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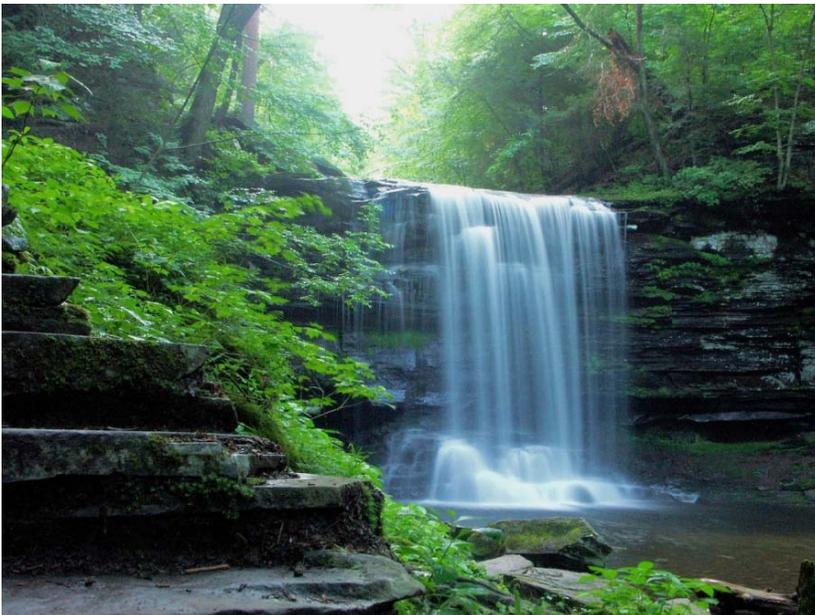
Beacon

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

Rev. Jude Geiger, Minister
June 2015 Vol. LVIII, No.12

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

June 2015 - Theme: Honesty



June 7: "Coming of Age and Growing UUp Rites of Passage" (Junior Youth and 2nd and 4th Grade Classes). This multigenerational service celebrates two significant transitions in the life of our children and youth. We'll hear our youth offer their own Credo Statements. Rev. Jude preaching; Isabella on piano.

June 14: "Pride Sunday" Lessons from the Movement," a frank look at the history of the LGBT civil rights movement and the intersection of the rise of the Religious Right in the modern times. Rev. Jude preaching, choir singing.

June 21: "Flower Celebration and Fathers' Day" Bring a flower to the service and take a different one home. The Flower communion service was created by Rev. Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. It is a service of unity amidst diversity. Rev. Jude preaching, choir singing.

June 28: "The Good Life" How can we set about creating a life of meaning, satisfaction, and a pleasant experience among unavoidable real life challenges? Led by Steve Burby and Rich Buley-Neumar; Isabella on piano.

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

Last month, in the Beacon I made a special invitation to folks to reach out who were interested in talking with me, either to answer questions about our Fellowship or simply to get to know one another better. Thank you to those of you who did reach out. I appreciate how busy our lives can be and it means a lot to me to get the chance to know one another better. One thing I learned from this is that some of us have a misperception surrounding my office hours. I'm realizing that some of us think they need to meet with me only within the hours of 11am-3pm Monday and Wednesday. In fact, most of such meetings with members, friends and newcomers are later in the day or in the evening. Those listed hours are simply the times I'm available for unplanned drop-ins. I try not to schedule committee meetings during those times, and avoid making pastoral visits then aside from emergencies. If you ever feel like you can't reach me by email or cell phone (printed in the Directory), please contact the office and they'll help make sure I didn't miss your message. If you want to schedule a meeting, email me directly or call the office. My cell phone is always on for pastoral emergencies. I am here for you. Do reach out! ~ *Warmly, Rev. Jude*



DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S MESSAGE

The monthly theme for June is honesty. What does it mean to be a people of honesty? Twelve step programs talk about "rigorous honesty." This refers to honesty beyond just "not telling lies" and extends into every aspect of our lives. What does it mean to be honest about who we are, our motivations, and our doubts? What does it mean to be honest in our relationships beyond just not telling lies?

One might say what the Religious Education Council has been doing these past several months is getting rigorously honest about our responsibility to children, youth, and families as well as our to our volunteers. We've crafted a mission statement, cast a vision for creating life-long UUs, engaged in deep study about some new methods in programming, and made decisions for change to better support our mission and our families here at UUFH.

