

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2010

FROM DARRELL'S DESK- "FEBRUARY ROCKS!"

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MARK IT DOWN

- **Thursday, February 11th, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**
- **Wednesday, February 17th, Celebrations and Music, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**
- **Saturday, February 20th, Game Night, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall**
- **Sunday, February 28th, Benefit Concert for Haiti, 1-6 pm, Parish Hall**

If there were ever a month of activities that present an opportunity to invite people to join with our community, it would be February.

February 14 is our annual Jazz Worship, featuring David Braham, Raymond Johnston, Santi Debriano and Diego Lopez. I mentioned this to a friend of mine who is a professional jazz historian and critic. When he heard the name "David Braham" he decided to attend! Just because Dave is our friend, we may not understand how highly he is esteemed in the jazz world. Likewise, Ray knocks them dead in the city regularly. I know of no other UU group anywhere that rocks the house for worship the way we do on this Sunday. Let people know!

The very next Sunday will present Olympia's Daughters, including our own Jackie Diggs and Carmen Pinto. The first time I heard them, at a UU General Assembly, I could hardly

believe this was a UU group! They celebrate women and social justice from our spiritual perspective.

Finally, on the afternoon of Feb. 28 Bill Stafford is planning a benefit concert for Haiti in our newly renovated Parish Hall. When this work was done, we hoped it would be used for just such an event. Bill will not only organize it with lots of help from lots of people across several communities, but will also leave us a blueprint to follow for future events.

It may not be easy to invite friends and people you know from other community activities to come to your church. In a way, it sounds too much like religions many became UU to avoid. Keep in mind you are not asking for their souls, but only their presence. Also keep in mind that Jessie Turk was a member here only about ten



years. She was well into her 70's when somebody said to her, "You sound like a Unitarian." She was of course, and was an outstanding example of one the rest of her life.

Suppose someone had invited her to worship at a UU church or to a benefit concert decades earlier? Surely both her life and the life of the congregation would have been even more fortunate. Perhaps you know someone today who "sounds like a UU." Perhaps you know someone who does not sound anything like a UU but you know shares our values of equality and justice? Tell them what we are doing in February. People know us from our community action. It is time they know us as a congregation, too.



FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

Feb 7 **The Coach that Changed the World**

Rev. Darrell Berger

Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Ann Lang

As part of Black history month, I'd like to share the research I've begun on a book about George Powles, a white man who coached in Oakland High Schools from 1946 to 1975. Among his young athletes were Bill Russell, who became the first Black coach in any major league team sport, Frank Robinson, who became the first Black major league baseball manager, and Curt Flood, who challenged baseball's reserve clause, which required players to perform only for the team that "owned" them, all the way to the Supreme Court.

I have long thought that one coach having these three remarkable athletes could not have been coincidence. I was right.

Feb 14 **Be My Valentine**

Rev. Darrell Berger

Musicians: David Braham and friends, Senior Usher: Greg Giacobe

This is our annual jazz service, featuring David Braham, Raymond Johnston and others. We will take a light-hearted look at the role of music in romance and other emotions.

Feb 21 **It's a Brand New Day**

Olympia's Daughters

Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Hal Heyman

Welcome to a brand new day, a chance to start things anew. Olympia's Daughters has a new director and the country has a new President. This service is about changes ...in OD, ...in the world. How everyday is a chance to start a new day.

Feb 28 **The UUA Black Empowerment Struggle of 1967-1970**

Rev. Phil Passantino-

Musician: Cindy Long, Senior Usher: Paul Azel-Lute

Unitarian Universalists played out a very important drama in the Black Empowerment movement. Here is the saga of some intense events, worthy of a movie, whose legacy continues to both bless and haunt us as a faith community.

Phil Passantino is an ordained minister who has spoken in UU Fellowships from the Poconos to Ireland. He officiates unique and meaningful weddings, baptisms and funerals for people of all faith backgrounds. He's also a singer who writes UU hymns. His website is www.AmazingCeremonies.com



Save the Date!


Annual Service Auction

Saturday, March 27th, 2010

The Annual Church Auction is scheduled for Saturday, March 27th with a silent auction to begin the previous Sunday. Please help us in making this important fundraising event as successful as it can be. Here's what's important:

- 1) Be there! Without lots of enthusiastic attendance, we won't get the bidding up to where it needs to be! Bring friends!
- 2) Donate items! Please see the form on the next page that should be returned to Nina Barszcz. Here are some ideas of goods/services that have been offered in the past - dinners (either at people's homes or at restaurants), excursions (hikes, bird walks, museum visits), use of vacation homes, babysitting, cleaning of various kinds, car washing, lessons (music, chess, tennis, computer skills), doing coffee hour in a person's name, research, organizing of collections, non-judgmental listening, rides to the airport, errand running, proofreading, homemade foods, articles of clothing made by the donor, buyer's favorite saying done in calligraphy, and many more!
- 3) Get local businesses to donate! Why not ask the local businesses you patronize regularly to make a donation of goods or services? It's little effort if you're going there anyway, and it's good advertising for them. We can provide you with a notice of the auction on Church letterhead if you'd like, or if you'd prefer to have a committee member make contact, simply supply us with the names of these businesses on the form.
- 4) Join the committee! Help us plan a fun filled evening full of hilarity. See Nina Barszcz if you want to get involved.

