

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

**May 3, 2009**

## ***PEACE TRIP TO IRAN***

**10:45 AM**

Iris Bieri was part of the eighth interfaith peace delegation which traveled to Iran with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Fourteen civilian diplomats in total, including three Rabbis and the Minister General of the Society of St. Francis, offered a unique platform for interfaith dialogue. There will be a brief discussion and slideshow following the service with an opportunity to ask questions about present-day Iran including perspectives on Iranian society, culture, religion and lifting the curtain on US/Iran relations.

Iris Bieri is a Project Coordinator of the Conflict Resolution Program, focusing on armed conflict in the Middle East, with the American Friends Service Committee in the New York Metropolitan Region. She recently traveled to Iran as part of the Fellowship of Reconciliation's eighth interfaith peace delegation. She has worked with the AFSC for three years and has had extensive experience with Quakers and peace and social justice issues. She studied Sociology and Anthropology at Earlham College, and spent two years living in Santiago Chile, where she studied human rights and worked for Amnesty International-Chile. Iris is part of the Coordinating Committee of United for Peace and Justice NYC, and lives in New York City.

In the Pulpit: Iris Bieri  
Worship Associate: Jill Hueckel  
Hospitality: Margaret Persans

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark  
Flowers: Carol Lodato  
Greeters: John Adrian and Rafael Martinez-Perez

**May 10, 2009**

**10:45 AM**

## ***TO PERSIST IN LOVE—CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, FLOWERS AND MOTHERS***

The Flower Ceremony was first created by Norbert Capek in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to speak to the people in his congregation about the significance of community. The Flower Ceremony has been adapted by many Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. This will be a multigenerational service with all ages present for the entire service. Please bring a flower you have gathered to add to our community bouquet. We celebrate this Mother's Day with the Flower Ceremony and how we "persist in love" despite all odds.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson  
Worship Associate: Christine Johnson  
Greeters: John Adrian and Rafael Martinez-Perez  
Hospitality: The Beil-DeFillo family will host the coffee hour in honor of their parents, Louise and

Music Director: Dr. Peter Yourke  
Flowers: Virginia Allen

Carlton, who were involved in the Sunday school in the natural world of Staten Island, and whose three daughters, Carlotta, Eloise Felicity and granddaughter, Carli are all active in museum work as were their parents.

**May 17, 2009**

## ***WE ARE ALL HUMANISTS*** **Rev. Susan Karlson**

**10:45 AM**

I attended a District meeting last month where my small group talked about moving beyond names and labels that sometimes splinter us into various sub-identities and factions. This service will lift up our humanist roots and explore how we all are humanists deep in our core. We may have different perspectives and beliefs but we share a common quest for finding beauty, compassion, and justice in everyday life. This service parallels next week's service about Universalism.

**May 24, 2009** ***SALVATION MURRAY AND THE MIRACLE AT GOOD LUCK, NEW JERSEY*** **10:45 AM**  
**Robert Martin**

During his message, Robert Martin will give a brief introduction to Universalism. In 1961, two streams of liberal religion merged to create Unitarian Universalism. Both traditions brought rich taproots that produced Unitarian Universalism. As a congregation that wears its Unitarian history and heritage through its name, this service will explore the other half of our movement, Universalism. This service is coordinated by the Name Change Task Force, born out of a vote taken at the Annual Meeting last year to explore whether to change the name of the church to include the Universalist side of our tradition.

Robert Martin is a seventy-six-year-old lawyer, brought up a Methodist who became Unitarian in belief by the time he was about fourteen. He joined The Unitarian Church of Staten Island in 1960, where he served on the Board including two years as President, then moved to Manhattan in 1968 where he joined Fourth Universalist Society. When Robert first learned what universalism was, around 1975, he realized he had been a universalist since he was about fourteen and hadn't known there was a name for it.

**May 31, 2009**

## ***SOCRATES AND JUNG—PERSPECTIVES ON LIVING WITH INTEGRITY***

**10:45 AM**

**Rev. Susan Karlson**

In reviewing a popular adult curriculum on *Ethics* by Richard Gilbert, I found reference to Socrates' saying, "the unexamined life is not worth living" while Carl Jung twists the expression to "the un-lived life is not worth examining." How do we live ethical, authentic lives?

