



The Unicorn

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook
May 2012, Vol. 49, Issue 11

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Letters From Nearby – Sincerely, Margie

Dear Ones,

You may have noticed something new going on in the sanctuary over by the foyer sliding doors. We now have another way to share personal information. The idea for the new Joys and Concerns Board was conceived by the Pastoral Assistants, refined and designed by PA Linda Mikell and Ed Mikell and constructed by Mike Serie. It has been in place for the last 6 or 8 weeks and people have been using it!

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations include a time during Sunday services when people can speak out loud in community about something that is going on for them-

-something wonderful (an accomplishment, a milestone, a birth, a wedding, an opportunity, a new job, an encounter with beauty or joy) or something painful (a failure or loss, a distressing diagnosis, a financial blow, a death, a separation or divorce). Sometimes spoken Joys and Concerns in the context of a worship service can be very moving and very effective at strengthening the bonds of community, but there are definite downsides to the practice (as you might easily imagine) and UU experts in welcoming and growth agree that this kind of sharing can seem exclusive to newcomers. UUFSB has experimented on several occasions with spoken sharing, but it never “took,” for good or for ill.

So how do we make it easy for people to share with others what is going on in their lives, to invite others to join in celebration or sorrow, to ask for a high-5 or help? Well, we often begin meetings with a check-in. Sharing Circle gatherings and groups like the Men’s Group focus on our stories. The Unicorn brings us news of deaths and other passages. But, truth be told, we don’t really have a lot of avenues for exchanging the gifts of being real with one another.

This Joys and Concerns Board is a new vehicle for personal connecting (not for politics, social issues or jokes). Tell your community what you are carrying and, in so doing, share your joy or your burden with people who care about your success and wellbeing. The instructions say that anonymity is OK—and it is—but I encourage you to include your name. The more we risk telling the truth about our lives, the more we learn about one another, the more we reach out in concern and celebration, The more mutual trust builds and the stronger we become.

The Pastoral Assistants and I will be monitoring the Board and, when it seems like it might be helpful, responding to notes. When we gather for our monthly meeting, we will remove notes that have been up there for a while and read them out loud.

Then we will lay our hands on them and say together these words by Becca Reynolds: “May love permeate your every heartbeat. May faith guide your every step. May truth and compassion be your Eternal travelling companions and may a deep, abiding Spirit rest joyously in your every waking wish and your every resting dream.” This will be the prayer we send into the web of our community.

The heart of Justice is the stories we tell and the compassion with which we meet them!



Fondly,
MARGIE

Reflections on the Youth Outreach Trip to Washington DC

Youth group members Kelly Johnson-Sally and Devon Hempe spent the week of their February school break on an outreach trip to Washington, DC with the youth group from the Unitarian Church in Westport, CT. The two teens worked with YSOP (Youth Services and Opportunities Project) on the following projects:

- Elder Buddies - a program providing community volunteers who make friendly visits to older adults in need of companionship who live in assisted living facilities, nursing homes or section 8 housing
- [DC Central Kitchen](#) - a nationally recognized "community kitchen" that recycles food from around Washington DC and uses it as a tool to train unemployed adults to develop work skills while providing thousands of meals for local service agencies in the process
- [Thrive DC](#) a program that works to prevent and end homelessness by providing vulnerable individuals with a comprehensive range of services to help stabilize their lives as well as a local food pantry.



Devon and Kelly worked at jobs such as preparing and serving meals, stacking and sorting food in the food pantry, and cleaning and organizing senior citizens' homes. "I think it was especially important that we were able to directly work with the people we were trying to help," Kelly said. There was also some downtime for the youth so they could sightsee, go to the Smithsonian Museum and visit colleges. "I had such a great time meeting new people, whether they were the other youth on the trip, other volunteers at the agencies, or the people we served. I even got to use my sign language skills," Kelly commented. The outreach trip was not free for the youth and they did some fundraising for it. "Next year, we will need to start fund-raising earlier because hopefully we will have more youth who want to join us. It was a great experience to spend time with youth who have the same ideals as I do." As Mahatma Gandhi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

– Gretta Johnson-Sally

Support the Welcoming Long Island Initiative

Please consider helping the **Welcoming Long Island** initiative win a grant from the Starbucks Foundation to strengthen its work. [Welcoming Long Island](#) works to increase understanding of how newcomers / immigrants share our values, contribute to our economy, enhance our culture, and strengthen our communities. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Buy a Starbucks Rewards Card anytime **before April 30** (in any amount).
2. Go to www.votegivegrow.com, make an account with your Starbucks Rewards Card, search for Welcoming Long Island under "organization," and then click "vote" on the page for Welcoming Long Island.



