

# First Church

FIRST  
UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH  
OF ESSEX  
COUNTY

NOVEMBER  
2012



31st

BLACK MARIA

FILM + VIDEO FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

@ First UU of Essex County

8pm

FUELING THE INDEPENDENT

SPIRIT SINCE 1890

## Electoral College

### If we can vote, who will get the vote?

Although popular vote for President and Vice President of the United States is cast on Tuesday, November 6, the final vote; however, is not official until after the Certificate of Vote of each state's member of the Electoral College is cast on December 17 and read in a Joint session of Congress on January 6, 2013. Historically, the Electoral College has not broken rank; their votes have followed the popular vote. Will that be the case this election? Three Presidential debates, one Vice Presidential

BY ANGELA RANDALL-JOHNSTON

debate, and a hurricane of horrific proportions, impacting where people vote, has not made it any easier to predict the final popular vote or how the electorate will sway. Additionally, Rev. Berger (see from Darrell's desk, p. 2) reminds us that nuclear threat, race, and global warming (November 4 sermon) have received little play this election season. We thank our guest speakers (see sermon teasers: Arthur Aldrich, November 11 and Dr. Edward Frost, November 25), and Dr. Finley C. Campbell (Looking Back at the GA pg. 3) for their contributions this month.

My thoughts prayers go out to our members, friends, and family, near and far, impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Please alert the church office if you need support.

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2012

10:30 am - Join us for Sunday morning services at  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County.



## “A Little Noted Golden Anniversary”

BY DARRELL E. BERGER

On October 15, 1962, San Francisco Giants’ left-hander Billy Pierce beat the Yankees’ Whitey Ford 5-2, to send the World Series to the brink. The Series was decided the next day, by the narrowest of margins—1-0 in favor of New York—when Willie McCovey’s screaming liner was captured by the perfectly positioned second baseman, Bobby Richardson.

Since I was turning fourteen in four days, and was a staunch Yankees’ fan, this was the brink that caught my attention. Another brink was capturing the attention of Secretary of Defense, Robert MacNamara. U-2 reconnaissance flights over Cuba had photographed evidence of Soviet nuclear missile launchers being constructed.

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*“There have been some outbreaks of rationality in nuclear disarmament over the last fifty years...”*

Over the next few weeks at any moment I thought the nuclear missile I had heard so much about all my life would be heading, I surmised, not for the cornfields of rural Ohio where I lived, but for

## from Darrell’s desk

Detroit, sixty miles north. I was uncertain whether I would be able to see the mushroom cloud, and whether I, and everything I knew, would be vaporized a moment later. The alternative was slower death by radiation poisoning. My dad thought fallout shelters were the bunk.

This took the edge off the World Series celebration for me. I don’t remember my birthday, either. I do remember very specifically asking my mother, “What does this mean?” Her response, which I remember this with crystal clarity, “The next step is war.” I also remember the massive exhale of the human race when the crisis was resolved without war. There was no dancing in the streets or any kind of celebration. No one had the capacity to grasp what had narrowly been averted. We still don’t.

I thought perhaps a bit more might have been made over this landmark anniversary last month. Perhaps a bit of appreciation that, despite all the horrors of all the wars in the last half-century, by some grace of humanity or God, no nuclear devices have been used as weapons. We might also reflect that this could change at any moment.

Here fifty years later, the only mention of the nuclear threat in the presidential campaign is how and for how long Iran can be denied. This is a totally inadequate response to nuclear proliferation by both parties.

Now the World Series is played at night, the anti-climax of too many playoff games. There have been some outbreaks of rationality in nuclear disarmament over the last fifty years, but their continued presence shows that progress has

been limited. From child, to adolescent, to adult, to senior, the nuclear cloud has been ever overhead of my generation. I wonder what life would have been like without it? I wonder if any future generation ever will. ■

## SERMON TEASERS

### A glimpse of upcoming services

NOVEMBER 4 - “RACE AND GLOBAL WARMING”

“Race and Global Warming.” One the eve of the election, I thought I would raise two topics that have been conspicuous in their absence in this presidential campaign.

