

UCSI

NEWSLETTER

<p>Cover Story: UCSI Board of Trustees, cont'd on p.5</p> <p>Religious Exploration Page 2</p>	<p>October Events <i>Unless noted Rev. Karlson is in the Pulpit and Dr. Clark is playing the music. More detail is on the UCSI website.</i> Page 3</p>	<p>The Minister's Column Page 4 More Events and Programs page 6</p>	<p>News & Views Page 7 The President's Column p. 8</p>
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The Role of the UU Board of Trustees

It would be hard to overstate the role of the Board of Trustees in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Our faith tradition gives this Board the power to set policies for each church, to manage its finances, and to work in partnership with the minister and the staff, with this power deriving not from some hierarchal authority but from the trust of the membership. Only the membership, by vote, can call a minister to “settle” in the congregation, vote a minister out, or disband the membership. We Unitarian Universalists ourselves actually ordain our clergy - although prospective ministers must meet criteria established by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

To serve as a Trustee requires time and dedication so this month the Newsletter shines the spotlight on the specific form and work of the UCSI Board in some detail, p. 5.



October 16, 10:45 a.m.

The Memorial Garden—A Place of Memory, Hope & Renewal

Speaking: Rev. Karlson & the Memorial Garden Committee

Today we commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Garden and remember those who came before us - in the UCSI and also in our lives.

We encourage you to bring a memento honoring a loved one to place on the remembrance table.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION PAGE 2

Just One Sunday

Just ONE Sunday can make a difference in the life of the RE program.

ONE Sunday teaching a scripted, guided curriculum in the RE explorers classroom

ONE Sunday assisting a teacher in the RE explorers classroom.

ONE Sunday co-leading discussion or activities with the youth (high school aged students)

ONE Sunday helping our Religious Exploration Coordinator with a First Sunday Activity.

ONE Sunday sharing a special talent.

Learn more about how you can help us fill our Just ONE Sunday needs. If you are interested in co-leading, teaching or assisting, we would love to meet with you and explore whether you could be a good match. Please send an e-mail to Michael Porter, R.E. Coordinator at michael.uucsi@gmail.com.

Youth Group (14-18 yrs.)

October 2nd: Youth assist RE Coordinator, Michael Porter with First Sunday

October 9th: Youth meeting

October 16th: No Youth meeting.

October 23rd: Youth meeting

October 30th: Youth assist RE Explorers

October Schedule: Early Childhood & Explorers

Early Childhood (2-6 yrs)

October 2nd : First Sunday Topic TBA

October 9th: Picture Book Bible Tales: To Everything There Is A Season

October 16th: Picture Book Bible Tales: Cain and Abel

October 23rd: Picture Book Bible Tales: Noah's Ark

October 30th: Picture Book Bible Tales: David and Goliath

Explorers (7-13 yrs.)

October 2nd : First Sunday Topic TBA

Age of Reason: (after service) *Exploring Principle 1 and decorating meditation stone pouches*

October 9th: Traditions with a Wink: YOU!

Age of Reason: (after service) *Exploring Principle 2 and interviewing Dr. Carolyn Clark*

October 16th: Age of Reason (during and after service):

Exploring Principle 3 and interviewing RE Coordinator, Michael Porter and possibly Board of Trustees

October 23rd: Age of Reason (during and after service):

Exploring Principle 4 and interviewing church members

October 30th: Traditions with a Wink: This Little Light of Mine

Age of Reason: (after service) *Exploring Principle 5 and interviewing Rev. Susan Karlson*

Fillmore Hall Presents:

312 Fillmore Street, SI NY

Saturday, October 22

A night of classic & horrifying zombie films that will make it hard to turn your lights off. Featuring a cast & crew of creeps that MAY follow you home. Sorrowful concessions for sale between shows. Dress as a zombie; win a prize!

Show times: (sunset 6:05pm) 6:30pm - Doors & Concessions open

7:00PM- Carnival of Souls- Cult Classic (10 yrs & over.) 83 minutes

9:00 PM - Night of the Living Dead- Horror Classic (10 & over) 96 min.

