

THE UNITARIAN NEWSLETTER a publication of

# THE Unitarian Church of Staten Island

Founded in 1852

Rev. Susan Karlson, Minister  
Parsonage: 718-442-1012  
Cell phone: 347-466-0864  
E-mail: PSKARL3@gmail.com  
Rev. Benjamin D. Bortin, Minister Emeritus  
312 Fillmore St., Staten Island, NY 10301  
Church Phone & Fax: 718-447-2204  
Office Email: uucsi.org@verizon.net  
Website: www.uucsi.org

Director of Religious Education, Patricia H. Murphy  
Co-Directors of Music, Dr. Carolyn Clark and Dr. Peter Yourke

Church Secretary, Stella Fishman  
Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, Brian Fontana  
Building Attendant, Frank Caterina

**April 5, 2009**

## ***DEATH THROUGH DEEP- TIME EYES***

**10:45 AM**

We are pleased to welcome Connie Barlow to our pulpit this Sunday with her presentation, *Death Through Deep-Time Eyes*. Connie views death as natural and generative, no less sacred than life. It is an integral part of the interdependent web celebrated as one of the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism.

Connie Barlow is a noted author whose most recent book, *The Ghosts of Evolution*, was Amazon.com's top-recommended science book for several months in 2001. Her previous books, *Green Space, Green Time: The Way of Science* (Copernicus Books), *Evolution Extended: Biological Debates on the Meaning of Life* (MIT Press), and *From Gaia to Selfish Genes: Selected Writings in the Life Sciences*, all explore the nexus of science, spirit, and meaning.

Her website, The Great Story, <http://www.thegreatstory.org/> offers "A way of telling the history of everyone and everything that honors and embraces all religious traditions and creation stories. It is the sacred narrative of an evolving Universe of emergent complexity and breathtaking creativity and cooperation — a story that offers each of us the opportunity to find meaning and purpose in our lives and our time in history".

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 7:00 P.M.** the Rev. Michael Dowd will give a presentation entitled *Evolution and the Global Integrity Crisis* that addresses today's unprecedented global integrity crisis, from crumbling economies to collapsing ecosystems. This event is free. Please encourage your friends to attend this worthwhile community program.

In the Pulpit: Connie Barlow  
Worship Associate: Jill Hueckel  
Hospitality: Ruth and Randy Leason

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark  
Flowers: Marilyn Brook  
Greeters: Jim Franz and Marilyn Brook

**April 12, 2009**

## ***LIFE WINS—AN EASTER MESSAGE***

**10:45 AM**

Easter presents a challenge for Unitarian Universalist ministers—how do you speak about the meaning of Easter with all the significance it holds for Christians worldwide in a way that also relates to the spectrum of theological beliefs within Unitarian Universalism. One of my colleagues, the Rev. Greg Ward, suggests that this should be the litmus test that determines whether a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry be recommended for fellowship or not. Another colleague, the Rev. Earl Holt writes, "The Easter faith can be expressed in two words: life wins." I'll put these two together to share my understanding of the significance of Easter and the radical life-affirming prophetic message of Jesus.

This Sunday, we also welcome our six new members through our Membership Recognition Ceremony.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson  
Worship Associate: Christine Johnson  
Hospitality: Virginia Allen

Music Director: Dr. Peter Yourke  
Flowers: Lucy Morton  
Greeters: Jim Franz and Marilyn Brook

**April 19, 2009**

## ***IMAGINE! CELEBRATION SUNDAY***

**10:45 AM**

On IMAGINE! Celebration Sunday, we come together to celebrate our support for this congregation and its many ministries. We celebrate what the church means to us and to so many people in our community. We lift up the vision that we imagine. We share in the ministry of making this church a place of vibrant hope and promise. In my sermon, I'll share what this church means to me and why I am committed body, heart and soul to the ministry of this church. In fact, I won't just speak about it; I'll demonstrate it with a little different twist on our offering. Come and share in the uplifting vision of IMAGINE! Celebration Sunday

**April 26, 2009**

## ***WE'LL BUILD A LAND***

**10:45 AM**

One of my favorite hymns is *We'll Build A Land*. It takes the messages of the ancient prophets and translates it into what we are all about right now. As we move closer to the installation this evening where clergy from Staten Island and from other Unitarian Universalist congregations and people from the wider community join together to celebrate with us, let's explore together how we want to build a land of shared hopes, dreams and visions.