NOVEMBER 11 - “ALBERT SCHWEITZER, AN UNLIKELY UNITARIAN,” Arthur R. Aldrich

Albert Schweitzer, one of the 20th century’s most renowned thinker, musicologist, philosopher, medical missionary and humanist, came from a background of traditional Lutheranism, but one which also recognized the common human elements on Catholicism and other religions. He pursued both, publishing his dissertation at the Sorbonne on “The Religious Philosophy of Kant.”

This service explores the ways in which Schweitzer evolved from traditional religion into humanism, articulating ideas such as reverence for life and a nuclear disarmament that made him a major *continued on p. 5*

## November Coffee

Hour Coordinator:

Flore Dorcely

November 4

November 11

November 18

November 25

Senior Ushers

Paul Axel-Lute

Anne Lang

Anne Miller

Greg Giacobe

Musicians

Dave Braham

Bill Stafford

Dave Braham

Bill Stafford

## Looking back: The “Three General Assemblies” in Phoenix Arizona 2012

By Rev. Finley C. Campbell

A descriptive analysis of perceptions of this historic assembly held in Phoenix, Arizona. The assembly consisted of three General Assemblies (ideologically speaking).

### “Traditional” General Assembly

This, the first GA, began on Wednesday with the always-inspiring parade of the banners, actually works of art. The banners were identifiers of the varied UU congregations and fellowships that form our denominations from Maine in the Northeast to California in the Southwest. They paraded along with the music, both of choir and gathered throng, both from soloists and instruments. There were also the informal and formal workshops which were designed to enrich our understanding of our work as UU’s and of course the democratic activity of trying to develop a statement of conscience. Around this process, two events stand out: A group called the UU Abolitionists,

centered in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County, led this charge to make the struggle against modern slavery the key issue for our Statement of Conscience.

Two supporting groups stand out:

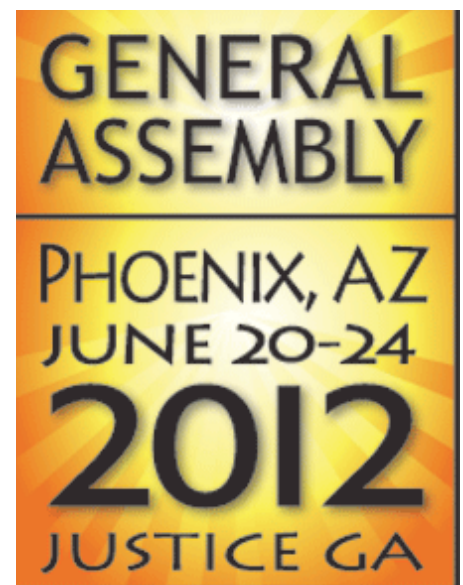
- members of the predominantly white youth caucus who spoke emotionally about having their eyes open to the number of children and youth who are modern day slave-laborers, touched my heart.
- the testimony of two white sisters who had been sex slaves in their youth.

For me, these were very moving moments, along with the evening of the *Living Traditions*, which brought tears to my eyes. For me, these were very moving moments, along with the evening of the *Living Traditions*, which brought tears to my eyes.

### Second General Assembly

How sad. There was the constant emphasis on anti-white and anti-people of color racism

*continued on pg. 4*



# november 2012 at a glance

Sunday services  
begin at 10:30 am

**3** Black Maria Film  
+Video Festival @  
8PM

**4** Sermon: "Race &  
Global Warming," Rev.  
Berger

**7** Celebrations &  
Music, @ 7:30 PM,  
Sonen Room

**8** Special Meeting  
with Dr. Charlie Ortman  
& Montclair UUs  
@7:30pm, Parish Hall

**11** Sermon: "Albert  
Schweitzer, An Unlikely  
Unitarian," Arthur R.  
Aldrich

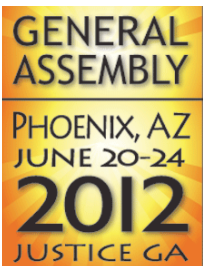
**18** Homecoming  
@ First UU of Essex  
County

