

The Unicorn

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook April 2024, Vol. 61, Issue 10

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Liminal Letters

Beloveds,

Back in the fall, I planted some tulip bulbs in my little patch in front of my condo here. I think planting bulbs or seeds is always an act of faith. I never thought of myself as a gardener—I once under-watered a cactus! Nevertheless, with a little care and attention, I think anyone can care for new plant life.

My act of faith has borne fruit, and as I write, green shoots and leaves have sprung forth. I will only be able to enjoy these tulips for this one spring before I leave Long Island. Yet I hope that they will give joy to whoever lives in my condo next.

Being in religious community together is a bit like planting a garden. We do things together, we lay groundwork for things, we start new initiatives and ministries, and we have faith that they will bear fruit. And that fruit isn't just for those of us who are here now, but, we hope, for those who will come afterwards.

You have been planting a lot of seeds and bulbs during my time with you here. Soon you will be voting on a new minister, and also on the merger with the UU Congregation of the Great South Bay! You'll be choosing a new name for this new merged congregation. And you'll be preparing for the next ministry. How exciting!

All of these things are acts of faith. You can't know all the things that will be springing forth from your new endeavors. But by working faithfully together you will nurture what you create, and it will be beautiful.

As we approach Passover, I am reminded that it's good to be aware of where we've come from, but it's also important to be bold in moving into the next space. I know you have each other's backs. Give support where you can and ask for support when you need it. I have faith in you.

In shalom, Pastor Madelyn, Interim Minister

Put yourself on my calendar: https://calendly.com/madelyncampbell; call/text me: 484-935-3485.

Interfaith Liturgical Calendar - April 2024

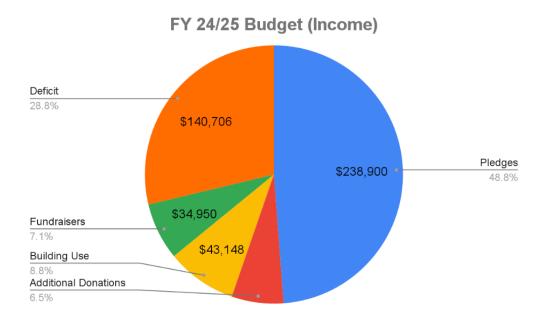
6 Laylat al-Qadr (Muslim)	22 Passover begins at sunset (Jewish)
12 Eid al-Fitr begins (Muslim)	24 Theravada New Year begins (Theravada
21 Rivdan begins (Baha'i)	Buddhist)

BULLETINS FROM THE BOARD

Spring is here and with it comes the excitement of the blooming crocuses, tulips, daffodils and forsythia in my yard. And at the Fellowship we have growing excitement as we anticipate the announcement of a new settled minister after a long search. If you have a moment, please express your gratitude and appreciation to the **Search Committee** for the long hours that they have been putting in over this past year to find our next minister. You can find a list of committee members at uufsb.org/about-us/ministerial-search.



The board is hopeful that our **Stewardship Campaign** will bring in enough pledges to support us without having to make any difficult cuts to our budget. However, unless we increase our income substantially, we will be operating with another deficit next year. The **Finance Committee** put together this pie chart that shows our budget if our pledges stay the same this year. The orange "slide" of the pie shows the deficit that we could have for next year.



This pie chart is based on our historical pledge amounts and a very aspirational budget with additional items that we hoped to include this year. If we aren't able to increase our pledge income, we will need to reduce our expenses, and we are anticipating another large deficit.

If you haven't already, please submit your pledge by the end of this month. To ensure our fellowship continues to grow and flourish, we need your continued support.

Together, we can ensure that our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship remains a vibrant and welcoming center for spiritual growth, social justice action, and connection. Thank you for your continued support.

In Fellowship, Denise Stevenson, BOT President

WORSHIP

Special Worship Opportunities for Good Friday and Easter

There will be a **Good Friday Service** on Fri., Mar. 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you would like to attend remotely, please contact **Pastor Madelyn** at minister@uufsb.org to request a Zoom link.