**INSTALLATION OF THE REVEREND SUSAN KARLSON AS THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF STATEN ISLAND'S 14<sup>TH</sup> SETTLED MINISTER AT 5 P.M. ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26.** The Rev. Hope Johnson, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau in Garden City, Long Island, New York, will give the sermon. We will have special music presented by choirs formed just for this special ceremony of Installation. Please RSVP your attendance or regrets by Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> so we can prepare for this significant celebration in the life of the church.

*Simply Susan*

### **IMAGINE! This Church**

As the minister of this church, I get lots of opportunities to talk and write about how I envision this church and its various ministries. For this column, I'd like to share with you what this church means to two of our church members—Kathy Santo, the president of this congregation, and Mike Stein, a dedicated member of the IMAGINE! canvass committee. As we move towards our IMAGINE! Sunday with its vision of the church we want to build in the future, let us remember what the church already means to our many members and friends, to the wider community of Staten Island, to the men who find a comfortable, warm place to sleep, and to AA members who meet in our church six days a week. We are such a vibrant community and Mike and Kathy share what a difference this church makes in their lives and how they choose to support the church and all its various ministries. Please join us for our IMAGINE! Sunday service on April 19<sup>th</sup> where we will celebrate supporting the vision, good work and fellowship of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island!

#### **I IMAGINE!**

I imagine a world that is inclusive. Where each individual is accepted for who they are. Where the uniqueness of an individual is celebrated. In such a world there can be no war!

I imagine that this view of an inclusive world can & must begin here at the UUCSI. It begins here because celebrating individuality is our first Principle. Keeping our doors open, providing welcoming and inspiring programs is our responsibility!

I imagine that we need to proclaim our presence and our principles. I imagine that this will be done with the help of each & everyone one of us. Even one person can and will make a difference.

I imagine that each person here will do their part to make a difference to keep our doors open to make this an inclusive world with love & without war.

Kathy Santo

#### ***What the Church means to me:***

This has been a lifeline for my family and me. We moved to SI 21 years ago and found the church about 15 years ago. We felt isolated beforehand and now have a Community of people and good friends that we have connected with. We found people who share similar values and outlook on family, children, friendship, politics, and general views about the world. It was great to feel so welcomed when we were beginning to feel that people on the Island did not share our outlook.

Through my involvement on the Social Concerns Committee over the past years, the changes in our Island, City, Country and the world did not seem as overwhelming. To be able to work with others on progressive issues and educating both our Membership as well as the larger Staten Island Community, I learned that there are many people who share our values and outlook.

It was equally important for our kids (I suspect they would agree, but here I am talking about what their involvement meant for us) to have a place where they could be accepted for who they were. They also made friends. The adults of this Community are so positive in reinforcing the positive aspects of the children of the Community. This gave us confidence that our kids were in the right place. In addition, the Religious Education Program expanded our kid's awareness and understanding of other cultures and religions. I learned how important that was to enable them to decide for themselves what they feel comfortable with.

The Men's' Group enabled me to connect with other men in the Church and to feel good about that. I did not grow up in any kind of Religious Community, which I was comfortable with, as my parents did not believe in organized Religion.

For me, the Church is the people I have made friends with and whom I connected with. The friendships sustain me & I deeply appreciate that.

Mike Stein

**In inclement weather, please call the church office (718) 447-2204, or the parsonage, at (718) 442-1012 to find out if services or a particular program will be canceled.**

#### **Sunday Service Reminder:**

Please note the following times for Sunday services:

Musical Prelude: 10:45 am

Worship Service: 11:00 am

#### **First Friday Film Festival – April 3, 2009**

The April 3rd First Friday Film screening at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island will be the chance to see the eighth annual "Media That Matters Film Festival" twelve shorts from across the globe from independent and first-time filmmakers that sold-out the IFC theater in Manhattan last May. For more information, and to view the films, visit [mediathatmattersfest.org](http://mediathatmattersfest.org).