One way we are doing this is through launching a new program in the fall for middle and high school youth. We are calling it **Youth Night!** In this weekly program, youth will have a chance to bring their homework and get help from peers as well as their youth advisers. We will offer free tutoring in math every week and some weeks we will have tutors in English and science as well. We will provide a meal and break bread together. The youth will have opportunities every week to lead a worship service for the group and to determine activities, games, and social justice projects throughout the year.

Youth Night serves families by providing support for academic endeavors and having adults who also promote our UU values to our kids. It serves our

youth by empowering them to largely be in charge of their own worship and programming each week, while under the care of trained youth advisers.

It supports creating life-long UU identity by providing another way for youth to deepen their connections to our faith and by giving them adults other than parents who care for them and have

A flyer for Youth Night! featuring a colorful silhouette of people jumping against a rainbow background. The text includes: "Youth Night! We are launching an exciting new program this fall for our middle and high school youth. This weekly program will offer: ♦ Homework Help, ♦ Free tutoring in math, science, and English, ♦ Food, ♦ Youth-led Worship, ♦ Youth-led activities, ♦ Community building, ♦ Trained advisers serving to mentor our youth." It also includes a date "Join us Sunday, May 21st 5-8pm for the introductory session!" and a mission statement: "The mission and vision of our RE program: 'To build lifelong UU identity by empowering children and youth to act on their behalf to heal our world, supported by multigenerational connections and wisdom.'" and a list of youth advisers: "Our advisers for this new program will be Ben Vaughn, Ellen Serota, Jeanne Pischke, Lee Kurfess, Tom Chiswick, and Mary Sussman."

<http://uufh.org/pdfs/Youth-Night.pdf>

their best interest at heart. Faith identity is largely built on whether or not youth have positive and continued interactions with adults in their faith community outside of their family.

We hope our families will make a commitment to this program each week. We know your schedules are often full, but we hope you see the value in making this a priority. We ask you to take time to honestly reflect on your investments of time and consider what you are investing in for your child with regular attendance in this new and exciting program. ~ ***In Faith, Starr Austin***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 7, the BOT will officially present the 2015-16 budget for members to vote on. The Finance Committee and the BOT have spent numerous hours and meetings crunching the numbers, consulting with outside leaders, and even holding two forums so you can weigh in as well. Though we are unable to present a balanced budget, the fact is that as a congregation we're doing so many things right. For one thing, we've identified and are talking about our financial picture. While ours mirrors many other congregations post-recession, we have a unique situation in that we have also experienced an unprecedented number of losses of donors who have moved or passed away this past year, and that has impacted us in many ways. But we are also fortunate that we own our property outright. We also have investment and endowment funds thanks to the generosity of past members. We're in the process of getting a major improvement to our lot. And we've still managed to act on our faith and mission by making generous donations to outside organizations whose work we support. Meanwhile, we're also taking proactive measures to build our revenue over time with our new fundraising committee and plans for expanding outside rentals. It may take some time to close the budget gap, but I'm proud of the partnership the BOT has with all of you to help us turn around these budget issues.

As we prepare to vote, we must keep in mind what Rev. Jude reminds the BOT of: That the first priority of our Fellowship is our Mission. Our budget is a moral document that reflects our Mission. All of what we do is in the service of our Vision. With that in mind, we will come together on June 7 to vote on our budget and plan for our next steps together. Call me to chat about it at 631-549-4483 or email me at lizaburby@verizon.net ~ ***Liza Burby***

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Throughout the pledge drive and the budget forum one thing has become clear: times are changing at UUFH! As change ushers in, I have been giving some thought to what it means to act within the guidelines of the Congregational Covenant. The Covenant can be found on our website, uufh.org, under the "Welcome Home" and "Who We Are" tabs. It is easy enough to read, and perhaps also easy to commend ourselves on what we perceive to be our impeccable values, but translating those values into action is a different endeavor. The rule in my house: "Mom is always right," which my family refers to in jest, to my chagrin doesn't apply at the Fellowship. For those of us who are used to being in charge, either at work or home, remaining "in covenant" can be a challenge! Many decisions, from designing the parking lot to balancing the budget and everything in between, call on us to synthesize our divergent values into a workable plan. We are all stewards of the Fellowship. As such, I challenge us all to not only tolerate, but to embrace our differing opinions and to renew our commitment to each other and to the continued viability of the Fellowship. As we work together toward a sustainable and thriving Fellowship, I plan to keep a copy of the Congregational Covenant in my back pocket. ~ ***Jennifer Thieke***

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Sun., June 7 - 12:15 pm

UUFH Main Hall

The second of our Annual congregational meetings will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2015 at 12:15 in the Main Worship Hall. At this meeting we will vote on the remaining officers to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees and the Committee on Ministry, as well as the minutes from the April 26 congregational meeting <http://uufh.org/pdfs/Congregational-Meeting-Minutes-2015-04-26.pdf>

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE OPENING THE PDFs, COPY AND PASTE THE LINKS TO YOUR BROWSER.

