

THE UNITARIAN NEWSLETTER a publication of

THE Unitarian Church of Staten Island

Founded in 1852

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

Mission

The mission of the UCSI 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.

Director of Religious Education Coordinator, Megan Lloyd Joiner
Director of Music, Dr. Carolyn Clark

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

UPCOMING SERVICES:

November 1, 10:45 a.m.

"Considering the Unimaginable"

In the pulpit: Rev. Julie Taylor

Guest Musician: Daniel Lepek

Worship Associate: Kathy Santo

Trustee Welcome: Janet Wassmuth

1:00 PM: "Are You Ready?" Workshop



With the threat of H1N1 virus looming, violence in communities, and all that can go wrong with aging buildings the uncertainty of life can be overwhelming. The worship service will focus on preparedness as part of stewardship. After the service, Julie will present a workshop, "Are You Ready?" which will look at practical tools individuals and congregations can use to raise their levels of preparedness.

About our speaker: Julie Taylor is the executive director of Disaster Chaplaincy Service (DCS) which covers the tri-state area, a member of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Trauma Response Ministry team, and a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. She specializes in critical incident response, trauma, and disaster spiritual care. During the 9/11 recovery, Julie was a chaplain at St. Paul's Chapel at the World Trade Center site and has continued to respond to local and national crises including floods, building collapses, and the fatal shooting at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. In addition to her work with DCS, Julie serves as a member of the Hudson Valley CISM Team and the Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry.

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November 8, 10:45 a.m.

"A Nation By Design": Immigration Then and Now

In the pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark

Worship Associate: Michael Anderson

Trustee Welcome: Joan Pipkins

You hear it all the time—"Immigrants in the past had to play by the rules, learn the language, come here legally. That's what my grandparents or my great grandparents did." But did they?

In an amazing book, *They Take Our Jobs! And 20 Other Myths About Immigration*, Aviva Chomsky unravels the history of immigration and naturalization law, exposing myth after myth we hear repeated that relegate immigrants today to common criminal status. United States law "... dictated open immigration for white people and restricted immigration for people of color. Immigration and naturalization law created, in the words of Aristide Zolberg, "a nation by design."

This service will kickoff a sermon series with a focus on the new public advocacy program initiated last June called Standing on the Side of Love. Standing on the Side of Love aims to counter violence, oppression and hatred with the power of love and respect for the worth and dignity of every person. We hope to begin to accomplish these goals, in part, by inviting speakers from new Staten Island communities so that we can understand the experiences of those communities in Staten Island. We'd like to find ways to forge a bond between our communities.



November 15, 10:45 a.m.

“The Liberians of Staten Island”

In the pulpit: Jacob Massaquoi
Worship Associate: Sarah Dolinar



The service will focus on the experience of Staten Island’s Liberians who fled the fourteen year civil war that began in Liberia in 1989 and who have been making new lives here under Temporary Protection Status from the US government. The speaker will be Jacob Massaquoi, the founder of a not for profit for Liberians in Staten Island called African Refuge whose mission is to implement projects that promote the resilience, mental health and social integration of those that have endured war, torture, terrorism and forced migration.

http://itspnyc.org/african_refuge/home_pix/child_soldier_pict.jpg

http://itspnyc.org/african_refuge/index.html

November 22, 10:45 a.m.

“Harvesting Seeds of Hope”

In the pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson
Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark
Worship Associate: Linda Santlofer
Meatless Potluck after the service.

This service is multigenerational with all ages participating in the service. During the Harvest Time of Thanksgiving, we tend towards feasting and celebrating our abundant gifts. This morning, we’ll celebrate the seventh principle of Unitarian Universalism: respect for the web of all existence and our connection to it throughout the service.

We’ll distribute Guest at Your Table boxes for each family. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) helps Unitarian Universalists work together to make a difference in the world. Though we cannot actually bring people from all over the world to sit down to dinner with us, we can share our blessings with others. When each individual or family places a Guest At Your Table box on the table at home, and puts a little money in the box during every meal, we participate in a chain of caring and are able to send funds to places around the world where that money can help.



UUSC will use the funds to work with partner organizations to do many things, from helping people work together to get clean water to helping communities around the world adapt to climate change. We’ll gather all the money and checks from the boxes at the first service of the New Year and send them off to UUSC.

Join us for this Thanksgiving celebration where we’ll be Planting Seeds of Hope!

November 29, 10:45 a.m.

To Be Announced

In the pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson
Worship Associate: Christine Johnson

Simply Susan
November, 2009

“The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations affirms the worth and dignity of every individual, and thus affirms access to quality healthcare as a basic human right. It is the responsibility of the public— through government—to meet this and other basic human needs in a just, equitable, and compassionate manner.”

