



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2010

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MARK IT DOWN

- **November 9th, Board Meeting, 7:30 in Parish Hall**
- **November 21st, Homecoming, following service**

FROM DARREL'S DESK

At the Board meeting in October, the following "to do" list was approved in hopes it would enable newcomers and visitors to feel more at home. While this is important for people who attend the many worship services and meetings hosted by our partnering organizations, it is also important for our congregation, in our desire to grow in numbers and effectiveness in the larger community.

Just as we are addressing deferred maintenance issues for our buildings, so also must we attend to how we attract, welcome and assimilate new members. The items below are hardly revolutionary. They just require actual doing. We are not of a size where we can delegate this to a committee or staff. While Greg, as Church

and Administrator, and I can do the record-keeping, and Lawrence Turner, our new Super, can post the signs, it is finally the responsibility of each member to make a visitor's first time with us a good one.

- The person doing the announcements stresses signing the Guest Book.
- There is a follow-up by minister or administrator the following week.
- "Church Parking in Rear" sign needs to be built at driveway entrance.
- "Enter in Front" sign with an arrow posted outside side doors of Parish Hall.
- "Rest Room" signs posted.

- Attractive nametags created, displayed and stored.
- Special events planned with enough lead-time to publicize.
- More members arriving earlier.
- Occasional intentional post-coffee hour discussions of church issues like building use, improvement of grounds, outreach, to involve congregation in planning process.



NEW RECIPIENT CHOSEN FOR "SHARE THE PLATE"

At its 10 October 2010 meeting, Social & Earth Action discussed and chose the next recipient for our "Share-The-Plate" program. Although no official submissions for local charities were submitted, there were recommendations from some members of the

church to help aid international efforts in distressed situations. The effort that won most support from the committee was the UUA-UUSC Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund. The collection period was prescribed to run from the service on 17 Octo-

ber 2010 and run through 30 January 2011. This choice was confirmed by the Board of Trustees at its 12 October meeting. The program requires that at least half of the cumulative unrestricted donations made during the Offertory will be set aside for a designated

Charity. Checks made out to the Church as part of members' pledge fulfillment, or for any other previously announced appeal (such as Chalice Lighters), will not be included.

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NOVEMBER 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 post that you use the rear (Osgood) entrance so as not to disrupt the service in progress. Thank you.



Nov 7 **The Tao of Power**

Rev. Darrell Berger

Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute, Music: Bill Stafford

The Tao states that everything is in the constant flux of becoming its opposite: that the dualism we impose on reality limits our understanding. This lofty philosophy seems perfectly suited for this season's elections.

Nov 14 **A Pilgrimage to West Africa**

Rev. Phil Passantino Senior Ushers: Ann Lang and

Laura Rogers, Music: Dave Braham

Phil recently traveled to the country of Mali, West Africa. His short film presents a less-often seen view of Africa: instead of starvation and suffering, we'll see smiling faces and the beauty of a simple way of life. He'll share the ways he was inspired by Malian culture and spirituality, including Muslim and indigenous traditions. He'll also play an African musical instrument, the mbira, used for meditation.

Nov 21 **Homes Old and New**

Rev. Darrell Berger

Senior Usher: Greg Giacobe, Music: David Braham

This is Homecoming Sunday. For us, our church is a familiar and comfortable home. How did it get that way for you? What is required to keep it that way? How does one balance the necessities of change with the need for comfort and familiarity? How shall new people be received and find a home with us?

Nov 28 **Robert Frost and the Spirit of Metaphor**

Dr. James Barszcz

Senior Usher: TBA, Music: Bill Stafford

Poet Robert Frost is one of the best known and most celebrated American writers of the the mid-20th century. Dr. James Barszcz will examine some of Frost's statements about poetry and metaphor, and will show how finding resemblances is not just the job of poets—it's what we all do when we think productively.

James Barszcz received his PhD in English Studies from Rutgers University and taught at the college level for many years. Now employed in the telecommunications field, he lives in Maplewood, NJ and edits the College Hill Review, an online literary journal.

Homecoming Is November 21st!


Come and enjoy with family and friends!



Bring a Main Dish, Veggies, Salad, Dessert, or Drinks to share.
Paper Goods also welcome.

Please let Georgiana Hart know what you will be bringing.

November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Board Meeting 7:30, Hale House	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Homecoming 11:30 p.m. Parish Hall	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
					Coffee Hour Coordinator for November: Georgiana Hart	

NEW RECIPIENT CHOSEN FOR "SHARE THE PLATE" (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

Massive monsoon flooding began in northwest Pakistan at the end of July, swelling the Indus River and its tributaries and devastating a region that had already suffered deeply in the struggle against the Taliban. As the floodwaters moved south, they submerged more than 1.9 million homes and 9 million acres of croplands, and swept away thousands of roads and bridges, affecting over 20 million people. One-fifth of the country's land has been damaged by the floodwaters. The number of survivors affected by the flooding exceeds the combined total of individuals affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti — combined ...and the disaster continues.

In late August, the UUSC joined with the UUA to raise funds for emergency response. Two of UUSC's partners are responding to the crisis in Pakistan, with a specific focus on the needs of women and unaccompanied children.

