The Unicorn

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook

August 2021, Vol. 59, Issue 2

BULLETINS FROM THE BOARD

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The dog days of summer are upon us, and the Board of Trustees is looking forward to another year of spiritual growth, connection, and fiscal health.

At the first meeting of the year, we welcomed two new Board members, **Sherri Rasmussen** and **Dave Tarbell**, and began to set out an agenda for the next twelve months. Foremost on our minds is how we can begin to hold in-person services and religious education classes as safely as possible. We are working closely with the **Pandemic Response Team** and the **Facilities Management Team** to explore ways to reduce the risk of infection through the purchase of portable filtration systems as a step to a permanent upgrade to our HVAC system. It seems likely that we will need to require masks at in-person services for the foreseeable future. We will keep you posted on developments. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge **Ted Masters** and the **Finance Committee** for their guidance in these deliberations.

The Board has also approved the purchase of equipment for dual platform services. This will allow us to live stream Sunday services to members of the Fellowship who do not feel comfortable attending services in person, to Long Island UUs who do not have a called minister, and to our friends who have moved away. We miss them and hope they will continue to join us virtually. Half of the funds needed are coming through a grant from the New York State Convention of Universalists. The grant was written by our very own **Dixie Comeau**, **Dan Weymouth**, and **Rich Hall**. I hope I'm not forgetting anyone.

What is important to realize about our efforts is the work done by volunteers. While it is necessary to outsource some of the work needed to keep UUFSB functioning, most of it depends on the efforts of the congregants who dedicate a portion of their time to the work of Unitarian Universalism in Stony Brook and on Long Island. The fabulous Sunday services presented during the pandemic are the result of the tireless efforts of the **Communications Committee**, **the Tech Team**, **the Worship Associates**, and our **musicians**. Without their willingness to serve, we would not be able to bring you the spirituality and social action causes that define our religious mission.

Over the coming weeks and months, the Board is looking to streamline volunteer opportunities to make our tasks more specific, less onerous, and regularly scheduled. A combined **Building and Grounds Committee** will oversee the internal and external plant. This requires some behind-the-scenes work on tasks that strive to guarantee the smooth functioning of Fellowship, reducing the number of sudden crises we face and the cost of repairs. We will be reaching out, asking you to serve. It is our great hope that you will say "yes." Without your service, the work of running the Fellowship will be that much harder.

The Board hopes that you are enjoying the wonderful lay-led services on the theme of Mistakes. We have found enlightening and powerful lessons that allow us to move forward despite our foibles as we grow as Unitarian Universalists.

John Lutterbie, Board President

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

News from the Racial Concerns Committee about the Proposed 8th Principle

This is the third in a series of articles designed to familiarize our Fellowship with the proposed 8th Principle. Each month we will discuss another aspect of this proposal.

Why adopt this principle now? The UUA recently went through a crisis related to inclusive hiring practices, especially related to whites being hired over highly qualified Latinx candidates, resulting in the resignation of the UUA President. In response to this crisis, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and Diverse Revolutionary UU Ministries (DRUUMM) endorsed the 8th Principle. Allies for Racial Equity (ARE - the UU white ally group) support BLUU in BLUU's endorsement of the 8th Principle. BLUU's main point is that the UUA voted in 1997 at the UUA General Assembly (GA) to commit to intentionally becoming an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural (ARAOMC) institution. BLUU is holding all of the UUA accountable to that commitment and expresses disappointment that the 8th Principle has not already been supported and midwifed by UUA leadership.

The New Jim Crow (mass incarceration and the criminal justice system replacing the older systems of slavery and Jim Crow laws), police violence against people of color, recent Supreme Court decisions on Voting Rights and Affirmative Action, and the election of Donald Trump with advisors and followers (including Attorney General Jeff Sessions) openly supporting white supremacists show that the country is moving quickly and dangerously in the wrong direction. UUs need to take strong leadership to reverse these trends.

UU support of the Movement for Black Lives has been encouraging; the best way for us to truly support racial justice in a significant way is to purge ourselves and our institutions of the culture and exclusive practices of whiteness and white supremacy. Note that at the recent GA, delegates passed a Statement of Conscience committing to Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy and a Responsive Resolution recommending that the Article II Commission that is reviewing our principles and sources include an examination of the substance of the 8th Principle in their work. This last action helps to move along the process of adopting a version of the 8th principle.

For additional information go to 8thprincipleuu.org.

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

WORSHIP

Homecoming Service – Sunday, Sept. 12

Our Homecoming Service this fall is Sunday, Sept. 12. We'll be looking at life through the lens of the element Water. This is our kick-off service for the new congregational year, a lively, musical, energetic and fun service. If we are ready to livestream by then, we are hoping that pandemic conditions will allow us to be able to gather safely in our sanctuary. Only time will tell… but even if we are still operating virtually, you really don't want to miss it!

