

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

JUNE 2010

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MARK IT DOWN

- **Wednesday, June 9th, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**
- **Sunday, June 13th, Annual Congregational Meeting, 12 noon, Parish Hall**
- **Thursday, August 26th, Celebrations and Music, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**

FROM DARRELL'S DESK—"THE HOPE OF THE FLOWER COMMUNION"

The Flower Communion was created by our own Norbert Capek to give Unitarians a way to celebrate a communion unencumbered by doctrine or rigid ritual. When I was ordained to the UU ministry in 1974 it was considered a quaint and slightly foreign custom of historical interest. I did not know of any UU congregations that had any kind of communion, flower or otherwise, other than those which were vestiges of UU Christianity.

When Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, an adult education curriculum for women, became popular in the 1980's, part of its lasting influence was a new appreciation of ritual performed in a specific UU context. The Flaming Chalice jumped off the pages of countless church stationeries and became embodied on altars, lit every Sunday. The Flower Communion became an important worship event, often marking, as ours does, the end of the regular season of worship.

It expresses our connection and appreciation of the natural world. UU's tend to believe that humans must care for the earth in order for the earth to main-

tain its many life forms, including, of course, us. Like any communion, its meaning tends to be aspirational. That is, we accept that our actions fall short of our intentions, even if we do not use words like "sin" and "sinner."

We, like most Americans and the developed world, particularly fall short when it comes to our relationship with petroleum. While few of us thought that "drill, baby, drill," was a good idea, even fewer of us have taken concrete and meaningful steps toward alternatives. In this respect, the drilling advocates have greater congruency between their values and actions than we. If your ultimate value is to have cheap gas and big, comfortable vehicles, and you are willing to sacrifice almost anything for them, then yes, drill away. The current oil spill shouldn't cause them no concern.

For those of us who value the natural order, and believe that there is no future for our species if others become extinct, the current disaster is an

other tragedy in a seemingly endless string. We wonder if possibly, just possibly, this horrible event might be the one finally to awaken voters and political leaders to take the steps necessary to, well, survive. But like the drug addict who is not able to quit, there is little evidence we will change. Is there any environmental shock so appalling that it might change the entrenched behaviors enabled by corporate greed and citizen indolence?

I have been writing articles like this for many years. Many of us have been environmental activists. Yet the spills get bigger and the forces that create them seem to yield to nothing. Still there abides a hope that a collective change of heart is somehow not impossible. In this hope we offer our flower communion.



JUNE SUNDAY SERVICES

We ask congregants to please arrive and be seated in the Sanctuary before the listed start time of services. If you arrive late, the usher will let you in at the appropriate time or a sign will be posted that you use the rear entrance of the sanctuary (the entrance from the steps nearer the street) so as not to disrupt the service in progress. Thank you.

June 6 Celebrate RE: The Sounds of Sunday School

RE Committee

Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior Usher: Howard Heyman

Every Sunday School class begins with the ringing of bells and the recitation of a short prayer. Come and ring bells with us, and join us in speaking a simple yet profound prayer as we celebrate the RE program. The children and RE leaders of our church will share and reflect on a year of fun, learning, growth, art and U-U values education.

June 13 Flower Communion

Rev. Darrell Berger

Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute

Created by our former member, the Rev. Norbert Capek, Flower Communion symbolizes the connections among people and of the people to nature. We invite everyone who will be attending to bring a flower or two to share.

At least half of all unrestricted donations for this period (though June) will be given to the Haitian Pastors Association for Haitian relief. Please note on your check if you want it credited toward your Can-

It is worthwhile to live
and fight courageously
for sacred ideals.

O blow ye evil winds
into my body's fire
my soul you'll never unravel.

Even though disappointed a thousand times
or fallen in the fight
and everything would worthless seem,

I have lived amidst eternity –
Be grateful, my soul –
My life was worth living.

He who was pressed from all sides
but remained victorious in spirit
is welcomed into the choir of heroes.

He who overcame the fetters
giving wings to his mind
is entering into the golden age of
the victorious.



