



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook

631-751-0297

## *The UUFSB Newsletter July 2010*

### **Pot-Luck Picnic - Sunday July 4th at UUFSB**

A holiday is too precious to waste, isn't it? Of course it is, so let's celebrate the birthday of our nation, the beginning of summer, and that can-do spirit that typifies us UUs by having a pot-luck picnic on Sunday July 4th right after the service. What will we need? Here are the categories: 1. hot dogs/hamburgers and rolls to accompany; 2. vegetarian alternative; 3. starch (pasta, potatoes, etc.); 4. greens (salads, veggies of any kind); 5. snacks; and 6. dessert. We'll make the coffee but you can bring your own drinks. Ice will be available.

Paper products will be purchased, for which you will be asked to contribute a monetary donation. Sound easy?

Oh, speaking of desserts, how about strawberry shortcake??? Ah the memories. Let me hear from you and tell me what you will bring. MANY, MANY THANKS. Joanne H.

[joanne.hammer@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.hammer@gmail.com).



### **We Need Your Gifts! Flowers to Share....**

PLEASE Sign UP on the lobby bulletin board to make a flower display for the Sunday pulpit honoring someone you love on their birthday or for some other special occasion. We have many empty dates. Thank you.

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## From the Board of Directors

The UUFSB would like to announce the acceptance of new roles within in the Board, welcome in new members, honor outgoing members, and appreciate our ongoing Board members. They are:

### Officers

Dixie Comeau, President  
Linda Pfeiffer, Vice President  
Irv Frankel, Treasurer (continuing role)  
Mike Hoffman, Secretary (continuing role)

### New Members

Deborah Hempe  
Rich Hall (Rich is additionally designated the Treasurer "understudy" and will take on that responsibility later this year.)  
Katharine Lynch (Youth member)  
Zoe Dunmire (Youth member)

### Continuing Members:

Dan Dunmire  
Gene O'Brien  
Colleen Rudman (who serves as a member this year after two years as Vice President)

We recognize and honor departing board members President Greg Maggio and former President Megs Shea, as well as youth members Katie Parker and Ariana Dunmire. We also recognize and thank Colleen Rudman for her two years of service as Vice President. She remains on the board for another year.

Summer Services Theme: Re-creation of Our Spiritual Home
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This summer, the theme of our services will be "Re-creation of our spiritual home," an exploration of the sources of UU'ism. On 7/4, the Writer's group will prompt the congregation to respond creatively to this question. On 7/11, Francis McGuire will address Christianity. On 7/18, John Seppala will address Humanism. On 7/25, Jeff Kochnower and the men's group will address sources of their spirituality. On 8/1, Denise Schnittman will address Earth-centered traditions. On 8/15, Janet Hanson will address the contribution of music...*Submitted by Jeff Kochnower*

# Interweave Yarns

The Interweave committee is a group of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer People, along with their Straight Allies, who seek to promote the spiritual, social and justice goals of the LGBTQ community. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings.

Wow! What a busy June **Pride Month** we've had. We presented the annual **Welcoming Congregation service** on June 6<sup>th</sup> entitled "What's so important about (gay) marriage anyway?" So many people with positive comments came up to me afterward, some even said the service moved their thinking on the issue. So, I have to say, I think it was a big success. Thanks to all the people who participated, including Jeff Kochnowar, Deborah Little, Denise Schnittman, Caitlin, Carol Wynne and Kelly O'Donnell. And a special thanks to David Kirk for singing and organizing the music.

The following Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, was the 20<sup>th</sup> annual **Pride Parade** in Huntington. A good number of people marched with our UUFSB banner; two or three times the number of marchers we've had in the past few years! We hope for an even better turnout next year! I remember attending the very first parade in 1990 as a spectator. Along with supporters, the parade route was also spotted with people carrying signs and shouting, "God will punish you," and other similar nonsense. It makes me realize how far we've come.

We also had a UUFSB Interweave table set up in the park during the festival, which worked out well. Some people interested in knowing more about our congregation stopped by for information and we were also visited by UUs from different congregations, both on and off Long Island. It also served as a "home base" for those of our marchers who stayed for the festival after the parade. We were able to let people know that we are here, and at the same time everyone seemed to be having fun.