Call for Service Proposals!

The Worship Associates are beginning to plan for our services in the fall and winter 2021-22. We would love to receive proposals from members of our congregation for lay-led services, including from UUFSB Committees which often present services. Do you have an expertise, a spiritual experience, a special interest, or a passion for a social justice issue? **You too can lead a service!**

Proposals should include the title and description of the talk, preferences in terms of dates for the service, and all the ways to contact you. For Committee proposals, please indicate who will be involved in speaking at the service and give their contact info. As always, you will have expert assistance from your WA who will help in developing the service and will work with you collaboratively to ensure a spiritual and meaningful service.

Proposals should be submitted **by Aug. 7, 2021** to **Mike Hoffman** at take6@optonline.net. If you want to discuss an idea first, please contact Mike or **Maureen Shaiman** at MaureenTVS@gmail.com. We want to hear from YOU!

STEWARDSHIP

Reminder: Contact Info While Rev. Margie Is Away

Margie continues to be on study leave / vacation through Aug. 17, returning to the office on Wed., Aug. 18 and to our pulpit on Aug. 29 and Sept. 5, Labor Day Sunday. While she is away, the Pastoral Assistants (PAs), Congregational Administrator, and members of the Board of Trustees will be happy to serve as your go-to folks in case of an emergency (shocking news, sudden loss, medical emergency).

- PA Chair **Linda Kirk:** 631-473-0689 (h), 631-356-5980 (c), lkkirk@optonline.net
- Congregational Admin **Susan Catanzaro:** office hours in July and August 10:30-4:30 M-T-W, 631-751-0297, office@uufsb.org
- Board President **John Lutterbie:** 631-708-4135 (c), john.lutterbie@gmail.com
- Director of Religious Education **Deb Little:** 631-672-3884 (c), dre@uufsb.org

Are You Vaccinated?

Please let the UUFSB office (office@uufsb.org) know when you and other members of your household are two weeks past their final vaccine. The percentage of vaccinated members and friends will help guide our safety decision-making.

Thank Yous

Sincere thanks go out to the 12 people who took the CPR/AED class on either June 13 or July 11. The classes were run for free by our neighbor, the Setauket Fire Department. If you see or speak to any of these people, please thank them as well. In gratitude to: **Laura Lesch, Susan Buckley**, **Rich Hall**, **Linda Cortese**, **Amber Corrigan**, **Caitlin Corrigan-Orosco**, **Denise Stevenson, Jack Warecki**, **Michael Hoffman**, **Deborah Little**, **Deborah Gale** and **Nancy Hunter**.

Shelly Psaris,
Coordinator, Fellowship AED/CPR Program

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Humanist Discussion Group Meets Tuesday, Aug. 17, 7:00 p.m.

We will meet online at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17 to discuss what topics we would like to consider when the fall session of the Humanist Discussion Group meets starting on Tuesday, Sept. 7. Click here to join the Zoom Meeting. Meeting ID: 218 927 2259

UUFSB NEWS AND EVENTS

Reminder from the Office

Susan Catanzaro's office hours for the summer are Mon., Tues., and Wed. from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. She'll be back to her regular 5-day work week on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

UUFSB Covenant of Right Relationship

Please review the **Covenant of Right Relationship** the COMC has proposed, as the congregation will be voting on this in the near future. To read it, click on the links below.

- Introductory material
- The Covenant of Right Relationship itself
- Click here to enter your feedback about the Covenant.

UUFSB Friday Book Group Discussion – Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m.

The Fellowship book group meets via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on the first Friday of every month. On Aug. 6, we will be discussing ***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*** by Isabel Wilkerson. Click here to go to the author's website. Please contact **Harold Kirk** at harold.kirk@gmail.com to receive the Zoom meeting invitations.

OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association Events at a Glance

The following events are upcoming in the region. For full details and a complete list, visit the CER Calendar Page. Also, please note, if you are mailing a check to the regional office to pay for your registration, ***you must write the name and date of the event in the memo line***. Otherwise, we may not get it properly credited.

Due to COVID-19, we are expecting all events through fall 2021 to be virtual. If you are looking for Renaissance Modules for Religious Educators, check the full calendar on the Unitarian Universalist Association website.