In addition to our regular 10:30 a.m. **Easter Sunday Service**, there will be a short **Easter Sunrise Communion Service** at 6:15 a.m. at **Stony Brook Grist Mill Park** (the park near Avalon Nature Center) on Easter Sunday, Mar. 31. All are welcome.

In shalom, Rev. Dr. Madelyn Campbell

What Was That Book Pastor Madelyn Mentioned on Sunday?

If you are interested in the book that Pastor Madelyn spoke about during her sermon on Sunday, the book is <u>Engaging the Powers</u> by Walter Wink. It is actually the second book in a trilogy that he wrote, but it stands well on its own. It is over 30 years old, and it's still relevant.

Summer Services – Call for Speakers on "My Spiritual Story": Deadline for Service Proposals Is April 12

Where did you come from, spiritually speaking, who are you, and where are you going? We all want to know! Here is your chance to tell us!



Each year we ask members of our congregation to consider leading a service during the summer based on a topic that can be discussed from several different perspectives. The theme for our services this summer will be "My Spiritual Story." We all have a story to tell about how we came to this Fellowship. Some of us have

been life-long UU's, some came from other faith traditions, some came to provide a spiritual foundation for their children and some have searched far and wide to find a sacred home where they belong.

Consider some questions: Who have been your spiritual inspirations or ancestors? Are there myths or fairy tales that contribute to your sense of spirituality? Have you ever felt that you had a calling or spiritual purpose? Have you ever felt spiritually depleted and experienced growth/ regeneration? What brings you to a religious community that is out of the mainstream? How can your unique journey inform or inspire the rest of us? We all have a story to tell – please consider sharing yours this summer by leading a service. Invite a friend or family member to join you!

If interested, please write a brief service proposal with this essential information: your name, phone number, years affiliated with UUFSB, sermon "working" title, and a description of your possible direction with some aspect of your topic (no more than 150 words, please). Please also tell us if any of the summer dates will not work for you and submit it to Lorraine Stidd at lorraine.stidd@gmail.com or June Cerveny at june.cerveny@gmail.com no later than April 12. If it would help, feel free to consult with one of the WAs as you put your ideas to paper.

Our summer series may go longer this year as we transition from Pastor Madelyn to our new minister. At this time, we are working to fill every Sunday from June 30 THROUGH Sept. 1.

As always, you will be assigned a Worship Associate (WA) who will provide support and oversight as you create your service—including help with your sermon and choosing other service elements—and will be on the dais, co-leading with you, on that summer Sunday morning.

Remember that your fellow members and friends in the congregation that morning are eager to get to know **you** better. They are as invested in the success of the service as you are. They know that they are *co-creators* of this experience with you, the WA who leads with you, the musicians, and anyone else who has a role that morning. You really cannot fail!

STEWARDSHIP

Connecting In Love – Support the Fellowship with Your Pledge Today!

Trying to pick an amount to pledge that would be both affordable as well as a fair representation of your commitment to the Fellowship can be a complicated decision. We encourage everyone to take a look at the UUA guidelines in order to get a sense of what might be a fair amount to contribute next year. This Giving Guide table can be found in the pledge packet that was mailed to you, or online here.





This is an exciting time in the life of our Fellowship as we discuss our visions for the future and begin taking steps to accomplish those visions. This year's **Stewardship Campaign** is the first step on that journey. Our generosity of both time and treasure is how we can grow by Connecting In Love.

In order to know how much the Fellowship can spend on all the things we need to serve our mission, our Finance Committee needs to be able to estimate pledge income for the upcoming year. Your donations may be spread over the full twelve months of the fiscal year that begins on July 1, but it's important to know the pledge amount now. You can mail in the paper pledge card that comes in your packet, pledge online at uufsb.org/pledge24-25 or contact the office with your pledge amount at 631-751-0297 or office@uufsb.org. Please submit your pledge for the

upcoming fiscal year by Sun., Apr. 7.

Thank you in advance for your support of our Fellowship community!

Judd Kramarcik, Stewardship Campaign Chair

Announcement from the Nominating Committee

Are you willing to help serve our Fellowship as we move forward together? Here's what to do!