10:30 PM - BEST ZOMBIE Costume award

10:45 PM Shaun of the Dead - Wild Parody of the zombie genre (13 years and up only) 99 minutes Doors close at 12:30AM

Tickets: \$ 8. Per Show

\$ 15. All night pass



Board and Committee Meetings

Previous JH Fair booth chairs, Sunday, 10/2 - 12:45pm
 Small Group Registration begins 10/2
 Arts Committee: Monday, 10/3, 7:00pm, church hall
 Membership Committee, Tues. 10/4 -7:30pm, Ann Kalil's home at Seacrest Towers
 Social Justice Committee, Sat. 10/1, 9:30 AM, Library
 Board of Trustees, Wed. 10/12, 8:00 pm, Library

ANNIVERSARY DINNER, OCT. 29th

CHURCH HALL 6-9PM
Come as Your Favorite Song (Yes - there will be prizes.)
Karaoke (Yes, there will be prizes.)
 \$15 per person
 Cash Bar
 50/50
Meat and Vegan options available – Let us know when you RSVP
 Babysitting available – Let us know when you RSVP
 RSVP UUCSI.ORG@VERIZON.NET

Services in October



October 2, 10:45 a.m.

The Joy of Reconciliation and Repentance

A look at reflection, repentance & forgiveness.

Oct. 9, 10:45 a.m. General Assembly attendees

The Charter of Compassion and the Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy

Oct. 16th, 10:45 a.m. - Memorial Garden

Oct. 23rd, 10:45 a.m. - Slogging through the Mangroves - Whose Are We Anyway?

Oct. 30th, 10:45 UU UNO Sunday -Holly Sarkissian and Virginia Allen

Special Project on Sunday, October 23rd



During hospitality hour the Explorer group (7-13 years) will be looking for friendly church members to interview as part of the 7-week Age of Reason Program. The purpose of these interviews is for our children to gain an understanding of the diverse beliefs and religious backgrounds of our members.

Some sample questions include:

- * What religious group did you belong to as a child?
- * How well did you like this group and why?
- * What dreams do you have for UCSI?

Rainbow Ribbons will be provided that day for members to wear, so that the children know whom to approach for interviews.

October 2012 will mark the 160th anniversary of our congregation. We are celebrating this congregation's remarkable legacy and how meaningful it has been and is to so many on Staten Island. People who have lived here for decades know how Staten Island has changed from country farms to a rapidly growing and densely populated borough.

The next year will fly by, I'm sure. Rona Solomon, our president, reminds me that I am no longer the new minister here at the church. The second Sunday in September, Rona and Kathy Santo, our former president, surprised me by presenting me with a scrapbook of photos from my installation back in April of 2009. I love looking through that book. It is a kind of snapshot in time of this congregation. There are photos of the children singing with gusto in the rather impromptu children's choir. The church is filled up and there are beautiful flowers and I remember the best food in town. People are visiting from other congregations throughout the Metro New York District and some of the best speakers in all of this area are assembled to celebrate with us. Clergy and people from the Building Bridges Coalition are among the guests we hosted that day.

Why should we look back though—isn't that dwelling on the past, not living in the moment? In Judaism, this is a season for returning, for looking back as the High Holy Days approach. An honest appraisal of oneself and feeling genuinely sorry for wrongdoing towards another, returns the person to a right relationship with others and with God. You don't have to be Jewish to find this returning process a meaningful one. Reviewing the past year, it is possible to see the tracks we left on the sands of time; where we built higher walls or where we concentrated on building enduring connections.

This month, we'll be looking back at our legacy so that we can move more fully into the year up ahead. We'll celebrate 50 years since the merger of the Unitarians and the Universalists—a kind of merger of head and heart. We commemorate two October anniversaries—that of the Memorial Garden and the founding of this church. We'll reaffirm our connection to the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office and its legacy of service around the world. And we'll begin some of the new youth and Adult Religious Exploration programs (“Age of Reason” for our elementary youth and “Spirituality and Moral Issues in Films” as well as “Yogic breathing, relaxation and chanting”). So while we are turning to look behind, we'll also be creating a vibrant new year of spiritual growth and renewal. In the words of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, “Return to who you are, return to what you are, return to where you are born and reborn again.”