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Board Meeting 7:30 pm, Sonnen Room	12	13
14	15	16	17 Celebrations and Music, 7:30 pm, Sonnen Room	18	19	20 Game Night 7:00 pm, Parish Hall
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Benefit Concert 6:30 pm, Parish Hall				Coffee Hour Coordinators for February: Jim Nelson		



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

AUCTION 2010 SATURDAY March 27th

OFFER OF SERVICE OR ITEM

Your name: _____

Category of offer: Event at the church Event at your home or elsewhere
 Other service Tangible goods

Description:

(For an event) How many persons may attend? _____ Date of event? _____

(For other service or tangible goods) If you are willing to provide service or goods more than once, please specify maximum number: _____

Fair market value: _____ Minimum acceptable bid: _____

BAND TOGETHER FOR HAITI

Benefit Concert



Rock, jazz, and blues featuring

**Jane Getter, Dave Stryker, Al Gold & the Mighty Rhythm Kings,
Dawn Botti, Vibe Merchants, A.K., Sam Sherwin Band, and more.**

Date: 2/28/10

Time: 1pm – 6pm

Location: Parish Hall of the First UU Church of Essex County

Admission: \$12

Proceeds will be donated to the Haitian Pastors Association of New Jersey, and Partners in Health



2010 Congregational Poll Update

Last December it was announced that beginning on 6 December 2009 and extending for six weeks, the Social & Earth Action Team would conduct a poll of the congregation on two items sent to us by the UUA Commission on Social Witness (CSW): (1) the draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Peacemaking and (2) a list of six proposed Congregational Study Action Issues (CSAI). For both, it was asked of the church (and in turn S&EA asked church members) whether any of these should be put on the Final Agenda for delegates at the upcoming General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN. After an extension of an additional week, on 17 January 2010, the

Congregational Poll for Social Witness was closed. We received 13 ballots, 9 hand-ins and 4 by email, and we thank all who participated.

All the received ballots were then verified and each item tabulated and scored. Using a formula from previous polls, S&EA recommended how the congregation should vote on the official Congregational Ballot that is part of our congregational certification with the UUA. These recommendations were given the Board of Trustees in report form. Using the scoring system, the following results and recommendation were obtained:

Draft Statement of Conscience	Yes	No	Abstain	Score	Recom.
I approve placing the Draft SOC "Peacemaking" on the Final Agenda for 2010 General Assembly.	10	1	2	8	Yes

Proposed Congregational Study/ Action Issues	Yes	No	Abstain	Score	Recom.
Ending Slavery	8	1	4	5	Yes
Energy, Peace, and Justice	9	2	2	6	Yes
Immigration as a Moral Issue	8	2	3	4.5	Yes
National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative	8	3	2	4	Yes
Nuclear Disarmament	3	4	6	2	Yes
Revitalizing American Democracy	7	3	3	2.5	Yes

UUA Social Witness rules allow for up to five proposals to be included on the GA final agenda. Since there are more than that number of proposed CSAIs this year, the CSW will likely drop the one issue that has least support from among the congregations. What is useful about holding the poll in this fashion is that if anyone from our church serves as a delegate to GA this year, they can use the results of this poll in determining which CSAI will go forward as

the issue for the 2010-14 Statement of Conscience cycle.

Thanks to all who participated in this ongoing expression of grassroots democracy and living out our free faith. If you have any comments on how this ballot was held, or could be improved, please contact the Social & Earth Action Team Chair Georgiana Hart.

We are on the web!

www.essexuu.org

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

**WHERE EVERY MIND IS FREE AND
EVERY SOUL IS WELCOME!**

Founded in Orange in 1890 as the First Unitarian Church of Essex County, the congregation has worshipped in the present Sanctuary since its construction in 1892-3. The Church continues the ministry of the Union Universalist Society (also known as the Church of the Redeemer), founded as the First Universalist Society of Newark in 1834.

The Reverend Darrell E. Berger

Frank Barszcz: President

Sandra Langley: Vice-President

Greg Giacobe: Church Administrator

Barrie Peterson: Chaplain

Donna Blaine: Sexton

Nina Barszcz: Newsletter Editor

Office Hours: Mondays 9 AM to 2 PM and
Fridays 1 PM to 6 PM

Minister is available Tuesdays, Wednesday
and Thursdays by appointment. Call church
main line

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