The church is located at 312 Fillmore Street near Snug Harbor. Screening will start at 7:30 p.m. A \$5 donation is requested.

**Save the Date: 2009 Arts Festival Opening and Reception -Saturday, April 18, 3:00 PM.**

#### **Installation Ceremony Choir:**

Calling all Voices for an Intergenerational Choir for the Installation Ceremony of our new settled minister. Dynamic Choir Director Lisa Kropp and a couple of fabulous songs will inspire us. There will be two rehearsals tentatively set for Sunday, April 19th at 5pm and Friday, April 24th at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please RSVP to Jill Hueckel either at 718-448-1431 or [hueckel@si.rr.com](mailto:hueckel@si.rr.com) about your interest in joining the choir.

Please remember that our Installation Celebration is coming up April 26 and the Committee is busy preparing to make it a memorable and meaningful event. There are several things friends and members of the church can do to help the Installation committee. If you have gotten a letter requesting financial contributions for the event and meant to respond but have not done so, or if you have not gotten a letter requesting financial contributions for the event but would like to help us out financially, please respond asap by sending your contribution to the church with a note identifying it for the Installation. It would be so helpful in the planning process to know how much we can spend on the different aspects of the event. If you cannot contribute financially but may be able to help in some other way (cleaning, decorating, preparing food, etc.), please call the office asap and we will get you in touch with the appropriate person on the committee. Finally, it is extremely important that we know how many people will be attending the Installation, so please RSVP by April 5<sup>th</sup> to 718-447-2204 or [UUCSInstallation@gmail.com](mailto:UUCSInstallation@gmail.com)

Thanks, Kathy Santo, President

### **R.E. NEWS and NOTES:**

**News:** On March 29th eight young R.E. participants, accompanied by 5 teachers and parents and the DRE, experienced the beauty of an Anglican Eucharistic service at St. Thomas's church in Manhattan for our second "fifth Sunday" field trip where we had the pleasure of hearing and seeing Chris, one of our youth members, sing and process. For about a year Chris has been a member of the St. Thomas Boys Choir. We were glad to see him and sorry his professional duties prevented him from joining us for lunch later. Many thanks to Jen and Brendan for coordinating the trip. Our final 5th Sunday trip will be to the Liberty Science Center, exploring our humanist tradition, on May 31st. Yes, there will an Easter egg hunt *for children* during coffee hour on Easter - any colored egg or contained candy donated will be accepted in Fellowship Hall before church.

**Notes:** Last Saturday enthusiastic parents and teachers met to envision the next [and beyond] steps in R.E. as we are *movin' on!* The ideas came swiftly and each person promised to do their part to implement a stronger and more productive Religious Exploration program focused on the future while celebrating recent successes such as our curriculum *Spirit Play*.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** On Sunday, April 5th, children and youth will begin in the Sanctuary and then meet downstairs for their own program as on other 1st Sundays.

In faith, Patricia Murphy, DRE

### **Last Call for Coffee Hour Hosts:**

For May 24<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>, please call Lillian Orrok at 718-448-7362, to get on the list. Thank you.

### **Beat the Recession Auction**

Bid on luxury items you'd never go out to buy in this economy and get them at a great price!

Bid on items that can help you to keep your costs down and fun quotient up-- lessons in cooking, gardening, knitting, budgeting, feng shui.

Fun features for the kids too!

