

# UUCSI

## NEWSLETTER

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Rev. Kiyimba is the founding minister of the Unitarian Universalist church in Kampala, Uganda. He has been a strong champion for LGBT rights in Uganda, which are now facing a dire threat from the government in the form of an Anti-Homosexuality Bill. According to the bill, people perceived to be "homosexual" could be punishable by life imprisonment, and, in certain cases, death.

Rev. Kiyimba founded the only Unitarian Church in Kampala, Uganda in 2004. His church has 80-90 members who come faithfully every Sunday. It is one of the few congregations in Uganda that openly welcomes and is inclusive of LGBT people. The Church sponsors social action missions such as an Orphanage School of 550 children who lost their parents due to HIV/AIDS. The Orphanage Home is for children who are living with HIV/AIDS.

The Rev. Kiyimba is traveling in the United States in hopes of raising \$50,000 to help all of these projects including the church, the Orphanage Projects and the LGBT Project. Those who are not able to attend this service can mail a check or designated donation to the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. Checks may be made out to Kiyimba Yusuf or to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which will arrange to send the money to Rev. Kiyimba for these worthy causes.

The Staten Island LGBT picnic will be held at the church following the Worship Celebration.

*October 3, 10:45 a.m.*

*Celebrating God Together:  
A National Coming Out Day  
Worship Celebration!*

*In the pulpit: The Revs.  
Mark Kiyimba and  
Susan Karlson*

*Music: Dr. Carolyn Clark*



# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

## New Orleans Trip

The Youth of R.E. have been awarded a \$2000.00 grant from the UUA Youth Project toward their service trip to New Orleans in April, 2011. Grants Officer Deborah Neisel-Sanders wrote R.E. Chair Simone Andrews, "we think yours is a great project". Kudos to Simone and the R.E. Committee.

The Youth are working hard to raise all the money for this service project and on Sunday, Sept. 26th,

## The Car Wash raised \$731.00!

Hoses were swung with enthusiasm as cars and SUVs were carefully cleaned, along with many Youth and their adult guides! Morna headed up the Guides assisted by Mark, Sarah, Simone, and Viv, while Abraham, Delia, Louis, Megan, and Susannah scrubbed and dried each vehicle.

## October Sundays

First Sunday Trip - on Oct. 3rd  
NYC Tenement Museum  
in Manhattan, exploring the  
lives of 19th and early 20th  
Century immigrants in a restored  
tenement on the lower east side.

Oct. 10, 17, 24, regular classes  
with R.E. Guides..

Oct. 31st Join with adults in the  
Sanctuary for a Multi-generational  
Service.

## October Saturdays

2nd, 9th, 16th

9:30 am - Noon

Fellowship Hall

Come prepare for the Party!

Make decorations, goodies,  
treats for the most special party ever

## OCTOBER 23rd

1:00 - 5:00 p.m .

Halloween BOOGie Dance

Party - New Orleans Style!

Be prepared to rock out  
N'awlins Style - costumes welcome  
but not required. This is a fund-  
raiser for travel expenses for the  
Spring youth service trip. Cost:

\$5.00/person, \$15.00/family

### Giving Tree Book Drive

*for early childhood room*

- Take a title from the Giving Tree on the stage
- Write title and your name on poster
- Buy book and enscribe as you like
- Place book under tree
- Accept our thanks!

Religious Exploration

NEEDS

YOU!

### Be a Family Greeter

*Greet new families, show them the R.E. brochure, and introduce them to to parents or a member of the R.E. Team.  
Serve only 2 to 4 Sundays.*

### Provide Program Support for Teachers

*Make copies of material, help arrange classrooms, contact parents in service if necessary.. Serve 2-4 Sundays*

### Volunteer your special

**talents** - music, art, storytelling

Contact Simone Andrews at  
[simoneandrews@yahoo.com](mailto:simoneandrews@yahoo.com) for  
more information.

# DESCRIPTIONS OF SERVICES, CONT'D

**October 17, 10:45 a.m.**

***Association Sunday—Celebrating 50 Years of Unitarian Universalism And All That It Means Today***

*In the pulpit:* Rev. Susan Karlson

*Music:* Dr. Carolyn Clark

In 1961, the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America, joined together in a lifelong relationship, becoming known as the Unitarian Universalist Association. Today we celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the merging of the Unitarians and the Universalists. Together we will learn more about the history of this bold experiment. We'll have a special offering that will support the *Leap of Faith* pilot project, developing mentoring relationships between congregations, affirming that we are better when we learn from and with one another. Please give generously to ensure that this faith lives on well beyond its half-centennial. To be Green, we will not have special envelopes but you can make checks payable to the UUA, or to UCSI and we will total them and write one check from the UCSI.



October 10, 10:45 "Living in the Body"

*In the pulpit:* Rev. Susan Karlson

*Music:* Dr. Carolyn Clark

When I preached at Community Church on my experience in the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, I found myself returning again to the image of the live oaks that survived the disaster we all know as Katrina. Something about those oaks reminds me of what it is like to occupy our bodies, to be survivors, to be hauntingly beautiful just as we are. This Worship Celebration will be about "being in it"—this body that is our home for our sojourn in life.