This morning I attended a meeting of the Staten Island Clergy Leadership group. Included on our long agenda was a poignant question—“do we, as clergy members, want to take a stand on Health Care Reform”? We actually came to a firm answer, “yes”, in just a few minutes—it took more time to conclude what we wanted to do go on record as supporting health care reform.

We come from different faiths with radically different ideas about theology and beliefs. Yet we all agreed that health care is a basic human right and that we need to present the facts concerning the deplorable health care crisis in this country and stand in support of those who are unable to afford adequate health care and the tens of millions who are uninsured and underinsured, who lose their jobs and their health care coverage, who have pre-existing conditions that exclude them from insurance coverage or payment for expensive procedures, or who cannot pay the co-payments or deductibles. And we all agreed that we wanted to include all immigrants in our stand.

Mean-spirited comments have been uttered—here and across the country. People claiming to be people of faith vehemently state we don’t have to care for “those people” or “who said that health care was a right”. Well, that one is easy—the United States affirmed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1947. As one of the signers, we affirmed Article 25: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services,

and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

There's nothing "faithful" about those rude pronouncements proclaimed at Town Hall meetings and by ultra-conservative talk show hosts—they show a form of selfishness and lack of compassion at odds with the essential teachings of every religion. Religion ties people together in the spirit of community—it pulls us out of ourselves and towards the common good. It moves us towards compassion, love, generosity, good stewardship and care of the earth and the beings that live alongside us.

Many of you have heard about the Unitarian Universalist public advocacy campaign, Standing on the Side of Love (SSL which sounds like sizzle). The campaign got under way this summer as we rallied for immigration reform in Salt Lake City, standing on the side of love with brothers and sisters from many different faiths, all declaring by our very presence that we will consider the rights and human dignity of everyone. Just last week, thousands of Unitarian Universalists joined with others regarding equal rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people. During the next two months, we will sponsor a sermon series concerning specific immigrant communities on Staten Island. We have a Standing on the Side of Love banner in front of our church for these last few weeks in October. Now, we have an opportunity to come together again, standing on the side of love for health care reform.

On Monday, October 26th at 5 p.m., I'll be at Borough Hall for a press conference sponsored by the Staten Island Clergy Leadership and other clergy members to call for health care reform. Clergy on Staten Island are inviting the members and friends of our congregations to join us on the steps of Borough Hall as we stand together on the side of love. I hope that you will join me and demonstrate that the offensive language used by some Staten Islanders does not represent the views, behavior or attitudes of most of us. We can make a difference, but only when we come together to show compassion, concern and respect for the worth and dignity of all people. May it be so.

Susan

**Reverend Karlson will be at a ministerial convocation in Ottawa from Nov. 11th to 16th. Please contact her by cell phone in an emergency. (347-466-0864)*



On October 11th, the Unitarian Church of Staten Island held a Standing on the Side of Love service. We took this picture with the Metro New York District's Banner on that date. We gathered signatures for the Standing on the Side of Love petition, urging our representatives to enact federal legislation guaranteeing equal rights to all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people. Later, five of us attended a Standing on the Side of Love service at the Murray Grove Retreat Center in New Jersey.

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

The deadline for Announcements or Inserts for the Order of Service is 9 a.m. each Tuesday

JUST A REMINDER: Please update change in address, phone number 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.

Help Wanted: Greeters

Requirements: A warm personality, a loving heart, and the willingness to get to Church just a little earlier on one or more Sundays

Benefits: Getting to meet new people first, seeing Church members as they come in

Salary: paid in gratitude and smiles

Training provided.

Contact: Maureen Curran - Email me:

Oltari67@gmail.com; or talk to me at coffee hour

Arts Program Committee:

Are you someone who enjoys being creative? Do you like to work with other people to create events? Arts program Committee could use your help. If you would like to be part of a committee that creates wonderful and exciting events, contact Larry Schwabacher chair at email LSchwabach@aol.com or call [718]-667-6509

FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Please join Susan Flynn and Sarah Dolinar, the new Co-Chairs for Membership, at the first meeting for the Committee! The Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20th at 7 PM in the Church Library. Light refreshments will be served.

CIRCLE SUPPERS are here!

The Membership Committee wants to broaden your Church circle! Starting in November, you'll be able to join a Circle Supper. Eight or nine members will be assigned to a Circle Supper. Each month, members will take turns providing a place for a simple evening meal in a member home or living space. The suppers will be pot luck. Group members can agree on supper conversation topics if that helps break the ice, but the Circle Supper's primary purpose is to get to know one another better. Circle Supper groups will have a limited shelf period – four months or **time** enough for all the members to host a supper - and are held alongside small group ministries (they're not meant to replace small groups). Details to follow, but in the meantime, you can ask Sarah Dolinar or Susan Flynn, the Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee, to sign up or for more information.