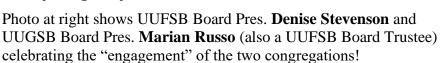
As per the UUFSB by-laws, section V.1, the Nominating Committee is inviting members to offer their name as a candidate for the following positions at UUFSB:

- Member of the Board of Trustees
- Youth Member of the Board of Trustees (2 youth may share the position)
- Committee on Ministries of the Congregation
- Annual Stewardship Campaign Chairs
- Auditing Committee
- Endowment Fund Committee
- Nominating Committee

If you are interested in being placed in nomination for any of these positions, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee — **Laura Lesch**, **Barbara Coley** or **June Cerveny** — so that your name can be placed on the ballot for our election process at our annual meeting in June. Working together, with love at the center, we keep our Fellowship moving forward!

Mar. 24 Town Hall on Merger with UUGSB

The UUFSB Board of Trustees held a Town Hall for the congregation on Sun., Mar. 24, to discuss the latest updates on the merger with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Great South Bay (UUGSB). It was an informative, constructive meeting, wherein someone lovingly characterized our merging as a "marriage." Please <u>click here</u> to read the *Plan of Merger Information*.





Tribute Easter Plants – Order Your Plant Now!

Would you like to help your **Sanctuary Decoration Team** beautify our Fellowship for the holidays?

We all know that our finances are precarious right now and we all need to tighten our belts and sacrifice to help balance our budget. Flower prices have skyrocketed this year, leaving us in a quandary about how we can proceed with our plans and still be fiscally responsible.

You can help us bring the beauty of spring into our holidays by ordering a lovely potted flowering plant for \$15 and designating it in honor or memory of anyone of your choosing. You may then take home a plant following the service.

Please send your intention to <u>lauralesch5@gmail.com</u> no later than Thurs., Mar. 28 so your tribute can be included in our Easter service order of Service. Payment to UUFSB should be sent to **Susan Catanzaro** in the office noting "Plant" in the memo.

Laura Lesch

Sunday Special Coffee Hour – Sun., Mar. 31



Easter Sunday is almost here, and, as tradition has had it for years too many to remember, we have a very special coffee hour at UUFSB, where all of you, or those who are so inclined, bring in yummy Easter-y goodies to share with the congregation. It is a fun way to celebrate this season of renewal and hope. We will set up in the Yellow Room. Thank you so much.

Joanne Hammer, for the Hospitality Team

Hospitality Thank Yous

A big thank you to **Gina Talento** for hosting coffee hour this past Sunday and for bringing lots of yummy goodies. Gina is a new member at UUFSB, and she readily steps up to help out with hospitality. We are grateful.



We also thank the following for pitching in to do the work of setting up and taking down for hospitality: **Charlie Posey**, **Judd Kramarcik**, **Jack Warecki**, **Gerry Selya** and others whom I missed, all of whom set up chairs, tables, and put away same. All of your efforts add to a welcoming environment. Thank you!

Joanne Hammer, for the Hospitality Team

UUFSB Quiz

We've come up with some fun and interesting questions to see how much you know about our Fellowship. Here is this week's for you:

Q: Who donated all the daffodils that are blooming in the UUFSB back yard in spring? Answer on Page 9.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

UUFSB First Friday Book Group Discussion - Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m.

The Fellowship Book Group meets via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on the first Friday of the month. On April 5, we will be discussing *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Click here to read a book review published in *The Atlantic*.

Newcomers are always very welcome! The books we select are available in both print and audio formats. Contact bookgroup@uufsb.org for the Zoom link and more information.

Visit with Shawl Ministry Members during Coffee Hour on Sun., Apr. 7

Shawl Ministry will have a station set up with information about our group as well as a beautiful display of several shawls created by the loving hands of our members available for your enjoyment. Our members are happy to answer your questions and to speak with you about rewards and benefits of this very special ministry.

Shawl Ministry was brought to our Fellowship by **Rev. Margie** more than a dozen years ago and has grown to become a unique and highly valued spiritual practice. Participants of this special group knit and crochet shawls for members of the Fellowship and others who are going through a time of difficulty or celebration. It has also become an annual tradition to present a shawl to each of our graduating seniors. A carefully chosen shawl is placed over the shoulders of each recipient symbolizing that the wearer is being wrapped in the warmth and love of the entire congregation.