I'm glad we're “returning” again, *Susan*



Susan

UCSI BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2011-2012



l-r, Mike Anderson, Rona Solomon, Pres., Rev. Karlson, Sarah Dolinar, Sec'y pro-tem, Diane

Sorowitz, Kate Nielsen, Harry Hicks, Treas. , Judy Davison, Sue Flynn. absent:

John Adrian, VP, Raffaella Iosue, Lisa Swan. pic by Risa Anderson

How Board Meetings Work

The UCSI Board of Trustees meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 8:00pm in the Library. Meetings are open and all UCSI members are **encouraged** to attend. In October the meeting is on the 12th.

The Board works from a formal agenda - any church member can submit an agenda item to the President [Rona] 2 weeks in advance and discuss presenting their item in person. Part of the meeting consists of trustees

reporting on Committees they relate to and projects they have researched or managed. Rev.

Karlson, a non-voting member, presents a report and gives her perspective. Examples of issues might be resolving the Certificate of Occupancy problem, allowing fundraising projects for R.E., and, always, managing the budget. The Board also undertakes projects such as developing and

maintaining rental policies personnel policies and reviewing

program committee activities.

Many decisions are made by developing a consensus followed by a formal vote, but, at times the Board is divided in opinion and only a majority vote can move the issue forward. All decisions must be in agreement with our By-Laws. Board Minutes are posted in the Church Hall.

Board members work hard, but share a love for and commitment to the UCSI. We owe them our thanks.

Becoming a Board Member

To be a board member you must have been a UCSI member for one year; to be an officer for 2 years. All are elected at the Annual Meeting and serve varying terms.

Commitment

Members demonstrate commitment by the work they have done. They may let the Nominating Committee know they are interested or nominate themselves.

Nominating Committee

Prepares a slate for the annual meeting. This year's members are: Simone Andrews, Bob Basey, Randal Leason, and Tom Seluga

ZOMBIE FEST - Oct. 22nd

The volunteer sign up is posted on the RE wall news in the Church Hall-

We are looking for several **Adults** to insure a safe & fun program- jobs include: Director/manager, assistants for concession sales, AV wrangler, and a few zombies! Teens will also be working on this-in PR, performing, set up and clean-up.

UU UNO SUNDAY, OCT. 30th

Let's remain a Blue Ribbon congregation financially supporting the UU UNO!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

WEAVING THE FABRIC OF DIVERSITY is an 8 week course offered on Wednesdays (excluding the 2nd Wednesday of each month) from October 5th through December 7th from 7:30-9:30 pm. This class will explore the multiple lenses of ableism, racism, heterosexism, ageism and classism. Facilitators are Lawrnce Schwabacher and Rev. Susan Karlson. Please register on the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish hall or by contacting Susan at minister@uucsi.org.

YOGIC PRACTICES with Rev. Susan learn ancient spiritual yogic practices leading to meditation. Monthly on the 3rd Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 PM , beginning Oct. 17th- register with Rev. Susan Karlson.

Spiritual Cinema: Movies and Moral Issues

Saturday, October 8, 2011, 5:00 pm Sanctuary

This Month's Film – Pay It Forward

Young Trevor McKinney is caught up by an intriguing assignment from his new social studies teacher, Mr. Simonet. The assignment: think of something to change the world and put it into action. Trevor conjures the notion of paying a favor not back, but forward--repaying good deeds not with payback, but with new good deeds done to three new people. Trevor's efforts to make good on his idea bring a revolution not only in the lives of himself, his mother and his physically and emotionally scarred teacher, but in those of an ever-widening circle of people completely unknown to him. *Written by Jim Beaver <jumblejim@prodigy.net> from www.imdb.com* The movie will be followed by discussion. Co-sponsored by the Arts Committee & Adult Religious Exploration.

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Small Group Ministry Registration and Participation

Just in case you didn't know: the "small group movement" has been active at the UCSI for a few year, helping members connect with one another by intentionally forming and deepening their emotional and spiritual bonds. Registration will open on October 2nd and close on October 12th. Registration forms will be available at church and on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RO5GYL5> For more information contact Rev. Susan Karlson.

Thanks are in Order!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee wants to thank Brendan Spillane and Tom Seluga for their work in re-building the brick path from the "kitchen door" into the church yard. It hasn't been this nice in my time at UCSI, John Adrian.

Peace Pole Dedication & other SJ News

The Social Justice Committee is working on the Peace Pole dedication on October 2nd [see the website for details] as well as continuing to collect food for hungry Staten Islanders.