*Inspiration: Living in the Body* by Joyce Sutphen



**October 24, 10:45 a.m.**

***What We've Learned From the Dying: Our Annual Memorial Garden Anniversary***

*In the pulpit:* The Memorial Garden Committee and Rev. Susan Karlson

*Music:* Dr. Carolyn Clark

"On October 29, 2000, by a unanimous vote at a congregational meeting, the Church decided to create a Memorial Garden on the recently acquired grounds adjacent to the Parish Hall." This year we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Memorial Garden with a Worship service commemorating what we've learned from those who came before us but who still hold out "a lamp to guide us on our way."

*Inspiration: Lessons From the Dying* by Rodney Smith

# SIMPLY SUSAN

## *Minister's Column*

I wanted to share part of my message from Sunday, September 19th, with all of you. It refers to this year's theme, "Building a New Way" and an interpretation of the Song, *Where Do We Come From, What Are We, Where Are We Going*.

"Last year, one of our members told me how life resembles the tides. She needs the low ebb tides to follow the fast moving currents of the full. Sometimes, she said, she found that church life felt like only fast moving currents and that there wasn't time to slow down and enjoy the slack tide.

Our theme this year is *Building A New Way*. The **way** of building is to **not** burn ourselves out in the fast moving currents of everyday life—and even more so in the pace of New York City life. I learn this lesson over and over again. I have many good teachers—a whole bunch of them are people in this church.

Sometimes, ministers have a hard time with balance—news to you, I'm sure. We have a vision, we see what we think needs to be done and we charge out in that direction, not looking behind us—just full speed ahead. People around us have ways of slowing that change down, questioning, pointing out the flaw in moving too fast. It's the natural way of a culture—it's the way institutions work.

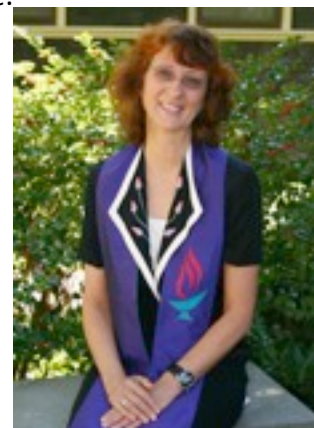
For the past two years the leadership of this church and I have worked hard on a Mission and Vision, on reinvigorating the Small Group Ministries, reviving a Social Justice program, revising the Bylaws and a host of other changes. We now have a new website design—it's so beautiful—and a newsletter editor who has totally redesigned the newsletters. We are still working hard and we are certainly building a new way.

Yet, while I want this to be the year that we move ahead with the growing projects and visions we must also take time to just cherish what we are and who we have become. I want to get to know more of you and relish knowing you as people—the substance of your lives, the passions you have, the dreams and visions that occupy center stage in your life. And that is where my focus will be this year—a year of renewal, a year of appreciating one another, a year of simply being, and a year of growing in love together."

May the turning of the leaves and the cooling change in the weather bring you into closer company with yourself and with the great mystery etched in community and the cycles of nature.

Be well!

*Susan*



# DESCRIPTIONS OF SERVICES, CON'T.



**October 31, 10:45 a.m.**

***A Day of the Dead Celebration***

***with music and dancing by El Centro del Inmigrante***

*In the pulpit:* Gonzalo Mercado and El Centro Del Inmigrante

*Music Director:* El Centro del Inmigrante

Our Worship this morning will feature a Celebration by members of El Centro and El Centro's Director, Gonzalo Mercado who spoke last year at the church. We welcome our guests as we celebrate this special day.



**November 7, 10:45**

***Women In the Military: One Perspective on Veterans Day***

*In the pulpit:* DeCarol Davis

*Music:* Dr. Carolyn Clark

We welcome DeCarol Davis as our speaker this morning. DeCarol will share some of her experiences as a woman in the military in honor of Veterans Day.

*Inspiration:* Langston Hughes' "Let America Be America Again"

# OCTOBER EVENTS

## October 1st - 9th

Oct. 1st -7:30 p.m.  
First Friday Film in FH  
[see box]

Oct. 2nd - 9:30 - Noon  
FH - craft decorations for  
Boogie Dance Party

Oct. 3rd - Free LGBT picnic  
1:00 to 5:00 p.m. co-sponsored by  
the UCSI Welcoming Congregation  
Committee, you must RSVP to  
[LGBT@chasiny.org](mailto:LGBT@chasiny.org).

Oct 4th - 7:30 p.m. FH,  
Arts Prog. Com.