**21** Board of Trustees  
Meeting @ 7:30pm,  
Sonen Room

**25** Sermon:  
"Confessions of a  
Morthanist," Dr. Edward  
Frost

*The 3 GAs continued from p. 3...*

masquerading as anti-racism. Whites were depicted as conscious or unconscious beneficiaries of white privileges based on the domination of people of color; people of color were presented as being victims



of internalized racism which filled them with helpless rage or deep-seated feelings of inferiority, with Native Americans being presented as the most degraded and self-destructive people as a result of some Doctrine of Discovery. I walked out on the speech by Steve Newcomb, the leader of the Doctrine of Discovery Project, having read his neo-racist description of Native Americans on his website. Later, I received documentation that he was in fact a representative of a group of

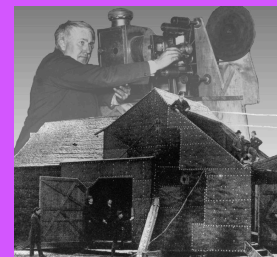
Native American capitalists who seem to need the support of white religious organizations as a cover for their economic interests. This was the tragic result of the type of multiculturalism, based on racial separation, which is now the dogma of our UUA leadership. As a result, the Doctrine of Discovery resolution was passed by an overwhelming vote, even though only one-eighth of the thousand at the plenary had read it, based unhappily on the systematic use of white guilt used by the proponents of the resolution.

### *The Last General Assembly*

This, the third GA, in my opinion, was the best. It helped to negate the second while forming a synergy with the first. Though denied permission by the UUAGA Programming Committee to be listed as a part of the General Assembly, there was this wonderful movie called *The Ministers Wars*, dealing with the role which the American Unitarian Service Committee played in the Popular Front *continued on pg. 5...*

*You need a break from  
The Weather Channel...*

*Come out to the  
Festival!*



**Films of the 31<sup>st</sup>  
Annual Black Maria  
Film Festival  
Season Finale**

**Saturday,  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
@ 8 pm, First UU  
of Essex County  
35 Cleveland St.,**

## Sermon Teasers continued...

philosopher of the twentieth century with global influence. Because of these ideas, Schweitzer was offered and accepted membership into the Unitarian Church of the Larger Fellowship.

In an age of increasing sectarian conflict, Schweitzer's elemental humanism offers a lesson for today as valuable as it was in the last century.

*Arthur R. Aldrich completed undergraduate studies at New York University, the New School for Social Research and Empire State College of the SUNY system. He holds an M.A. degree in Culture and Policy Studies from Empire State. Aldrich taught at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY, as an adjunct professor for 20 years, while publishing a weekly newspaper, which he founded in 1973. He broadcasts a local news commentary every Wednesday on WRCR radio and has produced programs for his congregation for broadcast on public access television.*

*In addition, Aldrich has presented more than 60 adult education and professional development courses over the past six years.*

*A member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland County since 1968, serving as president of the Board of Trustees for two*  
**continued on pg. 6**

*The 3 GAs continued from p. 4*

against Fascism Movements of the 30's and 40's, a history which has been sadly suppressed because of anti-communism. (And it ironic juxtaposition, I ran into some young communists from the Progressive Labor Party who proudly informed me that they had distributed for donations some 600 of their newspapers to friendly delegates).

The high point of my participation was the Worship and Witness with the partners on Saturday evening of June 23, especially those from the National Day Laborer Organizing Network. This is when at least 2000 of the almost 4000 delegates who attended the Assembly took buses to what was called Tent City or what I could call a concentration camp, housing hundreds of men and women whose only crime was needing to cross a border to find work.

There, our delegates, led by Rev. Morales, demonstrated the General Assembly's opposition to this gross mistreatment of immigrant workers, most of whom were Latinos. There were so many of us attendees wanting to go to this demonstration that there were too few buses to hold us all.

So, I took the initiative to lead a mini-rally out in front of the Convention Center where we were stranded. We sang We Shall Overcome, that great hymn to the multiracial unity that smashed the old racism. We chanted, "Asian, Latin, Black, Red, White; against Tent City we must unite." And I preached a  
**continued on p. 6**

For more information on Black Maria or this showing, contact Frank Barszcz at 973-324-9351 or John Columbus at 201-200-2043.