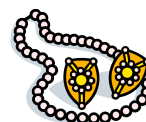
Thank you from the Social Justice Committee

Committee Annual Reports Due by May 21st

In preparation for the June 3rd UUFSB Annual Meeting, an annual report is requested from all committees. Chairs should submit their reports electronically to the office at office@uufsb.org no later than May 21st so that they can be included in the packets that will be distributed at the annual meeting. The reports should include the committee's mission statement, progress on 2011-2012 goals, and committee membership. A copy of last year's report is on file in the office for your reference if needed.

Victorian Ladies Need Your Treasures

The Victorian Ladies need your unwanted jewelry and knick-knacks for the CommUUnity Tag Sale on May 12. Please bring in items you've outgrown or no longer want and we'll price them and put them out for sale. Contact Frances McGuire at xxfranny@verizon.net or see her on Sundays after services.



UUFSB Cyclists' First Spring Ride



UUFSB bike enthusiasts had our first outing of 2012 on the warm and sunny Saturday of April 21. We met at the St. James train station and then rode to the duck pond in Stony Brook, where we parked our bikes and then hiked awhile on the trails of [Avalon Park and Preserve](#) (*see photo*). We continued onto Stony Brook Harbor and then looped back to our starting point. Our group included two sets of tandem riders! We plan to organize one trip a month – watch the supplements for details about our upcoming May ride. For June, we are considering a trip into Manhattan. Everyone is welcome to participate! Contact: Jeff Silberman at 516 729-0111 or Jsilber2@verizon.net.

- Colleen Rudman

Call for Young Musicians

Kids, make your moms proud by playing in the UUFSB Youth Ensemble on Mother's Day! The Youth Ensemble will be gathering soon to prepare for a performance at the Sunday, May 13 service. Newcomers are always welcome. The group is open to all school age children who play an instrument. Contact John or Lee Morris at jtmlife@gmail.com or 474-4875.



Religious Education Corner: UU-UNO Spring Seminar

The vision of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) is “a peaceful, just and sustainable world community as called for in the UN Charter.” Its mission is two-fold: to “engage in the work of the UN to advance a peaceful, just, sustainable and pluralistic world community that promotes human rights” and “engage and inspire Unitarian Universalists and others to support and participate in this work.”

During school spring break week, April 11-14, our UU youth envoy, Kelly Johnson-Sally, participated in the UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar. This year's seminar “Beyond Borders: Breaking Barriers of Race and Immigration” was held with sessions at the UN Headquarters, the UN Church Center, and the Salvation Army. The UU Youth began arriving on the evening of April 11th and were hosted at the All Souls NYC congregation located at 1157 Lexington Ave. “It was a community of approximately 60 youth from all over the United States and Canada staying and working together for a common goal,” Kelly said. “It was great to be together although the lack of showers does make things difficult sometimes. I really enjoyed meeting so many new people.”

Because the youth were not represented on the planning committee, Kelly felt some of the sessions were more designed for the adults who attended. There were approximately 30 adults as well. “The session I enjoyed most was about Race and the Media, but other sessions I attended were Climate Change, Immigration Over Time and others.”

Kelly, as a youth with previous UU leadership, was selected to be a HOTY (Head of the Youth). In that role, she was able to plan activities for the youth and help the conference run smoothly.

She is looking forward to attending the spring conference again next year.



- Gretta Johnson-Sally

Successful Season Two for Le Petit Salon de Musique

Thank you to all who helped to make our second season even more successful than our first. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up and take down. And to our audiences, we hope you enjoyed the performances. Please join us again for our third season beginning in September, 2012. Bravo!

Next season's dates:

- September 16, 2012
- November 4, 2012
- December 16, 2012
- January 20, 2013
- February 24, 2013
- April 14, 2013

The photos below are from the April 15th concert featuring Soul's Delight, a trio consisting of a harpsichord, cello and recorder.