Close the Revolving Door

A Membership Workshop is scheduled for 1 PM in the Library on Sunday, Nov. 29th at which we will examine how welcoming we are to newcomers and discuss strategies to keep members! We'll see a DVD made by the growing UU Church in Boulder CO.

Meatless Potluck

Mindful that the UN estimates that one billion people go to bed hungry every night, we'll hold a meatless potluck after the service on November 22nd - the Sunday before Thanksgiving. See Sarah Dolinar to coordinate your food entry.

**I think I hear some Dance Music
Coming our Way!!**

NFINITY

**will perform at the next fundraising event
The Unitarian Church of Staten Island
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009
7 P.M. \$10 at the door**

check out the music at:

<http://www.myspace.com/nfinityband>

**You will be helping Church Finances at
the same time!**

**Bring your friends, bring your family!!
Light refreshments will be available.**

We thank Bluesball for giving providing an excellent evening of music. Thanks to all who helped organize this event. We are off to an excellent start in raising funds for the church this year. -Kathy

Summary: Board of Trustees Meeting 10/14/09

Treasurer's Report – May 31 through Sept 30, 2009:

Total Income YTD	\$27,778.40
Total Expense	\$36,511.59
Deficit	(\$ 8,733.19)

New Roof for Parsonage:

John Adrian, Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair presented a proposal to the Board with three estimates for replacing the parsonage roof and repairing leaks in the church roof. Based upon the committee's recommendations, the Board approved allocation of funds to make immediate repairs.

Music Event Fundraiser:

Brian Fontana offered a performance by his band, NFINITY, as an additional fundraiser for the church on Nov 14. The performance will honor the memory of Michael Jackson by performing a medley of classic Jackson 5 hit songs as well as music of The Beatles, Kool and the Gang, KC & The Sunshine Band, and The Tramps.

Memorial Gifts Policy:

In light of recent requests for memorial gifts commemorating significant contributions by church members, the Board will undertake a study of planned giving and named donations, in order to create a coherent policy for the church.

Vision & Mission Statement:

In order to remind the congregation of our mission and the vision for our church, the vision and mission statements will be read during the Welcome at Sunday Worship and will appear on the Order of Service, in the newsletter and on the UCSI Website.

Project Hospitality:

The Board recommends balancing the needs the PH shelter bed program, which is now operational 7 nights a week, with the needs of congregational events and parish hall rentals. Under the revised agreement with PH, the men now arrive at 9:00 pm. Alternate accommodations can be arranged when this schedule conflicts with a rental. In order to continue our mission to shelter the homeless, the Board recommends that church related events in the parish hall be scheduled to end by 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Benson, Board Secretary

RE NEWS:

October brings the first signs of fall-- bronzed, leaves, cool air, and Halloween! The Religious Exploration program will be hosting its first Fall FUNdraiser, the Halloween BOOGie Dance Party, with the hopes of raising much needed funds for materials and programming. Last Sunday, the children began decorating for the event, as they painted the beginnings of a yellowish, orange sunset. By October 31st, we look forward to capturing your imaginations with the warm glow of Halloween festivities. The event, which will be held in the fellowship hall from 1pm to 4 pm, caters to children up to the age of 13 years old and their families. While all are encouraged to BOOGie their socks off, child centered activities will also be taking place throughout. In order to make this event a success, we are asking members of the congregation to bring in one box or bag of candy and place it in the orange colored Halloween box

near the entrance. We are also asking for donations of time, food, and decorations. Every little bit counts! Please come to the Halloween table after service in order to find out how you can help! In addition to introducing new events, such as Halloween BOOgie, to the children and overall community within and beyond our church doors, Religious Exploration has welcomed a resurgence of growth within the Sophia Lyon Fahs room (a.k.a. Early Childhood Room). Our RE Coordinator introduced the name, Sophia Lyon Fahs to our early childhood room, inspired by the life of the 20th century innovative liberal religious educator who was dedicated to experience-centered religious exploration for children and adults. Fahs wrote: "Life becomes religious whenever we make it so: when some new light is seen, when some deeper appreciation is felt, when some larger outlook is gained, when some nobler purpose is formed, when some task is well done."

We continue to provide a safe, nurturing and creatively stimulating environment for the children. However, we also look forward to exploring a range of Unitarian Universalist curriculum for our children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old. Finally, we have been fortunate enough to welcome 3 high school volunteers (Michelle, Raven, and Nicole) to work with one adult UUCSI member in the Sarah Lyons Fah room each Sunday.