- composed by Norbert Capek in Dresden Prison in 1941, shortly before he was transferred to Dachau concentration camp, where he died in October, 1942

UPDATING CHURCH DIRECTORY & UU WORLD SUBSCRIPTIONS

To inform our congregants, the church over the summer will start updating its membership Directory, and (with luck) will have it available for distribution by the Fall. A notice will be sent out asking Members to correct and/or update contact information the church has. New Members' names and contact information have been added at this time, and have been forwarded to the UUA. However, it just missed the mailing for the summer issue of the UU World. So, new Members should receive their inaugural issue in the Fall. To

all Members, if you are NOT receiving the UU World at present, please contact the Church Office at 973-674-0010 or info@essexuu.org. All current members are entitled to the church newsletter and a subscription to the UU World.


In a related matter, the UUA has begun a new service to both congregations and their members. My.UUA.org is an online system that

enables congregations to view and change contact information for their members, lay leaders, and staff. One potential service this may help is an online version of the church directory that can be automatically updated by members themselves. For more information on starting an account and logging in, please visit:

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/dataservices/faq/myuuaorg/>

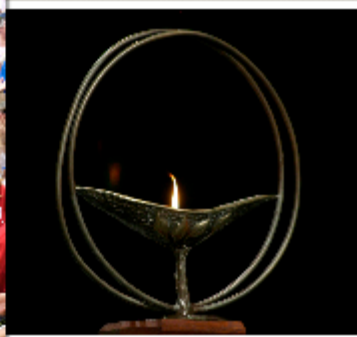
A notice will be sent out asking Members to correct and/or update contact information

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Board Meeting 7:30 pm, Sonnen Room	10	11	12
Annual Congregational Meeting 13 12 noon, Parish Hall	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	 Coffee Hour Coordinators for June: Sandy Langley		

UUPIX@UUA.ORG

UU OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES!



The UUA wants to see and share your photos!

Photos of sacred spaces, of worship, of ceremonies, of social action, of trips, of buildings, of building a building...we're anxiously waiting to see what's happening in congregations across the county.

Send your high resolution digital images to uupix@uua.org

Here are 3 things you need to know:

By sending your photos to uupix@uua.org, you are saying:

"It's absolutely OK for these photos to be used on the UUA website, in print, on walls, or other public places."

So check with everyone in the photos-if it's not a crowd shot. Get an ok from the photographer too, if it's not you, of course.

In your e-mail include: your name, your role in your church, your congregation's name, city and state.

Feel free to add a sentence about each photo.

Submit as many high resolution photos as you want.

Keep in mind that close ups are often more interesting.

OK, so maybe that was more than three things but...that's really it. It's that easy!





Meadville Lombard
Theological School

Summer 2010 @ Meadville Lombard



Contemporary Paganism: Now; Its History; Its Future

Margot Adler

July 9 — 11 | Chicago | 0.5 units

Learn about NeoPaganism from NPR correspondent and author Margot Adler. In the course of the class you will create a ritual—for *any* purpose, as long as it accomplishes the goals of ritual: change the atmosphere and create a sense of connection and community.



Preaching As If You Mean It

William Schulz

July 12—16 | Chicago | 1.0 unit

Spend the week with other seminarians and ministers, clarifying your fundamental message—and explore how to “preach it as if you mean it.”



Arts and Aesthetics

John Tolley

July 12—16 | Chicago | 1.0 unit

Design a “religious arts educational event” typical of one of the following: an adult education setting, a Sunday school class, a recognition banquet or fellowship event. This can have as its focus the creation of a visual statement, dramatic production or liturgical dance element in worship.



Approaches to Theology: Interfaith Public Theologies

Michael Hogue

July 19—23 | Chicago | 1.0 unit

Appropriate for both beginning and advanced theology students, this course takes up—as the starting point for learning how to do theology—complex theological questions in a pluralizing, globalizing interreligious world of increasingly vexing public moral challenges.



Creating Quality Worship

Barbara ten Hove

July 26—30 | Chicago | 1.0 unit

Learn about the role of worship in liberal congregations and why it matters. Students will have the opportunity to write their own worship elements and present worship services.



Method is the Message

Mark Hicks

August 15—20 | Ferry Beach, ME | 1.0 unit

Using theories from faith and developmental learning, this course models how to create and scaffold learning experiences that invite growth and complexity. Students should also expect to explore developmental learning in light of the challenges inherent in living in a multi racial, multicultural world.

Learn more about these classes on our website

meadville.edu
773.256.3000 x236

We are on the web!

www.essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

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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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