human rights and economic development.

Please R.S.V.P. by April 10. Tickets \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the door; \$10 for students.

Checks payable to: LIAC, Memo line: Spring Dinner. Send payments to: Gretta Johnson-Sally (LIAC Administrator), 5 Reydon Place, Commack 11725. Additional info, Gretta@gjsdre@hotmail.com

A STORY OF ALOYS by Helen Boxwill

Arnt Monge first connected with Burundi when he was a member of the UUFH. He continued his involvement after he moved. He has been there a few times, sponsoring students in our program to send them to university. Here is his story.

'When I told my nursing student Aloys that I wanted to see the village where he came from he quickly offered to visit his family on my next trip. So, after arriving in Burundi earlier this month we planned our visit. With Rev. Fulgence driving three hours through bumpy, dusty roads we finally reached the countryside to start our trail up to the village. We walked past a two-room mud schoolhouse. The kids ran out to see this "mazungoo," a white-skinned person. Some of the younger kids ran in terror, as they thought "mazungoos" ate little kids. The older kids wanted me to lift up my pants leg to see if I was white there too. They screamed and laughed in delight.

Aloys said it was only a 30-minute trek up the mountain. Well, for this "mazungoo" it was an hour and 30 minutes later, up a rocky and then muddy trail, we arrived. Aloys' family, mom and dad, and eight siblings greeted us. They all live in a four-room mud hut. One room was for the borrowed cow; borrowed so that they can use it for fertilizer and milk. They have no electricity and have to walk long distances to carry water back for cooking and washing. We ate corn, beans and cassava. This was a special meal served for special guests. We were truly honored. Only the men ate. Women bowed when bringing in our food and drink. We drank banana beer served thru one bamboo straw, as the bowl was passed around the room. It was truly a gift to be in this village, sharing with these humble, hardworking people. It was hard to contain my emotions seeing their struggles in this unbelievably difficult place. Yet, they were happy.

Upon leaving we were given a live chicken. It would have been an insult not to accept this gift. These people may be materially poor, yet proud and with a generous heart.

I am amazed to this day how it came about that my adopted Burundi son, Aloys made his way from this mountain village to find his way so deep in my heart.

When I started sponsoring him three years ago, little did I know that he would forever change me, too. His dream is to become a doctor and help his people. He can do it.

For more information about sponsoring a Burundi student contact hboxwill@h2empower.com

COMING OF AGE YOUTH: Meet Julia Moskowitz



Photo by Alex Wolff

Coming of Age Update:

Our seven Coming of Age youth are nearly half-way through their Coming of Age program. Seven UUFH youth are participating with six youth from other Long Island congregations to explore spiritual questions.

So far in the Coming of Age program, the youth have laid the foundation for their faith development by defining their personal values and beliefs about good and evil. In session 3, the youth will explore their views on energy, spirit and God.



Photo by Alex Wolff

In our last Beacon, you met Ben Sussman, who offered a moving testimonial at our Stewardship luncheon. Now meet Julia Moskowitz. Perhaps you've seen Julia perform in our youth choir, at the LIAC talent show or volunteer with Star Child and HiHi. Julia has this to say about Coming of Age:

"Being in the COA group has helped me clarify many of my values and how I am spiritually. I also made a great bond with my mentor, and she has also helped me reveal more of my spiritual side."

On Sunday, March 15 Julia's mom Lisa and nine other parents and mentors attended a short program during which they experienced key exercises from the Coming of Age program. The participants enjoyed lively conversation about their own spiritual beliefs and journeys.

"Julia's participation in the COA program has been one of great self-discovery, maturity and growth. She is considering some very complex social, emotional and spiritual issues. It is a pure delight to see her relationship with her mentor, Mary Sussman, blossom. This program is a true gift to our youth, parents and mentors," adds Lisa.

In our next Beacon, look forward to meeting more of our Coming of Age youth: Teagan Vaughn, Jordyn Byrne, Mila Hirsch, Mic Amendola and Declan MacDevitt.