Oct. 5th-7:30 p.m. -  
Membership Com. location TBA

Oct. 9th - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Path to Membership

Oct. 9th  
9:30 - Noon - making  
decorations - FH

## Oct. 10th - 16th

Oct. 12 - 7:30pm  
Worship Associates

Oct. 13th - 8:00 p.m.  
Board of Trustees, all welcome

## Oct.17th - 23rd

Oct. 17th - 12:30 p.m.  
Greeters Workshop  
Oct. 23rd - 1:00-5:00p.m.  
Dance Party

## Oct. 24th - 31st

October 24th -  
Anniversary Dinner  
6:00p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Call for Greeters

- Workshop on Oct. 17th
- Make current and potential members feel welcome
- contact Kathy Santo  
ksanto15@gmail.com

### Path to Membership

Join Rev. Karlson and the  
Membership Committee to  
learn more about the UCSI  
and our faith on Oct. 9th.  
Share a continental b'fast and  
light lunch as you explore  
together your faith's journey.

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*Small Group Ministry Registration has begun  
see Jill Hueckel, Judy Davidson or Rev.  
Karlson for more information.*

*Check out the gorgeous brochures explaining  
SGM and its importance.*

### From the Editor:

*The newsletter is a work in progress,  
feedback and suggestions are much  
appreciated - Deadline is the 20th of each  
month, publication the 30th.*

### Website and Emails

*Don't we have a fine new WEBSITE?  
Ruth Benson and Lisa Swan are our on-  
going web mavens at  
[webmaster@uucsi.org](mailto:webmaster@uucsi.org)*

*You can reach the Caring Committee at  
[caring@uucsi.org](mailto:caring@uucsi.org) and Rona Solomon at  
[president@uucsi.org](mailto:president@uucsi.org) More to come .....*

# LAST MONTH AND MEMBERS' NEWS

## Worship Service Highlights

Pets were praised and blessed, Mahatma Gandhi honored, we examined our past and looked at our future. Our water ceremony told us much about ourselves and each other. From college explorations to Staten Island's Cliff House swimming pool, we marveled at one another's creative expressions of community.

## September Events: Two Fund Raising Efforts and Morning Discussions

See page 2 for the R.E. report, while the picture below shows that the Septemberfest Brass Concert in its intimacy and informality was (almost) as enjoyable for Carolyn and Kevin Clark and their fellow horn players as for the audience. The Concert raised \$213.00.

Rona began offering members a chance to discuss UU World articles or walk to Snug Harbor on alternate Sundays at 9:15.

**Suzanne O'Callaghan and John Walker,**  
photo by Ruth Benson



## members' news and views



Suzanne and John renewed their marriage vows on Sept. 4th at the church .....Elizabeth Foise Eng's first novel will be published on October 1st. The novel is a romantic tale set in Europe in WW II - for more details see [www.lisbetheng.com](http://www.lisbetheng.com)

Larry's Women will "Speak Up" at the ETG Cafe on October 15th, 7:30 pm, monologues by Lawrence F. Schwabacher, featuring Risa Anderson in her S.I. directing debut and Maureen Curran as one of the ladies.

Hurrah for Nick Benson, Ruth's son on his MacArthur Grant!

Morna & Ralph are selling their house, [dramatunc@yahoo.com](mailto:dramatunc@yahoo.com)

Send us news & pics that are OK TO PUBLISH IN A WEB FORMAT!

## LAST WORD

Imagine October 1852 - the turning of the leaves, early dusks, a brisk wind off the Kill Van Kull - acres of ancient oaks becoming gold, then brown. The population of Staten Island was just over 15,000.

On October 24, two congregations of liberal Christians incorporated to form the Church of the Redeemer. This new Unitarian church opened its first building near the corner of Victory and Cebra in 1853. It was after moving to our current site that this congregation adopted its new name – the Unitarian Church of Staten Island.

We often speak of our founders' commitment to social issues, and social action remains in our congregational DNA.

But, we don't hear much about our historical commitment to the arts and sciences. From the very

beginning our members promoted the arts and sciences. For many years the Church's Spring Arts Festival was the premier cultural event of the North Shore.

Church members were instrumental in founding the Staten Island Museum, Zoo, Historical Society, Greenbelt, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and the Children's Museum.

When we celebrate the 158<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding, we will also commemorate the anniversary of the Memorial Garden by remembering the contributions of members and friends who have passed away.

It is from these stories our history is woven. This year we will mount a plaque in memory of an unlikely hero of community theater, Dr. Karl Leone. Karl was a dentist, a lover of Faulkner,

a writer of short stories, a sign language interpreter, a great believer in human potential, Church President and Religious Education Director. He founded the Emerson Little Theater, which was the Unitarian Church of Staten Island's highly acclaimed in-house theater group for more than a decade following World War II.

As we celebrate our past, please think about the role each of us plays in the UCSI history we create everyday.

*Rona Solomon,*  
President

**158th Anniversary Dinner,  
Saturday, October 30th,  
6:00 - 10:00pm**

- Good Food, Great Company
- Childcare available
- Games of Chance, Fortunetelling
- A Mystery to Solve
- \$10 individuals, \$15, families

*One of the best ways to get to know fellow church members is to work together on committees and projects. Several committees are looking for members. Email [office@uucsi.org](mailto:office@uucsi.org)*

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

*Will you help with the Jolly Holly Fair? Advance projects in crafts, baking, raffle-solicitation, publicity, etc. Fair Day: Saturday, December 4, 2010*