

THE UNITARIAN NEWSLETTER a publication of

THE Unitarian Church of Staten Island

Founded in 1852

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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.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson
Worship Associate: Linda Santlofer
Hospitality: Brendan Spillane and Jennifer Korten
Greeters: Jim Franz and Marilyn Brook

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark
Flowers: Carol Lodato

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 14TH 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.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson
Worship Associate: Kathy Santo
Hospitality: Rona Solomon & John Bostrom
Greeters: Jim Franz and Marilyn Brook

Music Director: Dr. Peter Yourke
Flowers: Precious Hayes

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, 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 27, 2009, at 9 AM.** Please get all material to Stella at the church office*

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.
Thank you.

Simply Susan

“[The] call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one’s tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all... This oft misunderstood, this oft misinterpreted concept... has now become an absolute necessity for ... survival... When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response... I am speaking of that force which all the great religions have seen as the unifying principle of life... We are now faced with the fact... that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now...”—Excerpted from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s address to a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967 entitled “Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break Silence”

Two weeks from now, the Unitarian Church of Staten Island will celebrate a momentous occasion—the installation of its fourteenth settled minister and the first woman called to serve this 156 year old congregation, a known force for progressive values and social justice on Staten Island. This installation is not really about the minister—it’s about something farther reaching and more sublime than one person, one congregation or one tiny borough in New York City. It is about what we are all called to do considering the “unrest and urgency” of these times.

The theme, “Unrest and Urgency In These Times”, is taken from Martin Luther King's speech, quoted above, in which he called for an end to the Vietnam War, poverty and racism. The theme reflects this congregation’s commitment from its earliest abolitionist founders onward to work for justice. This social justice fervor has continued in successful efforts to preserve the Greenbelt on Staten Island and to work for lasting peace throughout the decades. This is a Welcoming Congregation, open and inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. We provide shelter for the homeless through Project Hospitality. We are working to strengthen and extend our partnerships with other faiths and community organizations to address the needs of the Staten Island community. We are strong advocates for the Arts and provide many ways to extend the creative vision of local artists through our visual, musical and dramatic programs in Staten Island.

Peace through justice and transformative love is at the heart of Unitarian Universalism and that is why Unitarian Universalists are at the forefront of so many social justice concerns. My acceptance of the call to shared ministry with this congregation came out of recognition of those deep Unitarian Universalist roots and our mutual commitment to build the beloved community—one deed, one relationship, one word at a time. This service of Installation is ultimately about living the vision of this church; to care for one another and our planet through ever-enlarging spheres of influence.

Guest Speakers and Music:

The Rev. Hope Johnson, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau in Garden City, Long Island, New York, will give the sermon entitled *Unrest and Urgency in these Times*. Rev. Johnson is a member of the Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression and Multicultural Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), Family Network Coordinator of the Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) Steering Committee, and a member of the District Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee (ARDC) of Metro New York. Hope welcomed me from our very first conversation with her warm and loving spirit and I knew in my first months here that I wanted her to give the sermon at the Installation. She graciously accepted.

The Rev. Orlanda Brugnola, a Chaplain at First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn, current chair of the Unitarian Universalist Association Commission on Appraisal and also a member of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee of Metro New York, will give the Call to Worship and the Reading, a portion of which is quoted above.

The Rev. Dr. George McClain, founder and dean of Rising Hope/Arthur Kill college level prison theological education program, will bring greetings from local Staten Island clergy. **The Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O’Neill**, senior minister of First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn, will speak about the Meaning of This Occasion. **The Rev. Dr. Michael Tino**, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester in Mount Kisco, New York and **The Rev. Wendy Pantoja**, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palisades in Englewood, New Jersey will give the Charge to the minister and the congregation respectively. Other speakers include **Andrea Lerner**, District Executive of the Unitarian Universalist District of Metropolitan New York, **The Rev. Alison Cornish**, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork in Bridgehampton, New York, **Kim Mason**, Director of Religious Education for First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County in Baptistown, New Jersey, and **The Rev. Margaret H. Allen**, Associate Minister of the Unitarian Church in Westport, Connecticut.

The music for the service will be provided by the Unitarian Church of Staten Island’s Co-Music Director, **Dr. Peter Yourke** on piano and his son, **Allan Yourke** on tenor saxophone. **Lisa Kropp**, Choir Director for IS 61, a neighborhood magnet school in Staten Island, New York, will be the Choir Director for this service with music by choirs created for this event. Additional special music is planned as part of the worship service.

The service will begin and end with a processional and recessional of clergy and religious educators. Installation Services in Unitarian Universalist congregations, center around the congregation calling its own minister and therefore, it is the congregation that ordains and installs its own clergy. The Installation will include an ancient custom—the congregation asks certain queries of its minister-elect and the minister-elect in turn asks similar questions of the congregation before the official Act of Installation.

I hope you will attend this historic event as people across Staten Island and the greater Metropolitan New York area join in celebration of our call to respond to the “Unrest and Urgency in These Times”.