- Ed Mikell

Carpool to LIAC Annual Spring Dinner

If you are going to the Long Island Area Council of Unitarian Universalist Congregations (LIAC) Dinner on April 28 and would like to form a carpool, please contact Linda Volkersz (lvolkersz@juno.com) or Gretta Johnson-Sally (gjsdre@hotmail.com).

Fellowship Activities: Spotlight on the Council of Committee Chairs



The Council of Committee Chairs supports the Vision and Mission of the Fellowship, coordinates the activities of the Fellowship, and facilitates communication among the members. The Council is chaired by the Vice President of the Board, currently Rich Hall. Each committee is represented on the Council by its chair or by a designated substitute representative. The Council:

- Facilitates the sharing of information from committees, and when needed, helps in the coordination of work affecting more than one committee.
- Engages in in-depth consideration of issues that involve multiple committees or congregational systems, at times at the request of the Board or specific committees. (Note it is the Committee on Ministries of the Congregation that performs conflict resolution that may arise in the community.)
- May propose policy recommendations to the Board or to affected committees.
- Maintains a directory of committees and committee chairs; provides this information, including pertinent changes, to the office, the Board and staff.
- Establishes a calendar of committee-sponsored Fellowship events; provides this information, including pertinent changes, to the office, Board and Staff.
- Establishes/revisits its own Mission Statement on a yearly basis.
- Provides leadership training for committees.

Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. For lists of committees and their chairs, please visit the [Council page on our web site](#).

Upcoming UUF SB Events

KOCH BROTHERS EXPOSED DOCUMENTARY - April 27, 7:00 p.m.: The Social Justice Committee invites all who are concerned about the impact of corporate money in our democracy to view a full-length documentary that shows how the billionaire Koch brothers undermine the interest of the 99% on issues from Social Security to the environment to civil rights. Join us at the Fellowship and invite your friends. After the showing, we will discuss the film and what we can do to reclaim our democracy. RSVP <http://kochbrothers.democracyforamerica.com/events/259>.

POT LUCK AT VIVIAN AND STU FISHER'S HOME - April 29, 1:00-3:00 p.m.: Please join us for a pot luck at the Fisher's home to socialize and catch-up with our own minister emerita Kate Lehmann. Please bring a dish to share. If you have questions, email or call Worship Associates Chair Frances McGuire xxfranny@verizon.net, phone # in the directory or speak with one of the WAs.

BOOK GROUP DISCUSSIONS AT 7:00 P.M. – May 4: *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.
June 1: *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* by David Quammen. Contact: Harold Kirk at 331-4538 or hkirk@bnl.gov.



END-OF-LIFE PLANNING SEMINAR – May 6, 12:30-3:30 p.m.: Join Rev. Margie, the Pastoral Assistants and a number of guest speakers as we think about many aspects of life at the end of life: death as a rite of passage, end-of-life scenarios, dealing with hospitalizations, health care proxies, hospice, wills/estates/trusts, bequests, funeral and memorial services and arrangements. RSVP appreciated so that we can arrange for snacks and handouts (751-0297; office@uufsb.org). If child care would be helpful, let us know by April 30.

GROUND & SOUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING & BARBECUE - May 6, 3:00 p.m.: At the home of Greg Galluccio and Dixie Comeau. Anyone in the congregation who might like to get involved with Grounds & Sounds is encouraged to attend and participate. We will discuss a few operational improvements and prepare for the 2012/2013 year, and then spend the rest of the afternoon eating and drinking together out on the deck, and maybe playing some music too. Please tell Greg or Dixie if you plan to attend.

SONGS AND POETRY AT GROUND & SOUNDS - May 11, 8:00 p.m. Grounds and Sounds Café presents a very special show pairing singer-songwriter **Josh Joffen** with poet **J. Barrett Wolf** for a night of song and poetry. Visit the Grounds and Sounds web site at <http://groundsandsounds.org/> for details.

COMMUNITY TAG SALE – May 12, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Want to spend a beautiful day outside with UUs shopping, eating, selling and introducing others to our Fellowship? Then plan to join us for the CommUUnity Tag Sale on our parking lot. [Click here](#) for more info or contact one of our organizers to offer your assistance: Dixie Comeau, dixiecomeau@optonline.net; Deborah Little, deborah.little@gmail.com; Amanda Hogan, hogana@optonline.net; Nora Sheppard, nora.sheppard@verizon.net; Wendy Janny, wjanny@yahoo.com; Carol Castillo, dylanese@optonline.net.

