

THE UNITARIAN NEWSLETTER a publication of

THE Unitarian Church of Staten Island

Founded in 1852

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

Church Secretary, Stella Fishman
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Building Attendant, Frank Caterina

June 14, 2009

10:45 AM

Born That Way: Dismantling the Myth of Gay By Choice (Annual Gay Pride Service)

This service is sponsored by the Welcoming Congregation Committee. Member, Claudette Duff, will be the speaker and Merav will add her mellow voice to the service.

Speaker: Claudette Duff
Worship Associate: Linda Santlofer
Greeters: Ralph and Morna Martell
Hospitality: Marjorie Ramos and the Welcoming Committee

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark
Flowers: Lucy Morton
Board Welcome: Marjorie Ramos

June 21, 2009

Just An Ordinary Man: The Gift of Our Fathers

10:45 AM

This multigenerational service will explore the gift of our fathers and the challenge of being an ordinary man in a society that wants men to still be strong and hard working, yet sensitive and caring. We need a few people of different ages who would like to offer a short poem or story about their father or father figure (contact Susan Karlson at PSKARL3@gmail.com or call 347 466-0864). We'll also hold a Volunteer Appreciation for the many people who have volunteered in some way during this year. This will be our final worship service of the 2008-2009 year so please come and join us for this special service for all ages.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson
Worship Associate: Kathy Santo
Hospitality: Lillian Orrok

Music Director: Dr. Peter Yourke
Flowers: Marilyn Brook
Board Welcome: Kathy Santo

Our next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, August 21st at 9 am** so please submit any materials for the newsletter to PSKARL3@gmail.com or call 347 466-0864, by that date. This information will appear in our next newsletter publication. Beginning in September, we will be moving to a monthly newsletter. Look forward to one comprehensive and newsy newsletter each month.

Arthur Foise Summer Forum:

We are happy to present the schedule for the 2009 Arthur Foise Summer Forum. Updates as needed will be available online and at the Forum. As you can see there is still one Sunday open. Please contact Kathy Santo, 718 442 3661 if you have an idea for a forum for August 30.

DATES	TOPICS	PRESENTER AND/OR POINT PERSON
7/12/2009	Notes from the General Assembly	Kathy Santo
7/19/2009	When an Adult Sibling Dies	Judith Hill
7/26/2009	Afghanistan-A selected topic	Sally Jones
8/2/2009	Creating a Safe Congregation	John Adrian
8/9/2009	Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki	Sally Jones
8/16/2009	Ethical Eating	Ruth Benson/Rona Solomon
8/23/2009	Poetry Slam	Kathy Santo
8/30/2009		

Simply Susan

This is our last newsletter for this church year—and I'm prompted to ask where did the year go? I am amazed at all the successful, fun loving and spirited events we've held over the past nine months. Though some of the events are annual, they were all new for me and for those just coming to the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. We marched in the Gay Pride parade last weekend with a beautiful new banner. We are now a part of Building Bridges Interfaith Coalition and some of us attend most Metro District events. In a few weeks, four of us will attend the annual Unitarian Universalist General Assembly and report back to you during a forum on what we learned.

On June 14th, we celebrate our annual **Gay Pride service** and on **June 21st**, our service theme will be **Father's Day and Volunteer Appreciation Sunday** during our final service of the 2008-2009 church year. We will hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting on Saturday, June 20th at 11 am**. Please plan to attend this meeting where everyone is welcome and members gather to elect officers and members of the Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee as well as other agenda items.

During the summer, we will not hold any Sunday worship services but we will have a weekly **Arthur Foise Summer Forum** series (see information on the Forums elsewhere in this newsletter). I am sponsoring an **Interdependence Day Celebration** on the church grounds on **Saturday, July 4th from 5-8 pm**. We'll have tasty treats and a celebration of Interdependence on July 4th. We have a croquet set and please bring other family friendly games that will not harm our church grounds or Memorial Garden. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to me (PSKARL3@gmail.com or 347 466-0864) to insure we have enough food. Please bring a beverage to share.

Two events are already set for the fall. One is an orientation and informative series for people new to the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. **The UU and YOU** classes will give people an informative look at Unitarianism and Universalism through a video, dvd and discussion. We'll provide an overview of this church's history, its programs and volunteer opportunities and what it means to be a member of this liberal religious church. We are scheduling these sessions on two **Sundays, September 20th and October 4th from 1-4 pm**. Please let me know if you are interested in these sessions and I will put you on a list, reminding you about the dates and provide more information as we draw closer to September.

The other events will take place on **Saturday, September 26th and Sunday, September 27th**. **Gini Courter, the current moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)** who is running unopposed for another year, will be offering a workshop for the Unitarian Church of Staten Island from **9-12 on Saturday, the 26th**. In the afternoon, we have invited people from other congregations in the Metro New York District to attend an open **workshop from 1-4 pm** here at the church. Gini will also preach on **Sunday, the 27th**. A few of us have heard Gini and she is always inspiring, challenging and dynamic. Mark your calendars now as we host our UUA Moderator and open our doors to our fellow Unitarian Universalists throughout the District.