Whether you would like to see some of our handiwork or may be considering joining our ministry, we welcome an opportunity to share our experiences with you on Apr. 7 and beyond.

Alzheimer's Association Workshop – Sun., Apr. 7, 12:30 p.m.

UUFSB **Pastoral Associates** offer a workshop from the **Alzheimer's Association**. Have lunch at SUUper Sunday and then join us in the GREEN room at 12:30 p.m.

TOPICS:

- Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's How to recognize the signs in yourself and others.
- **Effective Communication Strategies** Practical information & resources to help dementia care partners learn to decode verbal & behavioral messages from people living with dementia.

Linda Mikell for the PAs

Next Evening Labyrinth Walk – Tues., Apr. 9, 8:00 p.m.

Music by Peter Winkler and Deede Cook

Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, meditative walk on our candlelit labyrinth. The glow of the light in the center sends points of light onto the ceiling and walls of the sanctuary. It's like walking in the cosmos. Facilitator, **Linda Mikell**, helps you set an intention and explains how you might choose to walk the labyrinth. Walk in your bare feet, stocking feet or shoes. At the end, feel both peaceful and energized. All are welcome. If you plan to come, email Linda and let her know: edlinmik9@gmail.com.



We also walk EVERY Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

UUFSB Passover Seder – Sat., Apr. 27, 4:00 p.m. – RSVP by Apr. 20

Enter, rejoice, and come sing *Dayeinu*! **Stu Fisher** and **Wendy Engelhardt** are hard at work planning for our 2024 Passover Seder. The sign-up board is in the foyer; in addition, we are also looking for volunteers to help make the event go as smoothly as possible. If you can help set up, bring food to and from the kitchen, set up coffee & tea urns, run the dishwasher, and/or clean up at the end of the event, add that to your RSVP in an email to Stu at

sfisher51@gmail.com or Wendy at wendy.engelhardtuu@gmail.com. Any questions? We'd love to hear from you! See you on April 27. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m.; we sit down at 4:00 p.m. Please RSVP NO LATER THAN SAT., APR. 20.

Some Auction Events Still Have Openings

Perhaps you missed your chance to bid in the Silent Auction for one of our fun-filled events. Good news! You can still bid on any of the following. Please contact **Susan Catanzaro** in the office at office@uufsb.org if you would like to sign up for one or more events!

Title	Date/Time of Event	Cost	Item #
Angels in the Afternoon	Sat., 4/14/24 2:00-4:00 pm	\$25	EV05
12th Annual Play Reading at the Kagels'	Sat., 5/4/24 at 2:00 p.m.	\$20	EV09
Garden Tours	Sat., 5/25/24 (rain date 5/26)	\$20	EV08
Pasta Dinner	Fri., 9/20/24 at 6:00 pm	\$35	EV14

LATEST UUFSB NEWS AND EVENTS

Grounds & Sounds Café Welcomes Jack's Waterfall – Fri., Apr. 12, 8:00 p.m.

Jack's Waterfall plays Blues and New Orleans piano in the style of Dr. John and James Booker. Jack has a unique voice and one of kind musical energy. Their latest CD "Call Dr. John" reached the top 40 on The Big Blues Chart in September 2023 and Number 12 on Australian Roots Radio Report. Jack's Waterfall has been making music for over 20 years. We hope you can join us for this special show!



Open Mic: 8:00 p.m. (signup starts at 7:30 p.m.), main act begins around 8:45 p.m. *Refreshments Available:* coffee, tea, cold beverages, desserts, cheese and crackers; remember to bring your own wine (small corking fee).

Click Here for Tickets - Only \$15 (walk-ins welcome)

Save the Date: UUFSB Hosts "Telling LIAC's Story" – Sat., May 18

Did you know that the **Long Island Area Council** (LIAC) of Unitarian Universalist Congregations is celebrating 50 years in 2024? And UUFSB is hosting the event! As we plan for the future, it is important to look back and celebrate the journey, along with the lessons. Over the decades, hundreds of people have helped to shape our Council. Are you one of them? Was your mother a founding Board member? We want to know!

