

MAKING THE
CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2011

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MARK IT DOWN

- **Wednesday, February 2nd, Celebrations & Music, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room**
- **Tuesday, February 8th, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Hale House**
- **Friday, February 11th, Game Night, 7-10 pm, Parish Hall**
- **Sunday, February 13th, Listening Post on Congregational Poll on Immigration CSAI – 12:00 noon, Parish Hall**
- **Saturday, March 19th, 2011 Service Auction**

FROM DARRELL'S DESK- "THE OLD RELIGION IN WINTER"

If you were in the British Isles or Northern Europe centuries ago, if you lived in the rural areas or the forests, if you celebrated the changes of the seasons with your neighbors, then at this time of the year you, like us today, would have been deeply buried in snow, and looking forward to a spring that seemed far, far away.

You would have celebrated Beltane, or May Day, last spring, that time when everyone goes outdoors and parties. Nine months later, or around Feb. 1, you would have celebrated Imbolc, which, among other things, celebrates the first lactation of the ewe. You may very well have gotten pregnant at Beltane and given birth on Imbolc, so thank goddess that the ewe and her thickly calorific milk was around to nourish your child. Celebrations don't get any more earth-centered than that.

Even if perchance you have given birth recently, you are probably not currently rejoicing that your ewe is now lactating. We are ever so much abstracted from the original

meanings of most of our holidays. Yet it remains deeply human for us to want to party in the spring and cocoon in February. Finding protection from the weather is not sufficient; we also need to plan for spring.

Back then, you may have planned how not to get pregnant again on Beltane. This may have involved procuring some mugwort or wormwood, which can work as herbal birth control. A visit to the local herbalist might have been in order, who, when the Christians invaded, would have been hunted as a witch.

You might have spent the winter making clothing, much of which would have been green or dark brown in color, because you would have used the local plants to make cloth and dyes. Centuries later, folklore would have preserved your fashions in those elusive brownies and little people, and characters from Robin Hood to Peter Pan. These folks were considered magical and elusive, mostly in escaping the same forces that chased down the herbalists.

Whether the Ground Hog sees his shadow or not was at one time an augur of when one might give birth. Whether or not one believes now that a sunny day on February 2 means a longer winter, it is certainly a universal hope this year that our very snowy winter at least do us the courtesy of being short.

So while we continue to dig ourselves out from this season, those of us from northern European stock ought well give thanks to the ewes that nurtured our ancestors, and, like them, try to stay warm while looking forward to the revelries of spring.



FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

Feb 6 **Waking up to Shatter the Silence** **Hanan Watson**
Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute

The position an individual takes on the Palestine-Israel conflict relates less to the reality of conditions on the ground and more to one's upbringing, experience, and the media they are exposed to. Additionally, there are unverifiable mass emails, blogs, twitters, youtube videos, and more to wade through. Facts are not easy to come by.

Many UU congregations seem reluctant to speak out and act on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for many and complex reasons. The sermon outlines the reasons why we UUs have lagged behind other denominations on taking a stand. It describes the factual and emotional impediments UU congregations must deal with before we can define a unified stand consistent with our values and principles. It also addresses why this issue can no longer be avoided and urges UUs to take a position that is acceptable to all. Once a position is agreed upon, congregations can move forward with action plans to enhance the prospects of peace, security, and justice for Israelis and Palestinians, recognizing that this is critical not only to these two groups, but as General Petraeus has stated, to the US and world peace. While hopes for peace are at a low point at a governmental level, civil society in Palestine and Israel is actively taking steps that provide hope for a peaceful solution. UUs need to identify and support these hopeful trends.

Born in Jerusalem of Palestinian Christian Arab parents, Hanan Watson became one of the 750,000 refugees who suffered from the establishment of the State of Israel. She subsequently lived in Jordan and Lebanon and immigrated to the New York in 1966. She is a graduate of the American University of Beirut. Retired from the executive search business, she spends most of her time doing volunteer work, including chairing the Board of Just Vision, a nonprofit organization that emerged in response to the lack of media coverage of Palestinian and Israeli civilians working to end the conflict. Just Vision works to ensure that these Palestinian and Israeli civic leaders are not only taken seriously as partners in the quest for peace, but are also more visible, valued and influential in their efforts. Previously, she participated in the Dialogue Project, which brings together Palestinians, Israelis, Jews, Christians and Muslims to discuss and learn from one another. She also chaired the Peace Task Force of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York from 2003-2006. Currently, she serves as a Lay Pastoral Associate at All Souls.