- **CER Networking Calls -** These calls will resume in August. Dates will be posted in the Better Together Blog.
- **BIPOC Gatherings -** If you identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of color (BIPOC), you're invited to join us for the Central East Region's BIPOC gathering happening two Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m. **Upcoming dates are Aug. 9 & 23.** Contact Sana Saeed at ssaeed@uua.org for connection information.
- **Helpful Board Habits**, 3-part webinar series: Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Happenings at Murray Grove

We are open and moving forward to a safe and secure summer and fall season at Murray Grove. Go to our web site at murraygrove.org to see what's happening. If you have questions or need more information regarding any of the events you're interested in, please contact us at murraygrove@murraygrove.org.

Now Showing: *Harry Chapin: When in Doubt, Do Something*

This movie, now showing online from the Cinema Arts Centre, is the inspiring story of award-winning singer/songwriter Harry Chapin. Chapin spent his fame and fortune chasing a dream to end world hunger and poverty, and in the process inspired, changed, and saved the lives of millions of people. *Harry Chapin: When In Doubt, Do Something* is a vibrant, music-filled, energetic, and rousing appreciation of an artist whose songs are a permanent part of the American lexicon and whose passion for helping others continues to be an inspiration. Click here for more info. A portion of every ticket sale will be going to benefit Long Island Cares.

REMINDERS

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH ON ZOOM, 1:00-2:30 P.M.

If you are, have been, or anticipate being a caregiver for a loved one, you might know what a hard job it can be. It's an ever- present learning curve and a host of different emotions. If you are interested in being part of this group, facilitated by the **Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson,** please contact her at revlin23@gmail.com. Upcoming meetings will be held on **Aug. 5** and **19**.

PERSONALS

Brigitte Simpson is offering her services helping people with errands, rides, doctor visits or just conversations. Contact Brigitte at 631-790-7316. Click here to view the flyer.

Lem Coley was in an accident on July 5 while riding his bike and was diagnosed with a fracture on his scapula and a possible fracture of his collar bone. His shoulder and ribs also were banged up. His right arm is in a sling for stability. Lem **would be happy** to receive calls (631-645-4964)!

ONGOING CONTACT INFO

- **Shawl Ministry:** Shelly Psaris shelly.psaris@gmail.com
- **Tai Chi, Yoga, Qigong**, and **Essentrics Classes:** Linda Mikell edlinmik9@gmail.com
- **Labyrinth:** Thursdays 1:30 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. Rev. Linda Anderson revlin23@gmail.com
- **SUUper Sunday:** 1st Sunday monthly. Joanne Hammer joanne.hammer@gmail.com ***SUSPENDED***
- **Sharing Circles:** On the web at http://uufsb.org/ministries/small-group-ministry
- **Our Calendar** can be found at http://uufsb.org/info/calendar

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – AUG. 20

Please submit newsletter items via email to uufsbnews@uufsb.org by **Friday, Aug. 20**.

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship at Stony Brook

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UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 a.m.

Our Sunday services continue to be online on Zoom. We will provide the link to join the service on the UUFSB website home page at http://uufsb.org/ and via a Special Newsfeed the day before the service.

Aug. 1, 2021 – "Shame & Forgiveness: Mistakes of the Ancestors" - Lorraine Stidd, Worship Leader

In this service, **Lorraine Stidd** will talk about her experience of being given for adoption as an infant and the search for her birth family. We will look at the effects of generational "mistakes" and shame and the process of healing and reconciliation.

Aug. 8, 2021 – "Suicide – the Ultimate Mistake" - Mike Hoffman, Worship Leader

This service will explore the issues and stigma surrounding suicide and its prevalence in the US. I will also talk about what someone with thoughts of suicide may be dealing with, what you can look for and how to talk to them. Finally, I will discuss resources that are available.

Aug. 15, 2021 – "'My Bad' Is Not Always Good" - Barbara Coley, Worship Leader

Barbara Coley will talk about the evolution of reparations vis-à-vis the Reading Reparations Study Group (RRSG) discussions on the practice of reparations in the wider community. We began the session knowing from various media sources that a majority of white people were opposed to reparations. As we read and learned more about the history of reparations, most of the predominantly white group declared their support although some RRSG members believed African American descendants of enslaved people had to confront even more pressing issues.

Aug. 22, 2021 – "Mistakes on Mistakes: Healing Family Fractures with Communication and Compassion" - Elise Powell, Worship Leader

Families can be torn apart by misunderstanding and guilt. Failure to communicate effectively resolving such misunderstandings can be a big mistake, resulting in rifts which may reverberate for decades and persist for generations. **Elise Powell** will be our service leader and will tell such a story, explaining how communication and compassion can heal such fractures.

Aug. 29, 2021 – "Living with Regret" - Rev. Margie Allen

Rev. Margie closes out our summer service series on "Mistakes" with a reflection on the rigors of regret.