SOPHIA FAHS RELIGIOUS CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN, REGISTER at:

www.liacuu.org/Fahs

- Camp runs from Sunday, Aug. 9 to Friday the 14th, at Camp Quinipet in Shelter Island.
- Campers whose parents are members of LIAC congregations (including UUFH) can receive an additional \$50 discount by using the coupon code "LIAC15" at registration.
- Financial Aid (supplied by congregations and LIAC) is available for those suffering from financial hardship ONLY if completed applications are received by April 1. Please see Starr Austin for a financial aid application
- We accept campers from 3rd to 12th grade (based on grade to be entered in Sept 2015). Younger campers MIGHT be accommodated (if older sibling attending) by contacting the camp board and only if parent accompanies child as staff)

OUR MISSION:

To provide enjoyable, practical and spiritual experiences in a safe, beautiful and natural environment that will inspire children, youth and adults to explore their identities: personal, communal and Unitarian Universalist.

OUR GOALS

- To provide a safe and friendly environment

- To encourage personal exploration and creative community building in a relaxed atmosphere
- To provide positive role modeling
- To develop a caring community for all campers and staff
- To strengthen a sense of Unitarian Universalist identity
- To connect more deeply with our 7 Principles through Program, Activities and Worship.

~ **Matthew Barish**



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INVITATION TO UUA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) 2015 Wed., June 24 - Portland, Oregon

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year GA is in Portland, Oregon, June 24-28. The theme for GA 2015 is "Building a New Way." Most events will be held in the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin

Luther King Jr. Blvd, Portland, OR 97232. UUFH can send six delegates and registration began in March. More info on GA, registration costs and hotel/travel costs can be found at <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. Please contact me (UUFH BOT Secretary) at 631-897-1001 or Kim.Schultze@cbmoves.com if you would like to attend. ~ **Kim Schultze**

Religious Education

Why It Matters

Starr Austin
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

In teaching our young people I believe in relationship over curriculum. It is the relational that makes our community sacred, not knowledge of any specific moment in our history or the ability to recite our seven principles. Curriculum is important, but nothing is more important than the relationship.

Recently I have been reading data on correlations between experiences in a faith community and still identifying in the faith one was raised. The data was clear; the young adults who retained their denominational identity shared a common experience.

In each of their congregations at least 5 people, not related to them, had developed a meaningful relationship with them during their childhood and youth. These individuals had adults in their congregation who knew them, who spoke to them regularly, and who served as a mentor to them. I think many parents want this for their children.

We recognize the need for our kids to have safe adults who share our values to be a loving presence in their life. While we work to cultivate open relationships with our own children, we know they will need other people to turn to. It is certainly my hope for my own child that she grow up here with that kind of deep sense of belonging.

The thing is none of this happens magically. It takes adults in the congregation making an effort to get to know children and youth. Many of you already do this in a deeply intentional way. Others may be looking for how to connect with a young person. Here's my basic advice, just start. One Sunday pick a child and say hello, learn their name, meet their parents, and decide to invest in them. You never know, you could be the person who gives them a sense of belonging in the Fellowship and in Unitarian Universalism. You could contribute to a life-long UU.

Adult Religious Education

We value life-long learning, faith formation, and exploration. If you would like to participate in a team of lay leaders who help facilitate our adult religious education offerings, contact Starr at dre@uufh.org

Adult OWL (Our Whole Lives)

There is an upcoming OWL training in Boone, North Carolina April 17-19 to become a certified adult OWL teacher. Let me know if you are interested in attending.

Important Dates

Saturday April 4th: Passover Seder

Sunday, April 5th: Easter multigenerational worship service followed by an Easter egg hunt.

Growing UUp

2nd-4th grade program

Growing UUp is a program exploring UU principles. Participants learn the principles, the history of our chalice, and experience a rite of passage recognizing that they are entering the age of reason – the time of childhood when they begin to articulate bigger questions about faith, religion, and life's mysteries.

We will bring classes April 12th after service. We will meet 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/17, & 5/31. Attendance is crucial so we ask families to not miss more than 1 Sunday in order to be part of the ceremony in worship on June 7th. Please contact Starr Austin at dre@uufh.org to enroll your child. We ask for a fee of \$10 at registration.

The Beacon

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Rev. Jude Geiger

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister

Starr Austin, Director of Religious Education

Richard Hyman, Music Director

Susie Byrnes, Administrator

Liza Burby, President

Today's Editor: Bridgette Nicolini

**Next Beacon:
Monday, April 30, 2015**

*** Beacon Deadline:
Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

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