TAKING BACK DEMOCRACY FROM CORPORATIONS - May 18, 7:00 p.m.: For the second film in its series on the impact of corporate money in our democracy, the Social Justice Committee invites you to join in watching *The Story of Citizens United v. FEC: Why Democracy Only Works When People Are in Charge*. It explores the history of the American corporation and corporate political spending, and ends with a call to amend the U.S. Constitution to confirm that people—not corporations—make the decisions in a democracy. After the showing, there will be a discussion of the film and what we can do to reclaim our democracy. RSVP Deb Little (sjdeblittle@gmail.com).

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS – May 20 and June 17, 12:00- 2:00 p.m.: The Pastoral Assistants will be facilitating two additional meetings for family caregivers on these Sundays. For more info email Linda Kirk, lkirk@optonline.net, or Joann Bengston, joannbengston@optonline.net.

Events Outside Our Walls



2012 FESTIVAL OF FILMS AND FAITH – May 1, 7:00 p.m.: Join Linda and Margie to see the last film of the "2012 Festival of Films and Faith" series (*In a Better World*). The screening takes place at Theatre Three, 412 Main St. in Port Jefferson. An interfaith panel and audience participation discussion follows the film. <http://uufsb.org/images/documents/films&faith.pdf>.

FARMAGEDDON: THE UNSEEN WAR ON AMERICAN FAMILY FARMS AT HUNTINGTON'S CINEMA ARTS CENTRE – May 1, 7:30 p.m.: A powerful new documentary about the unseen war on American family farmers, and the escalating fight for food rights in America, with discussion and reception at the *Let's Eat: Food on Film Series*, at Cinema Arts Centre, 423 Park Ave, Huntington 631-423-7611. Guest Speaker: Andrea Mastellone. Tickets: \$9 members, \$13 public, includes reception. Buy at the box office, online at www.CinemaArtsCentre.org, or call 1-800-838-3006. www.CinemaArtsCentre.org/event/3161/.

EQUALITY AND JUSTICE DAY - May 8: Empire State Pride Agenda's Equality and Justice Day in Albany. To register, go to PrideAgenda.org, and then down just a little in the middle column, click *Equality and Justice Day* and follow the prompts. RSVP Joan Rubinstein (joaner@optonline.net).

HERSTORY BILINGUAL READING CIRCLE – May 15, 6:30 p.m.: Join Herstory for our third Port Jefferson Welcoming Circle & Bilingual Book Club. We will be bringing more readers from Herstory's bilingual anthology to join in a discussion to help build community through hearing one another's stories and connecting in our struggles, joys and sorrows. We hope to engage more young people, so feel free to invite high school and college students. The event will be held at the Port Jefferson Library, 100 Thompson St., in the big meeting room downstairs. <http://www.herstorywriters.org/>.



UNIVERSALISM FOR OUR TIME": 2012 UNIVERSALIST CONVOCATION

The 2012 Universalist Convocation at Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center will be held on **May 18-20, 2012** with the theme of "Universalism for Our Time." The Rev. Richard Gilbert will give the keynote presentation. <http://www.murraygrove.org/>.

PHOENIX WITNESS PROJECT: HELP SEND YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS TO JUSTICE GA

With the [Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly](http://UnitarianUniversalistAssociation.org) in Phoenix AZ **June 20-24** being a special "Justice GA," the Metro NY District Board of Trustees would like to see as many youth and young adults as possible participate. The Phoenix Witness Project is a way to help more youth and young adults participate in this special Justice GA. For details see <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/pwp>.

STAR ISLAND LOAS (LIFE-ON-A-STAR) CONFERENCE - Shelly and Tony Psaris invite you to join them **August 18-25** on Star Island, a UU education and conference center off the coast of NH. The conference theme is "The Quest for Wholeness in Critical Times." Shelly will have a table set up after 4/29 service to provide more information or you can go to <http://uufsb.org/images/documents/loas%20ii%20flyer.pdf>.

Choice Positions Still Available for Woodlands Folk Festival

The 3rd annual Woodlands Folk Festival is coming up - Saturday, June 30th - and the production team is still looking for a few good women and men. If you, or someone you know, can help with: organizing/managing parking; assisting with public relations; planning children's activities or designing large roadside signs, please contact Dave Bernstein (dave.gatorfan@gmail.com), Carol Castillo (dylanese@optonline.net) or Claudia Jacobs Dunmire (cbjacobs@optonline.net).