Last month shoes were collected for the Haitian School as well.

The chief project is helping us all understand the many ramifications of the U.S. immigration project, especially to prepare for General Assembly next year. Can you work with the SJ Committee on a project? See Sally or Raffaella.



Bob Basey sings exuberantly at the Animal Blessing. photo by Ruth Benson

The Mikado, Oct. 23rd. see Carolyn for tickets!

Staten Island Philharmonic

The Mikado

Sunday, October 23, 2011
2 pm
Music Hall, Snug Harbor
Tickets \$30/\$25
senior/student discounts

www.siphilharmonic.org
718.273.3250
siphilharmonic@aol.com

This performance is made possible, in part, by public funding from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the office of Coordinator James Ocho and Vincent Ignio, and through the generosity of good friends like you!

aO

AND a mini-TAMING OF THE SHREW

A one hour version of the comedy by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Adapted by MORNA MURPHY MARTELL

A staged reading with Randi Sobol as KATE & Leo Schaff as PETRUCHIO along with other members of The Instant Shakespeare Company

FREE Performance: Saturday October 15 at 2 pm

St. George Public Library

5 Central Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301-2501

Steve Nutt writes as the new JH Chair:

The annual UCSI holiday fair is a congregational celebration of cooperation, generosity and our rich connection to our surrounding community. Additionally, it is an important source of income that supports the work of our church.

My job is to ask, to coordinate, and to integrate your energy and creativity into this event. I begin by asking all to mark 12/3/2011 on you calendar and if you have chaired a component of the fair in the past, to attend a brief meeting at 12:45 on Sunday October 2nd. Thanks.

THE LAST WORD

Big doin's here at the UCSI as our church year gets underway .

In this, our shared ministry, we are the people doing the doin' .Sometimes it seems like we came to this welcoming spiritual community only to find a welcoming work collective! And now it's harvest time - time to celebrate our liberal religious community that grew from an abolitionist seed planted in Staten Island in 1852 .Come together October 29 to cheer our community and have a good time.

Our congregation is commencing a study/action year of looking at the complex issue of immigration as a moral issue .We are preparing to attend the UUA General Assembly in Arizona next June as informed individuals ready to take action .Defining just what that means will be our task .

An ongoing challenge in this community of volunteers has been identifying and nurturing leaders .The Metro NY District and its Central Eastern Regional Group have some

interesting events coming up that support leadership development .The 6th Annual Leadership Day: **Defying Gravity** will take place November 5 at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, author of *Tribal Church* and *Reframing Hope* and expert on multigenerational congregational life. Afternoon workshops will address the concerns of many congregational leaders - ministers, DREs, presidents, treasurers, worship chairs, musicians, committees on ministry, young adult leaders, and others. I hope we can send a large team from UCSI since the cost is nominal and there are scholarships are available through the district.

Harvest the Power is the leadership skill development curriculum from the UUA's Tapestry Faith Program .

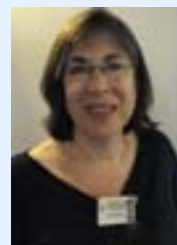
There will be a weekend long train the trainer program at Murray Grove November 11-13 that will cost \$250 .The 12-session Harvest the Power curriculum seeks to support new and emerging leaders to experience their leadership as part of their UU faith journey .If you are interested in attending this train the

trainer session, please see me since Susan and/or I need to recommend participants, and we would be interested in hearing your vision of your leadership role in the congregation .If the \$250 fee is the only obstacle to your participation, please approach me to discuss work/ study options here at the UCSI.

Finally, the Board and Committee on Ministry will meet in November to plan how to involve the rest of the congregation in a covenanting process, developing an agreement that will help us communicate better and reach our vision of being a welcoming spiritual community guided by our principles in all we do.

See you at dinner October 29 – I may be the one in the blue suede shoes

Rona



REVIVAL!!! Oct 7th & 8th!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE for details on the QUEENS UU Revival.

Both Rev. Nate Walker and Rev. Susan Karlson will be preaching.

OCTOBER 15TH

12th Annual Anti-racism Conclave 9-4pm

Community Church of NY check website

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Saturday, October 29th, 6-9 PM

Be there or be square!

RSVP NOW