**Refreshments are included in the admission.**

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex is a life-affirming liberal religious community that keeps an open mind to the religious questions people have struggled with at various times and places. It values personal experience, conscience and reason as the final authorities in religion; that the end religious authority lies not in a book or person or institution, but in ourselves. Sunday worship begins at 10:30 AM with liturgy, fellowship, music, and conversation.

For more information, please visit <http://essexuu.org/>, email [info@essexuu.org](mailto:info@essexuu.org), or phone 973-674-0010.

**"Moving on...Lessons from the Road"** by author and UU minister, Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman (Charles B Ortman Publishing), is now available in electronic reader and in paperback from Amazon.com

## MEETING WITH MONTCLAIR UUs...MARK THE DATE

On Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 PM in our Parish Hall, Rev. Darrell Berger and Rev. Charles Ortman, senior minister at the Montclair UU, invites all our members to attend a special meeting with some members of the UU congregation in Montclair to discuss the possibilities of our developing a collaborative partnership to strengthen and enhance the Unitarian Universalist ministry and presence in our community.

The discussion, wherever it leads, is intended to be a creative and open conversation. No institutional decisions or commitments will be made at this meeting. Please set aside this date and join us in this important investment in our future. Light refreshments will be served.

### Sermon Teasers continued from p. 5

*terms (six years) and chair of the Board of Worship for two terms (also six years). He currently is a member of the Board of Trustees.*

NOVEMBER 18 -  
HOMECOMING: "YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN, BUT NOT FOREVER," Rev. Darrell Berger

Whether we are relating to "home" as being our family of origin or our state or nation, our home changes. Sometimes it changes very slowly, sometimes with disorienting speed.

NOVEMBER 25 - "CONFESSIONS OF A MORTHANIST," Dr. Edward Frost

Mary Oliver writes: "I don't believe only to the edge of what my eyes actually see." and then she asks, "Do you?" wanting your answer "of course." The negative in the statement followed by the positive question is confusing-deliberately so, I think. It takes a moment to understand that she is asking if you, like she, believe there is more than what you see. She wants you to say, expects you to say, "Well of course, of course I believe that there is more beyond the edge of what I can see." Can you, would you, say that?

*Dr. Edward Frost is the Senior Minister Emeritus of The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, where he served from 1989 to his retirement in 2005. Following graduation from seminary, Dr. Frost earned degrees from Boston University and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Meadville/Lombard at the University of Chicago. He is the author of "With Purpose and Principle," a history of the development of the Principles and Purposes and "Coming Alive," a book of sermons and short writings. He is the father of three adult children, and has three grandsons (and another on the way) .*

### The 3 GAs continued from p. 5

sermonette on the fact that though we were not at the main demonstration; we were at least bearing spiritual witness to our opposition against anti-immigrant racism, ending with the enigmatic statement: "Just cause we white, don't mean that we can't do right." In conclusion, to me, this Tent City Demonstration was the climax of the third General Assembly. It was the one I had come out in the 99-degree heat of Phoenix, Arizona to take part in, the one for which I fought alongside others to break the boycott against Arizona in order to show solidarity with our brother and sister UU's in multiracial unity.

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*Rev. Finley C. Campbell, a guest writer in this month's newsletter, is a member of the Executive Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus, and chair of the Radical Justice Task Force of the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago.*

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

**MAKING THE  
CONNECTIONS**

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF ESSEX COUNTY**

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**Meeting Address: 35 Cleveland St.  
Orange, NJ 07050**

**Church Phone: (973) 674-0010  
Minister's Email: minister@essexuu.org**

**Office Email: office@essexuu.org**

**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 1892-93. 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.

**Darrell E. Berger, Minister**  
**Flore Dorcely, President**  
**Greg Giacobe, Church Administrator**  
**Angela Randall-Johnston, Newsletter Editor**

*We are on the web!*  
**www.essexuu.org**

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SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:30 AM