Feb 13 **Passion is not Enough** **Rev. Darrell Berger**
Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior Usher: Anne Miller

As we approach Valentine's Day, we should all have passion for the person to whom we send out special cards and gifts. Passion is one of the most important emotions in making life meaningful. Now, however, "What is Your Passion?" has become an essential question in everything from job interviews to college applications. This sermon is about the skillful and unskillful use of passion.

Feb 20 **Restoring the Shattered City: Mighty Work for a Small Church** **Dr. Mindy Fullilove, MD**
Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior Usher: Greg Giacobe

The church that sits in a struggling city is called to be part of the healing. How is that to be done? What does our spiritual practice as UUs offer us in making our contribution?

Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, is a research psychiatrist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University. Educated at Bryn Mawr College (AB, 1971) and Columbia University (MS 1971, MD 1978), she is a board-certified psychiatrist, having received her training at New York Hospital -Westchester Division (1978-1981) and Montefiore Hospital (1981-1982). She has conducted research on AIDS and other epidemics

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES (CONT'D)

Of poor communities, with a special interest in the relationship between the collapse of communities and decline in health. From her research, she has published *Root Shock* (2004), and *The House of Joshua* (1999), and is a co-author with Rodrick Wallace on *Collective Consciousness and It's Discontents* (2008). She has published numerous articles, book chapters and monographs, and received many awards, including being listed on "Best Doctors" and receiving two honorary doctorates (Chatham College, 1999, and Bank Street College of Education, 2002). Her work in AIDS is featured in Jacob Levenson's *The Secret Epidemic: The Story of AIDS in Black America*. Her current work focuses on the connection between urban function and mental health.

Feb 27 **JAZZ SUNDAY WORSHIP!**

Rev. Darrell Berger

Musician: David Braham and friends, Senior Ushers: Ann Land and Laura Rogers

"Howard Thurman: Minister to All People"

In 1944 Rev. Howard Thurman became co-minister of the first racially integrated, culturally diverse church in the United States, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco. Though many today do not realize it, their path to spirituality and justice was blazed by Howard Thurman.

David Braham and friends will once again provide the music. Invite folks!



Social Hour and Altar Flower Volunteers Needed

Many of our church's activities are run and coordinated by volunteers—members and friends who give their time and talents to help make the church a pleasant experience. Would you like to help? We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as hosts for our Sunday Social Hours, held after services, as well as to bring flowers for our Altar Table each Sunday before service. For Social Hour, please contact the coordinator listed in this month's newsletter, or call the church office at (973) 674-0010 or at office@essexuu.org. We will contact you to confirm your date. Thank you,






Game Night
Friday, February 11th
7-10 pm in the Parish Hall



Bring a dessert to share and your favorite games to play

Save the date—March 19th is the Service Auction!

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Celebrations and Music 7:30 pm, Sonen Room	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board Meeting 7:30, Hale House	9	10	11 Game Night 7-10 pm Parish Hall	12
13 Listening Post on CSAI on immigration 12 noon, Parish Hall	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
30	31				 Coffee Hour February: Ann Lang	Coordinator for February: Ann Lang

2011 Service Auction



Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler!

*The Annual **Church Auction** is scheduled for **Saturday, March 19th**, 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—dinner (either at people's homes or at restaurants), excursions (hikes, bird walks, museum visits), use of people's vacation homes, babysitting, cleaning of various kinds, 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 a letter with notice of the Service Auction on Church letterhead if you want to have something to show them when asking for the donation.*

We will have a pot luck dinner the night of the auction, and great music, dancing and Mardi Gras festivities. Wear your purple, green and gold, your mask, or other festive and crazy costume of your choice!



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County
AUCTION 2011: SATURDAY MARCH 19th
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: _____

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: _____

PLEASE NOTE: *The Auction is conducted on the general understanding that the services will be performed within the twelve months following the Auction date.*

Please return form to Nina Barszcz by Wednesday, March 9th.

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

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