April Fools!

Look carefully at the chair arrangement in the photo on the right; perfectly lined up, but backwards! This is what greeted those who arrived first on Sunday morning. April Fools! This setup was compliments of the senior high youth group, who also baked a ton of brownies for Souper Sunday at their bake-in/lock-in, held on March 31.



The evening was a great success, and many thanks to all who made it possible, especially Melissa Elliott and Harlan Loveless who stayed awake in the wee morning hours, while Gretta, our fearless DRE, and Nancy Hunter were there for the evening activities. And a big thank you to our youth for all those yummy confections, enjoyed by all!

-- Nancy Hunter

Thank You's!

Coffee hosting/clean up thanks go out to Pete Kata and girls and to Kevin Regan for the great job they did in cleaning up after coffee hour and the other earth-day festivities. Much appreciated.

A **great big thank you from the Building Use Committee** goes out to the following people for their terrific help in supporting our occasional building rentals: Steve Rieber, Ed Mikell, Bill Lynch, Ted Masters, and Jeff Kochnower. This task requires getting to the fellowship before the event, setting up the required number of tables and chairs, putting them away after the event, and supervising cleanup of the sanctuary. (It's a two-person job.) Janet Hanson, Maureen Shaiman, Gretta Johnson-Sally, Gerry Selya and Rich Hall have all helped out in the past. Please contact Joanne if you can contribute to the Fellowship in this way (joanne.hammer@gmail.com).

Flower Power Purveyors (Garden Edition) Spring Plant Sale

Order by April 29 and you can pick up your beautiful flowers on Saturday, May 12 at the Fellowship. See Angela Amoroso after service to collect orders and answer questions. [Click here](#) for items and prices.



Reminders

- **Food Debit Cards** Many stores available. See Gerry Selya or Janet Hanson after services.
- **Amazon and Give Back America** – Access these retailers through the UUFBSB web site at www.uufsb.org and give money back to the Fellowship at no extra cost to you.

Ongoing Contact Info

Shawl Ministry: Rev. Margie Allen minister@uufsb.org

Souper Sunday: First Sunday monthly. Joanne Hammer joanne.hammer@gmail.com

Tai Chi, Chi Gong and Yoga Classes: Linda Mikell (543-0337)

Labyrinth: Thursdays 1:30 p.m. Evenings as scheduled. Linda Mikell (543-0337)

Stony Brook Sangha (Buddhist meditation): Saturdays 8:00 a.m. Rev. Linda Anderson revlin23@gmail.com

Sharing Circles: On the web at <http://uufsb.org> (under the “Ministry” menu)

Our Calendar can be found at <http://uufsb.org> (under the “Info” menu)

June Newsletter Deadline – Friday, May 25

Please submit newsletter items via our [online submission form](#) or email us at uufsbnews@uufsb.org by 5/25.



Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship at Stony Brook



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Colleen Rudman

Upcoming Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

April 29 Guest Speaker – Rev. Kate Lehman

Many of the world's religious traditions -- Christianity, Islam, Buddhism -- emphasize the practice of giving thanks for everything we experience, including those things we wish had not happened. In this service Kate will explore what it means to give thanks for everything, how we can develop an enhanced sense of gratitude, as well as the difference such an attitude may have in terms of our faith as Unitarian Universalists.

May 6 "If It Doesn't Kill You" – Rev. Margie Allen

Our Threshold Project goal for leadership asks us to "Create a pathway to congregational leadership; identify, motivate and nurture leaders and provide support for their continued development." What are the gifts and challenges of being a leader—here and elsewhere in your life?

May 13 -Mother's Day – Janet Kagel

Every family has feelings to express and words of wisdom to share. Come celebrate Mother's Day with us and hear three generations inspire us with their stories.

May 20 "Another Rainbow" – Rev. Margie Allen

We explore the autism spectrum, pervasive developmental disorders ranging in severity and characterized typically by social deficits, communication difficulties, stereotyped or repetitive behaviors and interests, and/or cognitive delays.

May 27 "Gifts of War" – Rev. Margie Allen

Some good things happen in times of war, a strange paradox.