Bedari, which partnered with UUSC in response to the 2005 South Asia earthquake, is working to protect women and children displaced by the floods. Bedari has established a support center in a makeshift camp of 3,000 people in Nowshera. Through

Bedari, women can access food and water, and get connected to additional, critical relief aid and services. Unaccompanied children receive help reconnecting with their families. Bedari also encourages women to share their stories and concerns. Psychological support is critical in times of disaster, and few organizations have responded to this need in Pakistan. Such discussions also help raise specific concerns that women have, such as the need for feminine sanitary supplies. Bedari is opening another support center in Charsadda and has plans to open two more in Ranjanpur and Muzaffargarh, Punjab.

Barakat, a UUSC partner in Afghanistan that also works in Pakistan, is helping refugee families who have fled to the district of Attock, Punjab — a town of Afghan refugees. The refugee families are taking in other Afghan refugees whose residences were destroyed in the flooding. Nearly 600 refugees have been newly displaced to Attock. Already marginalized as refugees, they are at risk of being overlooked now in the relief operation.

Bakarar is providing these survivors with food, water, and cooking supplies. Once the school year begins, Bedari will open up its schools to newly arriving children.

The sheer scale of the disaster,

combined with difficult geography and coordination challenges, has meant that the aid response has not kept pace with need. The situation remains critical; food, water, shelter, and medical care have yet to reach the millions of people across the country who are displaced. For this country of 170 million people, where one in three lives below the poverty line, recovery will be long and slow.

The goals of Share-The-Plate is to promote the congregation's stated vision "to be a life affirming liberal religious community where people of diverse beliefs, ideas and backgrounds come together to provide spiritual and intellectual growth to one another and to work together in Orange, New Jersey for a greater good in the world", and to fulfill the congregation's mission "to study and practice religion in freedom and fellowship", and "[to provide support and care for our [religious] community and the community at large". It will also be seen as a way to enhance the meaning of the church's relationships with and among partners in the larger local community, build awareness, learn more about ourselves and the projects the church gives to, and to develop a philosophy of giving within the church community. However, the program is not intended to dis-

place other regular and special funding appeals.

Members are asked to submit potential candidate organizations and programs to Social & Earth Action, either directly, by mail or through the church web site. The committee will review the candidates to see if they fit with the church's mission, vision and the program's goals, before sending their choice to the Board of Trustees. All charities must be submitted by a church member, be either a 501(c) 3 or 501(c) 4 non-profit organizations, do work that is consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles, supply a name and description of the charitable organization or project, and supply contact information.

Separate checks for the charity, either given during the Offertory or sent to the church for this purpose, should either be made out to the charity or to "The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County" with "Share the Plate" in the "memo" line. To the extent allowed by law, checks written to the church will be acknowledged as a tax deductible donation. A church check for at least 50% of all unrestricted donations, as well as any received checks to be forwarded, will be sent with an acknowledgement letter no later than ten days after the last collection for that charity.

For more information, contact Georgiana Hart, Social & Earth Action Chair, at 973-763-1139 or luchahart@verizon.net.



Guest At Your Table 2010 Kicks Off on 21 November.

This fall, Unitarian Universalists of all ages nationwide will come together to give thanks by giving back. Through the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table** program, Unitarian Universalist communities celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and learn how to put these values into action. And the experience of families learning together has built lasting connections to UU values for generations of UU youth.

Focusing on four major program areas - advancing economic justice, defending civil liberties & the access to democratic processes, promoting environmental justice, and protecting rights in humanitarian crises - UUSC carries out efforts to advance human rights and social justice by working in partnership with local grassroots organizations in the United States and around the world, and standing with grassroots communities as they confront unjust power structures and challenge oppressive policies. Each program area has a special focus on issues around race, class, and gender as well as how these oppressions perpetuate injustice and human rights abuses. UUSC also provides unique opportunities for social justice activists to translate their values into action by participating in on-the-ground projects.

Guest at Your Table has been an important part of UUSC, and of UU culture, for over thirty years. You can keep this spirit and tradition alive by putting a Guest at Your Table box on your family's table and discussing together what it means to welcome a guest to your table. Last year, more than 700 congregations participated in Guest at Your Table. We hope to make this year's program even better! Guest boxes and donation envelopes will be distributed after our Homecoming service on 21 November with reminders each week through the end of December. Callback of boxes and donation envelopes is scheduled to begin on 9 January 2011. For more information, please contact your UUSC Local Representative, Gregory Giacobe at ggiacobe@optonline.net or 201-823-2459. You can learn more about UUSC's work or support UUSC directly at www.uusc.org. To learn more about this year's Guest At Your Table, including *Stories of Hope*, go to www.uusc.org/guest_at_your_table.

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

Flore Dorcely: Vice-President

Greg Giacobe: Church Administrator

Barrie Peterson: Chaplain

Donna Blaine: Sexton

Nina Barszcz: Newsletter Editor

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Community

Exploration

Fellowship

Spirituality

Liberal Religious Education

Diversity

Freedom

Action