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

UCSI 2009 Arts Festival Opening Saturday, April 18th, 3:00 PM Fellowship Hall, Unitarian Church of Staten Island

Telling Stories

Come hear Bobaloo, Christine Campbell, Emily Ellison and Jack Martin regale us with dramatic stories, followed by an invitational story swap!! The Program, emceed by Diane Matyas, and the 2009 Arts Journal, which will be available, are dedicated to the memory of Ben Jacobs.

There is no charge for this event and refreshments will be served!

Committee on Ministry Notes:

Please take one of our new color brochures in the library and ask us questions if you have them. We are planning to participate in the Worship Service on May 17th, and hope to be able to explain just what "*Shared Ministry*" means. COM members are John Adrian, Ruth Benson, Maureen Curran, Susan Flynn, Harry Hicks, Jill Hueckel, Rona Solomon, and Rev. Susan Karlson.

The worship associates meets monthly and determines the topics and speakers. If you have an idea for a topic or speaker please contact one of the Worship Associates or Rev. Karlson. Worship Associates are: Kathy Santo, Jill Hueckel, Linda Santlofer and Christine Johnson

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. Thanks, Kathy Santo, President

R.E. NEWS and NOTES: Special Notice: Crystal, our Nursery Assistant for the past 2.5 years, has another position and can no longer serve as our caretaker in the Nursery. We are looking for a new Assistant both for Sunday mornings and as a child-minder during church events. If you know a friendly reliable caregiver, 18 or over, who is interested, feel free to give him or her my email address: patriciahmurphy@mac.com.

Sunday the 19th: This will be our special rehearsal day for Susan Karlson's Installation the following week and the R.E. young folks opportunity to envision what they would like R.E. to be in the future. The Spirit Play class will meet in their usual room while the Junior High and High Schoolers will meet in the large hallway downstairs. On Sunday the 26th we will have classes as usual.

Many thanks to the Easter Bunnies who planted eggs and other goodies in the church yard, ably assisted by Jen, Sara, the junior high and high school helpers!

Happy Spring to all, Patricia Murphy, DRE.

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

Welcoming Our New Members through UCSI Membership Recognition Ceremony.



(Photo by Ruth Benson)

New Members from left to right: Sally Jones, Mary Hernandez (and children), Tom Curitore, Michael and Risa Anderson, Fay Radin (not pictured).

Top row: The Rev. Susan Karlson, president Kathy Santo, membership committee member, Marilyn Brook.

Treasurer's Report – June 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009:

Total Income YTD	\$92,932.78
Total Expense	\$135,325.82
Deficit	(\$42,325.82)

Task Force on Committee on Ministry (COM):

The brochure submitted by the COM task force will be available in the church library. In order to address confusion about “committee on ministry” vs “ministerial relations”, the COM task force will educate the congregation about "shared ministry" by means of the newsletter and in a presentation at the May 17th service.

Nominating Committee Report:

President Kathy Santo, Treasurer Harry Hicks and Secretary Ruth Benson have agreed to serve again in the next church year in their present positions as officers of the Board. Marjorie Ramos will not continue on the Board, consequently the position of vice president is open.

The following individuals have accepted the nominations for:

Three year trustee positions (replacing Mary Campbell, Ralph Martell and Margarita Muinelo:

Rona Solomon

Janet Wasmuth

Joan Pipkins

Vacancy left by trustee resignation:

Steve Nutt

Nominating committee:

Patricia Murphy, Christine Johnson

Visioning and Mission Statements:

Visioning Retreat facilitators met and drafted a vision statement and a mission statement to present to the congregation for approval.

Vision:

We are an inviting spiritual community, living our principles as a guide for all we do.

Mission:

The mission of the UCSI is to support and nurture all people as they navigate their own life's journey, extending ourselves to our neighbors and opening our spiritual hearts and home to enrich our community. We share responsibility for sustaining and strengthening our physical home.

A series of small “cottage meetings” will be held at the homes of various members during the month of May to present and discuss the suggested statements. A schedule of meetings and locations will be posted for interested congregants. It is important in crafting vision and mission statements that they reflect the sentiments of the congregation as a whole.

Director of Religious Education Search:

The search committee comprising Ann Kalil, Wilder Selzer and Simone Andrews are contacting potential candidates to fill the position of Director of Religious Education.

Rev. Karlson Installation:

In response to the letter sent to the congregation and friends of UCSI soliciting funds for the event, \$1730 has been received to date. Two reminders: RSVP is necessary for those who plan to attend the ceremony. And if you intend to make a donation to defray the costs of the ceremony and reception, please get your checks in to the UCSI office, with “Installation” noted on the memo line.

Poster from '07 Anniversary Dinner:

Virginia Allen has donated a framed poster created for the '07 Anniversary Dinner by performance artist/storyteller Robert (Babaloo) Basey. She asked that the Board make a determination about hanging the piece in a prominent place on the church premises. The Board requested Brian Fontana to hang the framed poster in the Parish Hall.

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