We will also vote on the 2015-'16 budget.

<http://uufh.org/pdfs/UUFH-May-26-Budget-2015-16-5-29-15.pdf>

Bagels and coffee will be served. All members of the UUFH are encouraged to attend.

WE HEAR YOU!:

STEWARDSHIP SURVEY UPDATE COMMUNICATIONS BRAINSTORMING MEETING

Thurs., June 25 - 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

UUFH Social Hall

Wow, what a busy few months it has been! The Stewardship Committee has been busy collating the completed surveys, reviewing your comments and suggestions and providing feedback to our Fellowship Leadership. Thank you for sharing with us your thoughts and experiences. We have a better sense of what you feel our Fellowship does best, what is important, what connects us to each other and what we can still do better. As we collate the information we will share it with the Fellowship and our leadership. One area that was frequently mentioned by survey respondents was "communication." Some survey respondents see improvements, others still have concerns. With this in mind, the Stewardship Committee is hosting a "Communications Brainstorming Meeting" in the Social Hall on Thursday June 25 at 7 pm. Please come ready to share your ideas. Please contact me or Sue McGovern with any questions or concerns. Hope to see you there!

~ Lisa LoPiano Moskowitz

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

I get up every morning and do what I call a "triage assessment" of my day. I always have more things to do than I can possibly complete. What are the most important things I must do today? This also applies to my money. I have very limited funds and have more things to spend my money on than I have money to spend. What are the most important things to spend my money on? I am a homeowner with one income and find that daily bills and house maintenance are the things that most of my money seems to go to. Things like updating my house or going on a nice vacation never make it to the top of my financial triage list. Here at UUFH the Finance committee and the Board are doing the same thing – a financial triage to try to balance the budget.

However, due in large part to circumstances like losing a lot of high donors over the last 2 years and very high cost of maintaining our buildings – we find ourselves with a budget we may not be able to balance this year. There is just no fat to cut. Things we are doing now to address this problem will only help us for next year. They will not help pay this year's bills. So I have personally made a \$1000,

one-time donation that is not part of my pledge, to be applied toward our current year financial deficit.

UUFH is my religious home and in my financial triage I think it is among the most important things to spend any extra money I can spare right now. I invite you to consider doing the same thing and make a one-time donation – separate and apart from your pledge - to help our current financial deficit. You can give the money to Jean Marra or Brian Cohen in Finance or you can put a check in the collection basket at a Sunday Service and write “BUDGET GAP” in the memo line. Thank you! ~ **Kim Schultze**

THANK YOU!

THE FIFTH ANNUAL JOAN McWADE AND TODD STUTZMAN MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

The Fifth Annual Joan McWade and Todd Stutzman Memorial Blood Drive was quite successful. Our goal was 30 pints of blood and we were credited with 32 pints. A big thanks to all of you who donated blood. Thanks to those of you who registered to donate, but were unable to do so for various reasons. And special thanks to Terry Donaldson, Marilyn Kopp-Hecker, Bill Hecker, Jean Marra and Susie Byrnes. Without your help this drive wouldn't have been the success it was. ~ **Johanna Leopold**



BEYOND OUR WALLS 2015 GRANT AWARDEES + SPLIT PLATE THANKS

The Beyond Our Walls (BOW) committee has completed its evaluation process for grant applications and is pleased to announce the following recipients for 2015 awards in the total amount of \$4817: The Unitarian Church of Burundi Health Care Cards, The Soldier's Project: An Afternoon of R&R for Military Women, Family Service League's Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative, the Bi-County Mental Health Empowerment Conference Scholarship Program, and the Gateway

Community Garden. We would also like the congregation to know that we have received several notes of thanks for this past year's generous split plate collections including those from the Huntington Community Food Council, the Family Service League (Mitten Tree), the NAACP Huntington Branch for our donation to the scholarship award program, and the Association for Mental Health and Wellness for our support of their Chemical Free Garden which is used for a member-run food pantry. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee also honored the Fellowship with two certificates. So far this fellowship year, our split plate collections have funded \$12,578.35 for charity. Thank you for your continued support of our outside giving in ideas and dollars! We are grateful. ~ **Barbara Yanuck (Chair), Jim Ammerman, Michelle Byrne, Karen Mazzotta, UUFH BOW Committee**