We are asking you to take a few minutes to think about your favorite LIAC moments and <u>share them with us</u>. Did your child receive an SAF scholarship? Did you meet your spouse at a social gathering? If you have previously served on the LIAC Board or programming capacities, we would love to know about your service, as well.

Mark your calendars for **May 18** (time TBD) for our annual celebration of the LIAC of UU Congregations, to be held at our own UUFSB. The event will include a program and dinner. More details to come. Thank you!

Marian H. Russo, UUFSB Board Trustee

Answer to UU Quiz on Page 6

Q: Who donated all the daffodils that are blooming in the back yard in spring?

A: Rev. Margie Allen gave us those to remind us of her.

Photo Gallery



UUFSB artists whose work is currently on display in the sanctuary





UUFSBers gather to hear John Morris perform in his Irish band on St. Patrick's Day at Katie's in Smithtown

OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

CER Leadership Skill Up for Changing Times – Thurs.. Apr. 4, 7:00 p.m.

The Central East Region (CER) team is offering a monthly *Leadership Skill Ups for Changing Times* series. These are drop-in calls for all congregational leaders where you can learn a new skill - or fine tune an old one - with CER staff and other leaders doing similar work in other congregations.

This month's Skill Up will be held on Thurs., Apr. 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The topic is *From Resistance to Resilience: Managing Change in Changing Times*

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://uua.zoom.us/j/99600842058?pwd=cEtWRW9tbEU1SEhNT0EreXlnTHJTZz09

Meeting ID: 996 0084 2058 Passcode: 493257

For full details and a complete list of regional events, visit the CER Calendar Page.

Applications Now Open for Student Activity Fund!

Applications are now being accepted for LIAC's student-internship program! The Student Activity Fund (SAF) makes it possible for Long Island UU youth/young adults to live their faith and learn valuable skills by interning at nonprofits that focus on social action, advocacy, or social services. Rising high school seniors and gapyear, continuing-education, and college students from LIAC UU congregations are welcome to apply for the grants. SAF Program Director Crystal Berger is offering 1:1 guidance sessions to students who are eligible for the SAF grant. Don't miss this great opportunity!



Click here to learn more and apply.

Join Summer Institute and UUMAC This Summer!

Have you thought about attending CERSI (Central East Region Summer Institute) July 7-13? Registration is open!

The 2024 theme speaker is Rev. Julian Soto, a UU minister and activist, presenting "Unlikely Superheroes: Skills for Practicing Faith and Ethics in Tough Times." Rev. Soto brings a remarkably loving presence and a depth of spiritual leadership. UUMAC, the UU Mid-Atlantic Community, will once again be joining CERSI at PennWest for the annual gathering.

Join us for a time of community, fellowship, networking, fun, music and so much more. There is programming for children, youth, young adults and adults - you will need to choose what you want to do (or not) each day! Learn more about this year's adult morning seminars and afternoon workshops at the CERSI website. You can still apply for a job at CERSI to underwrite part of the cost of attending and be part of the team that makes the magic happen. Scholarship applications are open with a deadline of May 31. Do note that registration rates go up June 1, so you want to register soon!

REMINDERS

SHAWL MINISTRY GATHERING IN-PERSON - SECOND THURSDAYS, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

All knitters and crocheters from beginner to advanced are welcome to join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Blue Room. The next meeting will be on Apr. 11. We gather in fellowship for conversation and support as we work on our shawls to be given in times of joy or need. For further info, click here or contact **Shelly Psaris** at shelly.psaris@gmail.com.



BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE CHANGE - WED. EVENINGS, 7:00 P.M.