On another front, we have been **partnering with the Empire State Pride Agenda** to collect names and contact info of people who support marriage equality. The plan is to get lots of names of people who are not active in the struggle but can be called upon the next time marriage equality needs a show of mass support... and a good amount of support is out there. I, myself, went to the Patchogue Memorial Day Parade to gather signatures. It's not a place you would think would be your most responsive venue for gay rights. Nevertheless, about 50% of the people we approached said they did support gay marriage and were willing to put their names down on paper as saying so. With that much support from John Q. Public, it's just a matter of time.

## Interweave Yarns (continued)

**What's coming up for July?** On **Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>** at Noon, we will be presenting the film "**Trembling before G-d**". This 2001 documentary by Sandi Simcha Dubowski runs 84 minutes and tells the stories of gay and lesbian Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, who are trying to reconcile their fundamentalist religion with their sexual orientation. On **Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**, we will be having our first Potluck Picnic at the Fellowship beginning at Noon. All are welcome.

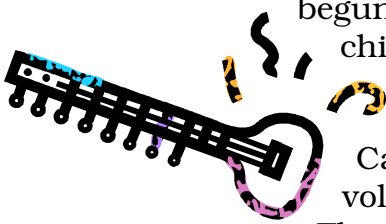
**News Flash:** The NY State Senate has just passed the Dignity for All Students Act, which seeks to prevent bullying and associated nasty behavior against students because of their race, religion, etc., and also because of their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. This is the first time a bill has included transgender people as a protected class.

*Submitted by Joan Rubinstein. For more information you may contact me at [joaner@optonline.net](mailto:joaner@optonline.net)*

### Woodlands Folk Festival - Saturday, Oct. 2nd

For the first time, UUFSB will present an exciting new community-building, fund-raising, musical-ministry event: the Woodlands Folk Festival, which will debut at the Fellowship on Saturday, Oct. 2. This event offers the larger Long Island community a new venue for professional local and regional folk/blues/rock acts, and compliments our popular monthly Grounds and Sounds Cafe.

Getting it off the ground for the first time will take the efforts of many volunteers, and the work has already begun. It will feature great music, vendors, children's events, food and more, so we need your help! Contact Claudia ([cbjacobs@optonline.net](mailto:cbjacobs@optonline.net)), or Carol Castillo ([dylanese@optonline.net](mailto:dylanese@optonline.net)) to volunteer. We will need all hands on deck! Thank you!



### Help Clean Up the Oil Spill! Collecting used hosiery!

Help clean up the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and save the lives of marine animals. The grass roots environmental organization Matter of Trust is collecting hair (from beauty salons and barber shops) and stuffing it into panty hose to create effective booms that absorb oil from water. To contribute, bring in used but clean **panty hose and knee highs**. The hose can have runs. Place them in the box in the Sanctuary for the next month, and we will send them to Matter of Trust for use in cleaning up oil in the Gulf. For more information, go to <http://www.matteroftrust.org/programs/hairmatsinfo.html>.



## Labyrinth Journeys

This past month, the UUFSB had its 400<sup>th</sup> labyrinth walk. Not all walks were on our inlaid labyrinth in our new sanctuary. The first walks were on a

canvas labyrinth in the old sanctuary. During this month we also held a special walk for graduating high school seniors and their parents. Nancy Lynch helped to facilitate this event. Looking forward into July, I want to remind you that on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> we will have our evening walk, starting at 8:30 pm. We gather in a circle for opening words inside the sanctuary, but then you have the choice of walking inside or being led by lantern light to our lantern and solar lit outdoor labyrinth. There's even music out there. It's beautiful and magical inside AND out.

This picture, taken by a friend, is of a flagstone labyrinth located at a cancer treatment center in Houston, Texas. More and more hospitals and treatment centers are building labyrinths so that patients and families may concentrate on spirit as well as body.



Treat your spirit and body – come to a labyrinth walk.

Linda Mikell  
Veriditas Labyrinth Facilitator

## Souper Sunday Thanks!

SOUPER THANKS to the following people who delighted our tables with goodies in June: Joan Feyk, Frances McGuire, Connie Chalcraft and Katie Triellor. You all did a great job.



## *It's A Girl!*

*Jason Straub and Kathy Maggio-Straub joyfully announce the birth of their new daughter, Luciana Margaret, On June 11th, at 3:17 AM, 7 lbs 6 oz, 20 1/2 inches long. Mother and child are healthy and doing well, and Luciana expressed her personality by sneezing before she cried. Congratulations!*



## **Hobbs Farm Neighborhood Garden Update**

The changes at the farm this year are nothing short of amazing! On June 5th during the annual Spring Festival, Hobbs Neighborhood Roots Community Garden had a dedication ceremony. UUFBS is among the supporters acknowledged on a display sign for their generous contributions and support of the farm. The UUFBS plot alone, recently yielded 6lbs. of spring onion, lettuce and bok choy, some of which was used to provide a salad for our Sunday outreach at the Welcome Inn Soup Kitchen in Port Jefferson. One gentleman told a UUFBS member how much he enjoyed the nutritious meal and even mentioned the purslane from the fields that Stefani Scott added for its peppery-lemony flavor.