SPLIT PLATE CHARITY FOR JUNE: SAVE THE RAIN

Every 15 seconds a child dies from lack of clean water. Save the Rain is a 501 (c) (3) founded in 2005 that teaches water-starved communities in East Africa how to use rain as a sustainable water supply by building catchment systems on primary school roofs—they tend to be the largest roofs in a community. When an inch of water falls on 1,000 square foot roof, you can harvest 600 gallons of clean water. “Without clean water, the journey to abundance is completely crippled,” says Kelly Coleman, a Save the Rain founder. A mere \$15 pays for a villager to receive water for a lifetime and the lifetime of his/her offspring; 100 percent of all public donations directly fund Save the Rain projects. More info at www.savetherain.org. Thanks for your generous support. ~ **Karen Mazzotta**

NEW BULLETIN BOARD POLICY - Deadline for the bulletin board & announcements - Monday at Noon.

Thank you to the members for embracing the new bulletin board in the Social Hall. We have already saved several reams of printer paper because of the change!

Items posted to the board reflect the Sunday to Sunday events and announcements and some special announcements. A more comprehensive list of events and announcements can be found in the Fellowship Flash, monthly Beacon and other UUFH media like the web calendar and Facebook. Weekly paper announcements will be available on the piano in the Social Hall and at the welcome table in the foyer.

Please continue to submit items for the bulletin board and paper announce.

~ **Susie Byrnes, Fellowship Administrator**

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>



To See All Second Chance Auction Items on the UUFH Website
CLICK OR COPY & PASTE

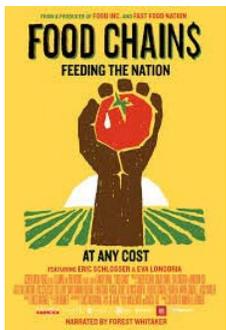
<http://uufh.org/pdfs/UUFH-second-chance-auctions-May-27-2015.pdf>

SEE JUNE AUCTION ITEMS DETAILS:

[Harp Music with Wine & Cheese Sat Jun 6, 7:30pm](#)

[Nissequogue River Paddle and Party Sat June 20, 11am](#)

[Stand Up Paddleboard \(SUP\) Adventure Sun Jun 21, 2015 12:15 PM](#)



FOOD CHAINS SCREENING / Q&A WITH FILMMAKER

Mon., June 8 - 7 pm - 9:30 pm

UUFH Worship Hall / Art Gallery

Fundraiser Donation: \$15 at door - Light refreshments served

From Executive Producer, Eva Longoria, this documentary follows a group of Florida farm workers battling to pressure the \$4 trillion global supermarket industry through their ingenious Fair Food Program to improve working conditions for US farm laborers. Film maker, Sanjay Rawal, and members of the Rural Migrant Ministry will update us on modern day slavery in our farm fields (NY as well) along with steps we can take as consumers to support CIW's Fair Food Alliance.

A Food Chains photo exhibit will be on display in the gallery where a light dinner reception is offered (donations gladly accepted). Connie Swain (our curator) will auction her artwork in support of RMM's speaker bureau - an initiative to train East End farm workers to share their stories on Long Island.

~**Diana Weaving**



POETRY AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Thursday, June 18, 6:30 - 8 pm

UUFH Board Room

Does writing feed your soul? Are you interested in developing your craft? Are you looking for new ways to develop your spiritual practice? Join us each month as we explore the spiritual practice of writing poetry. This adult religious education group is open to beginners as well as seasoned poets. Through the use of writing prompts, discussion on prose and poetry, and exploration of our monthly theme, we will strengthen our writing muscles in this spiritual practice. ~ **Starr Austin**

THE GREATER COMMUNITY

Hot off the Grill

HOT OFF THE GRILL- Young adult BBQ at Shelter Rock

Saturday, June 6 - 1 pm - 4 pm

LOCATION: Shelter Rock UU Congregation

Veatch House Terrace

This event is open to young adults in the Metro NY district. Childcare is provided

REGISTER WITH THIS LINK! <http://conta.cc/1Ea5Grp>

COMING OF AGE DATES AND LOCATIONS:

The locations of the **LIAC COA** (Coming of Age) meetings are as follows:

June 6 - Huntington ~ **Matthew Barish**



SOPHIA FAHS RELIGIOUS CAMP

For more information and to register visit: www.liacuu.org/Fahs

~ 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**

The Beacon

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For more

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:
Tuesday, June 30, 2015**

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

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