**Save the date! Don't miss the fun!**

**Sunday, May 3, from 4:00pm to 7:00 pm**

**Unitarian Church of Staten Island**

### **Hamptons Hospitality:**

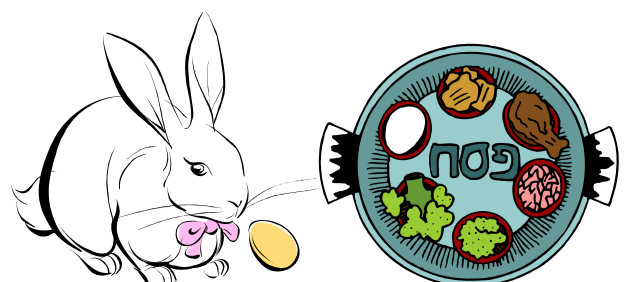
There are fun places to stay in the Hamptons for Unitarian Universalist members and friends! The UU Congregation of the South Fork, based in Bridgehampton, NY, is tucked between beautiful Peconic Bay and the sunny shores of the Atlantic. For the third consecutive year we offer "Hamptons Hospitality," year-round lodging from East Quogue to East Hampton ... in the gracious homes of our UU community members. Your donation increases our operating funds while we build our UUCSF community and expand Unitarian Universalist fellowship. We've hosted guests from right on Long Island to Alabama, Maryland and Washington state. Call us when you plan a visit to Long Island's East End for a holiday, a family gathering or event, or just a short break in a beautiful place. We match your wishes to the accommodations offered by our members and friends – from a private or double room, deluxe suite or a whole house. Rates: Memorial Day weekend through September from \$90 to \$175 per room; off season from \$70 to \$125. For questions, details or reservations, please find us at [www.uucsf.org](http://www.uucsf.org), and click on "Hamptons Hospitality," or contact Nicole in our office: (631) 537-0132, [admin@uucsf.org](mailto:admin@uucsf.org).

**JUST A REMINDER:** Please update preferred or new e-mail addresses by informing the church secretary, Stella Fishman, at 718-447-2204, or, e-mailing her at [uucsi.org@verizon.net](mailto:uucsi.org@verizon.net). Thank you.

**Caring Team:** Our congregation now has a Caring Team. If you or your family are experiencing an extended illness, hospitalization, family death, birth, adoption, move or other transition, please let us know so that we can send a card, make a visit, help with transportation, child care, meals or other miscellaneous needs. Please contact Ann Kalil at 718- 556-0438, or [akalil@si.rr.com](mailto:akalil@si.rr.com), or Rev. Karlson, at 718- 442-1012, (home) or 347-466-0864, with any caring concerns. The Caring Team is part of the caring ministry of this congregation

*The next UCSI newsletter deadline is **Monday, April 13, 2009, at 9 AM.** Please get all material to Stella at the church office*

**Happy Easter, Happy Passover!**



### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**On Sunday, April 5, 2009**, the Unitarian Church of Staten Island is pleased to welcome Connie Barlow and her husband, the Reverend Michael Dowd for our morning worship service and an evening program. Connie, a science writer and Michael, a former United Church of Christ pastor and evolutionary theologian, embody the marriage of science and religion as wedded partners and itinerant evolutionary sacred storytellers. Michael and Connie live permanently on the road, teaching and preaching an awe-inspiring, science-based spiritual message of hope and possibility in churches, colleges, and living rooms all across North America. Their educational website, [www.TheGreatStory.org](http://www.TheGreatStory.org), consistently generates more than 50,000 hits per month.

Connie Barlow will speak at our worship service at 10:45 a.m. on *Death through Deep-Time Eyes*, presenting how death is as sacred and significant as life itself (please see UPCOMING APRIL SERVICES for more information).

In an event on the evening of April 5 at 7:00pm, Michael Dowd's presentation, *Evolution and the Global Integrity Crisis*, addresses today's unprecedented global integrity crisis, from crumbling economies to collapsing ecosystems.

Michael Dowd, is a noted evolutionary theologian and the acclaimed author of "Thank God for Evolution", Dowd has been called "America's evolutionary evangelist." At home in both conservative and liberal settings, and uniquely gifted at building bridges between religious and nonreligious people, Dowd is passionate about sharing the 14 billion-year history of Cosmos, Earth, life, and humanity in ways that offer practical guidance and uplift and expand heart, mind, and soul. His talk expands on his 2008 book, *Thank God for Evolution*, which has been endorsed by five Nobel Prize-winning scientists and 120 other science and religion leaders across the theological spectrum.

Dowd's presentation is free. All are welcome. For more information call 718-442-1012 or go to the church website at <http://www.unitarianchurchofstatenisland.org/> .

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