With the end of school, UUA SAF interns, Katharine Lynch and Nora Baynes, have begun working at the farm. They'll soon be able to add their signature to the volunteer plaque which was introduced at the dedication. Volunteers who accrue 20 hours are invited to add their signature to the display. We'll let you know when the farmstand opens so you can stop by for a visit...you might surprise yourself and join in signing the volunteer board before you know it.

Growing food and friendship, *Elizabeth Takakjian - Hobbs Neighborhood Garden Coordinator*

## **Lawn-Mowing Volunteers Needed!**

We now have volunteers for July, and are still looking to fill August and September. (The Weymouth-Little family has volunteered for July - thank you!) The lawn should be mowed every other week. We now have a lawnmower that has been donated by Mike Serie, which Bill Lynch has blessed for operation. Please let us know if you can take a month and mow the lawn twice. Thanks! Contact Linda Cortese ([overflow@optonline.net](mailto:overflow@optonline.net)) if you can help.



## Coffee Hosts Urgently Needed

Enjoy your coffee and refreshments after service? In order to continue our venerable tradition of coffee hour, we need people to volunteer for every Sunday of the year. For the entire summer, so far we have only one set of volunteers, for a single service.

A signup sheet is available next to the coffeepots during coffee hour.



Please do your part! Written instructions will be provided; no prior experience is required. You can also contact Colleen directly at: [colleen.rudman@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.rudman@gmail.com) to volunteer or for additional information. Thanks very much for your cooperation!

## UUA Available Positions

The UUA Nominating Committee is seeking applications for several openings, including the Commission on Appraisal, at-large positions on the UUA Board of Trustees, and the Commission on Social Witness. Please click [here](#) for details, or go to [http://www.uua.org/documents/administration/100525\\_nc\\_openings.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/administration/100525_nc_openings.pdf).

## Make your UUFSB Pledge Automatic

When you put UUFSB on automatic payments with your bank bill pay system for this coming year, it helps even out the Fellowship's income and helps us avoid cash flow problems like the one we went through this May. Simply enter UUFSB's address and phone number and your bill pay system will send us a check at the interval you set. If you don't yet use a bill pay system, most banks now offer bill pay free on checking accounts. Contact your bank for information on how to use electronic bill payment.

## August Newsletter Deadline – Friday, July 23rd

Because we have a new Newsletter Production person, we need a little extra time for production of the August Newsletter. We ask that all items for the August 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter be in to [uufsbnews@uufsb.org](mailto:uufsbnews@uufsb.org) by Friday, July 23rd. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Other Submissions:

**Supplements-** Send to [uufsbnews@uufsb.org](mailto:uufsbnews@uufsb.org)

**Order of Service-** Send by prior Wednesday to [uufsbnews@uufsb.org](mailto:uufsbnews@uufsb.org)

**Announcement Board-** Displayed during coffee hour



*We need help producing the newsletter. If you would like to be on the newsletter staff, please let us know.*



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## Upcoming Sunday Services 10:30 am

**July 4: Recreating our Spiritual Home.** *An Intro to the Summer Services.*

UU Free Writing Group members will gather some of your ideas about the things you value most about our Fellowship, the developments you would like to see, and our paths into the future. Bring a pen and paper. We'll do some sharing. Led by Ginger and John Williams.

**July 11: Many Sources of UU Theology:** *Christian and Hebrew Teachings.*

Barbara Diamond and Frances McGuire will speak to their own spiritual paths and broader issues of acceptance and respect in our Fellowship today.

**July 18: Many Sources of UU Theology:** *Humanism.* John Seppala.

**July 25: Many Sources of UU Theology:** *Voices from the Men's group; Sources of our Spirituality.* Jeff Kochnower.

Next **Newsletter Deadline:** Friday, July 23. Please send news articles to [uufsbnews@uufsb.org](mailto:uufsbnews@uufsb.org)

For additional information on events please visit our **Calendar** at <http://plus.calendars.net/uufsbcalendar>