*Simply Susan*

My heart is very full this day after the Installation. The service was one of the most moving I've ever attended—the energy was high, the music was spirited and uplifting, the food was delicious, the flowers and both orders of service were beautiful, everything was well orchestrated and everyone there felt the hospitality and warmth of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. Brothers and sisters from Staten Island and congregations throughout the Metropolitan New York District joined us for this joyful celebration.

I thanked many people in the Order of Service including the entire congregation but I must go further than that. This day was an example of the vision and the imagination of many people. It is a testimony to all that we can do and be when we work, plan and create together—people with diverse perspectives and views, people of all ages and experiences, and members of the wider community all sharing together an image of building the beloved community, one step at a time, one moment at a time.

The following excerpt from the Rev. Hope Johnson's sermon, entitled *Urgency and Unrest In These Times* speaks directly to this time of imagining for this congregation: "Patrick [O'Neill] reminded me that the word "Ministry means the work of the congregation, all the congregation, the whole congregation."...There is of course the usual challenge for minister and congregation to each put their best foot forward, to get off to a good start.

Today you are challenged to go beyond that. Today you are challenged to pay close attention to your next steps—the deepening of your ministry in every possible way. You want each visitor who comes to want to come back. There must be something to come back to. Give them a reason to come back. Fill the void. Spark the interest. Move forward. Yours is a vision that is guided by living of our principles in beloved spiritual community...

*In these times, these difficult times*, when 'most everything is "on the line" we need to consider taking some serious risks. Learn how to develop cultural competencies, in terms of helping each of you to understand the "other." Know that things have been changing, sometimes slowly, ever steadily. The norm is no longer exactly what it used to be. There has been a shift. Space must be made for "the Other"...Know that the "Other" just might be *you*.

Be pro-active—not reactive, as you move forward into the new chapter in the book that you are writing together as you live your faith through the practice of shared ministry.

Though you make your investment in tomorrow...My friends, the time is now."

With love and gratitude,

Susan

**Sunday Service Reminder:**

Please note the following times for Sunday services:

Musical Prelude: 10:45 am

Worship Service: 11:00 am

**Living Tradition Fund Offering:**

The total amount collected for the Living Tradition Fund at Rev. Karlson's Installation Service is \$1,012. – Harry Hicks, Treasurer

**First Friday Film Festival: May 1, 2009, 7:30 PM**

The May First Friday Film will be King Corn. This will be a fund raiser for the church's operating budget, so come on Friday, May 1 at 7:30 and tell your friends to be there too. Give a donation (suggested \$5), support the church and see a very interesting film!

This screening is sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Staten Island Social Concerns Committee and Peace Action of Staten Island, who joined to present socially conscious topical film to the Staten Island community.

The church is located at 312 Fillmore Street near Snug Harbor. Screening will start at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. 2007/ 90 minutes

**R.E. News and Notes:**

**News:** The next month brings a lot of interesting programs and events. Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> is our First Sunday worship service, so everyone should come downstairs when they get to church. We are going to plan R.E. Sunday [June 7<sup>th</sup>], so it's very important that as many folks as possible attend and decide what we want to do that special Sunday. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day, there will be a multigenerational service in the sanctuary, including the Flower Ceremony, so only the pre-schoolers should come downstairs. We will have childcare on all Sundays. On May 17<sup>th</sup> parents and teachers who want to be involved in deciding the curricula and class configurations and Fall Orientation Dates for next

year will meet promptly at 1:00 PM, location to be announced later. Childcare will be continued during this meeting.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> our final 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday trip, this one exploring our scientific and rationalist roots, will be to Liberty Science Center.

**Notes:** Those of us who heard Aidan, Ana, Delia, Katriona, Luis, and Winsome sing out in the Children's Celebration Choir at Rev. Karlson's Installation had a real treat. Special thanks to Louis and Paola for providing the drumming! And, to Susannah for graduating to the adult choir.

- Patricia Murphy, DRE

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

**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

**Please Note:**

*I will be out of the UCSI office beginning Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, and will return on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If there is anything that needs to be done before hand, please let me know by Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Stella*

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, May 11, 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](mailto:uucsi.org@verizon.net). Thank you.

## *Happy Mother's Day to All*



This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.