Bible study meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. All are welcome. Join Zoom Meeting:

https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96393587955

+1 646 876 9923 (NY); Meeting ID: 963 9358 7955

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS

Collections of non-perishable food items continue. Please leave the items in the bins in the foyer. Items most appreciated include canned tuna, canned fruit in juice, peanut butter/jelly, popcorn/Hippeas/Annie's Organic crackers, cereal/oatmeal/power bars, granola/cereal bars, organic fruit snacks, raisins, pretzels, pasta, sauce, rice. Food donations can't be accepted if they have already been opened, or if they are expired, dirty, dented or otherwise damaged. **Please do not donate expired items.** Thank you!

Shelly Psaris,

Coordinator of Island Heart Food Pantry collections

MORNING MEDITATION ON ZOOM - WEEKDAYS AT 7:30 A.M.



You are invited to join the <u>Stony Brook Sangha</u> in a Zoom morning meditation. On Mondays through Fridays, we gather to meditate from 7:30-8:00 a.m. We start with a guided meditation and then finish in silence. If you are interested in joining, please contact **Denise Stevenson** at: <u>denisemstevenson@gmail.com</u>

WEEKLY SANGHA - SATURDAYS, 9:00-10:30 A.M. ON ZOOM AND IN THE BLUE ROOM

Stony Brook Sangha is a Buddhist community in the tradition of Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. We meet via Zoom and in the Blue Room at the Fellowship at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Contact **Denise** (denisemstevenson@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. All are welcome.

ONGOING CONTACT INFO

- Shawl Ministry: Shelly Psaris shelly.psaris@gmail.com
- Tai Chi, Yoga, Qigong, and Essentrics Classes: Laila Sholtz-Ames MedArts.UUFSB@Gmail.com
- **Labyrinth:** Thursdays 1:00 p.m. Evenings as scheduled. Linda Mikell edlinmik9@gmail.com
- Sangha (Buddhist meditation): Mon.-Fri., 7:30-8:00 a.m. and Sat. 9:00-10:30 a.m., online via Zoom. Denise Stevenson denisemstevenson@gmail.com
- Sharing Circles: On the web at http://uufsb.org/ministries/small-group-ministry
- Our Calendar can be found at <u>uufsb.org/events-2/calendar</u>

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - APRIL 19

Please submit newsletter items via email to <u>uufsbnews@uufsb.org</u> by Fri., Apr. 19.



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Phone: (631) 751-0297 **Email:** office@uufsb.org



Interim Minister: The Rev. Dr. Madelyn Campbell, minister@uufsb.org

Minister Emerita: The Rev. Kate Lehman

Director of Religious Education: Deborah L. Little, dre@uufsb.org

Director of Religious Education Emerita: Linda Volkersz **Congregational Admin:** Susan Catanzaro, office@uufsb.org

Board President: Denise Stevenson

Newsletter Production Team: uufsbnews@uufsb.org

Linda Cortese, Tom Pelletier, Colleen Rudman

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 a.m.

Services are being held in-person in the sanctuary and simultaneously livestreamed on YouTube. Please visit our <u>website</u> for further details and the livestream links.

Mar. 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday – Pastor Madelyn Campbell

What can Easter mean for Unitarian Universalists? We'll look at how the Easter narrative teaches us resilience, and how we can internalize that message as UUFSB moves into the next phase of ministry. Come in your Easter finery and wear your Easter bonnet! And don't forget the Easter Sunrise Communion Service at 6:15 a.m. at the Stony Brook Grist Mill Pond Park! (see p. 3)

Apr. 7, 2024 – "Impermanence and Resilience" – Pastor Madelyn Campbell

In 1841, Theodore Parker gave a sermon entitled "The Transient and the Permanent in Christianity," which became one of the most important theological pillars of Unitarianism (and later Unitarian Universalism). Many things have changed since then. How do we manage to shift with the times, to create necessary change, and to hold on to our important anchors? How can we build our resiliency to weather all that comes our way?

Apr. 14, 2024 – "Mind the Gap" – Pastor Madelyn Campbell

What makes a generation a generation? How do we understand one another when our lived experiences are often so different? Come all you Silent Generation, you Boomers, you X-ers, Millennials, Gen Zs! We need all of us. Let's look at how we can understand each other better and bridge the gaps.

Apr. 21 and 28 services TBA – watch for details on our website on the <u>Upcoming Worship</u> <u>Services page</u>.