The Minister's Letter of Agreement states the minister has 4 weeks of vacation and 4 weeks of study leave during the year. During vacation, and study leave, I am available for emergencies and can be reached by cell phone at 347 466-0864 or PSKARL3@gmail.com. Study leave is a time intended to prepare through reading, reflection and study for the coming year. I will be away at General Assembly from June 22-29. Upon my return, I will be on study leave through Saturday, July 11th. I will be on vacation from July 12-August 8, physically away from Staten Island from July 21-28. The last part of my study leave will be from August 9-22nd. I will be attending an Anti-Racism and Metro New York Board Retreat on July 10-11 and a Minister's conference from August 9-13th in Boston on Adaptive Leadership in Congregations. Please note that I will not hold office hours during the summer during these times but you can always reach me if you have a pastoral need or concern.

I wish you a bright and clear summer with laughter that surprises you, wonders that catch you off guard and the roller coaster ride of life that opens doors to the next transformational step on your journey. Take good care,

Susan

Sunday Service Reminder:

Please note the following times for Sunday services:
Musical Prelude: 10:45 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am

A Message from the President:

The following is the Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 20 at 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

1. Approval of minutes of previous meeting.
2. Reports of the Minister, President, and Treasurer.
3. Reports of the Standing Committees
4. Reports of the Special Committees
6. Nominations
7. Elections
8. Installation of new Officers

9. New Business

A. Vote up or down on the proposed Vision and Mission Statements

B. Advisory Vote up or down on the recommended slate for the Committee on the Ministry

10. Adoption of the Budget

11. Adjournment

The following individuals have accepted the nominations for:

President - Kathy Santo

Vice-President - Rona Solomon

Treasurer - Harry Hicks

Secretary - Ruth Benson

Three year trustee positions

Susan Flynn

Janet Wassmuth

Joan Pipkins

Vacancy left by trustee resignation one year term:

Steve Nutt

Nominating committee:

Patricia Murphy, Christine Johnson

The following is the proposed Vision/Mission Statements:

Vision

We are an inviting spiritual community guided by our principles in all that we do.

Mission

The mission of the Unitarian Church of Staten Island is to:

open our hearts and home in order to enrich our community;

- extend ourselves to help make the world a better place;
- support and nurture people as they search for their own truth; and,
- share the responsibility for sustaining our cherished home.

The Committee on the Ministry Task Force has suggested Linda Santlofer, Claudette Duff, and Jill Hueckel to serve on the Committee on the Ministry Kathy Santo

R.E. NEWS AND NOTES:

NEWS: This year's final trip will take place Sunday the 14th to the NY Museum of Natural History in Manhattan exploring our UU roots in evolutionary and other sciences. Please let Jen know if you are coming. Meet at the ferry at 10:45 for the 11:00 AM ferry. If an adult family member is not coming young people **MUST** have a permission slip. Admission to the museum is "as you wish" and lunch will be in the cafeteria. Sunday the 21st, our last service of the "year" will be a multi-generational service.

NOTES: R.E. Sunday **rocked!** It was clear that the congregation deeply felt our trip through the labyrinth and was inspired by our young people's enthusiasm as we began by easing down the road and ended with a heart-felt, if somewhat damp, bubble blessing. Many thanks to those who "made it happen", but especially to the Vassar Semanchik family who went above and beyond all morning! It was amazing, too, how Ben and Emmett Sher were able to key in and rock along - thanks, guys!

Please show appreciation for those who have volunteered this year to teach or present in our program by adding your note in the envelopes on the R.E. Bulletin Board of those whose contributions you have known- each of them has brought awesome dedication to the young and deserve a personal note of thanks from parents, young people, and, indeed, all of us.

And, so, goodbyethis is my final column as R.E. Director and time for me to bid farewell to this

role. The Unitarian Universalist Association and the Liberal Religious Educators Association have established firm guideline indicating how former religious educators should participate in R.E. after they are no longer employed by the church in that role. In short: "not at all". This is pretty easy if one is not a member of the church and pretty hard if one is and chooses to remain an active church member. **I shall abide by these guidelines.** Please do not think that my seeming abandonment reveals a lack of caring either for the program or for the young people, but I see the wisdom in these guidelines and truly believe the experience of many churches is far more valuable than any small thing I might contribute to R.E.'s future. This program and its families and teachers will remain in my thoughts and good wishes always.

If I start with the "thank you" this column will take up the whole newsletter, but I do want to single out the two chairs, Sue Flynn and Sarah Dolinar, who have pitched in wherever and however needed and provided material help and wise counsel, and the four ministers whom I was privileged to work with, Ben Bortin for his initial trust and assistance, Nate Walker for mentoring me through my first year, Edmund Robinson for his unfailing support and wisdom at crucial moments, and Susan Karlson for her enthusiasm and hard work toward an R.E. program which is truly integrated into the congregation. I have learned much from other religious educators and urge the UCSI to maintain and expand these relationships. I thank and honor you all.

In faith,
Patricia Murphy, DRE

"Peace Mom" Cindy Sheehan will speak at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island on **Wednesday, June 24th at 6:30 p.m.** She speaks truth to power on her latest nationwide tour "Myth America: 10 Greatest Myths of the Robber Class and the Case for Revolution" in which she discusses issues on war and the economy, and how they are related. Admission is \$10 and \$5 for seniors and students but no one will be turned away.

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Yard Sale is Back!
Save the Date: Saturday, July 11 10:00 AM.**

It's time to Simplify and Declutter!
Call Janet Wassmuth at 718 448 5517 to make an appointment to drop off items at the church the week before the sale (Monday July 6 through Saturday July 11). We are in need of sales personnel so please call Kathy Santo at 718 442 3661 if you can volunteer some time. You don't need to spend all day. Call even if you can only volunteer a couple of hours.

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

Have a Healthy and Happy Summer!

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