Additional events scheduled for October:
Committee and Teacher Meeting 10/18/2009
Parent Orientation 10/25/2009

Wish List

We thank all of you for your continued support of Religious Exploration! We have already received generous donations of toys and materials, particularly for the Sarah Lyons Fah room. Please continue to bring in those toys and games! Here is a list of overall needs, including materials for Halloween.

Candy
Puppets
Boxes (from Costco or grocery store)
Dress up, outfits/accessories for boys and girls (ages 3 to 5)
Dollhouse
Pretend kitchen utensils

UCSI Arts Committee Presents *Seeking Our Female Roots*

1. *The Journey Outward*

Saturday November 7, 10am-4pm at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Join us to view Judy Chicago's amazing installation, *The Dinner Party*, which imagines, through individual plates and place settings, an historic gathering of women who have shaped our world. For details contact Risa Anderson at risa721@hotmail.com

2. *The Journey Inward*

Saturday January 23, 2010 10am-4pm UCSI Church Hall. (Snow Date January 30).

Transform/Reclaim an 11 and ½ inch fashion doll (you know her name) into another more inspirational figure. She can become a goddess, a spirit, a literary character, an historic figure, or a symbol of your imagination. Art supplies provided but feel free to bring your own favorites. Bring your own doll to transform.

3. *The Journey Shared*

March 2010 UCSI

Display and discussion of our works to celebrate Women's History Month.

November 2009 Volunteer Schedule:

Greeters:

11/1/09 Vassar/Semanchik Family
11/8/09 Vassar/Semanchik Family

Hospitality:

11/1/09 John Adrian & Rafael Perez-Martinez
11/8/09 Mike & Risa Anderson
11/15/09 Kate Nielsen & Larry Schwabacher
11/22/09 Meatless Potluck
11/29/09 Ralph & Morna Martell

Flowers:

11/1/09 **Volunteer Needed**
11/08/09 Lucy Morton
11/15/09 Marilyn Brook
11/22/09 Precious Hayes
11/29/09 Ellen Pratt

******* JOLLY HOLLY FAIR 2009 DATES TO REMEMBER*******

Saturday, December 5th, 10- 4

The Jolly Holly Fair Committee is planning some innovative changes for our upcoming fair on Saturday, December 5th, 10-4. We're going to retain ALL the sweetness and charm of our very special holiday fair (held consecutively since 1852!) and still find ways to make it even more appealing.

Please join us! Why should we have all the fun? We'd like you to add your name to the Committee list. Check out the sign-up sheet on the PH Bulletin Board.

*******Very important definitions:*******

White Elephants = very gently used only, supply batteries and instructions, if needed, no TVs or cassette players, please

Books = published as of 2000 only (unless you have rare 1st editions....bring those to our attention, please!!!)

Boutique = regiffable worthy items only! Jewelry, scarves, gloves, vases, tea sets, serving dishes, trays, stationery, unused toiletries, Christmas items

**We do retain the right to refuse any un-needed donations so please help us in that regard: donate it only if you'd buy it yourself. **

DONATION DATES:

November 8, Sunday – **Boutique** red things PH/Hospitality Hour

November 15, Sunday - **Children's Booth** Toys & Books

“ “ –**Boutique** jewelry & scarves PH/Hospitality Hour

November 22, Sunday – **Boutique** nearly new things PH/Hospitality Hour

“ “ - **White Elephant** PH/Hospitality Hour

November 29, Sunday – **White Elephant** PH/Hospitality Hour

“ “ - **Children's Booth** Toys & Books

By appointment only!! REALLY!!– **BOOKS** – Call John Adrian 718-720-7329

Raffles (gift certificates, new electronics- Call Rona Solomon 718-772-4653

Every Sunday through Nov. 29 –**Arts/Crafts/Vintage** PH/Hospitality Hour

Dec 4 (eve) & Dec 5 by 9 a.m. – **Gourmet Delights** Parish Hall

Look out for the first delivery of Raffle Books to every household. They can help you meet the **JH Fair Share** challenge. What's that? If every household contributes \$100 to our Fair, we'll reach \$10,000! How? Buy raffles.....donate totally great items for big \$\$ sales.....spread the word and distribute flyers/raffle tickets and increase our visitors.

Friends of Fire artisans are joining us on December 5th with their own Holiday Fair held in the sanctuary. More visitors to our church for December 5th!! We're also working on cross-promotion plans with other neighborhood fairs: Christ Church and Snug Harbor Culture Shop. We are organizing **The New Brighton Neighborhood Holiday Stroll!**

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