



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

May 2014

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: *Free Your Mind...* By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Do you remember that song from the 1970s classic movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate factory? It's funny to remember a movie or book from your childhood that touched your heart. I have been spending a good deal of time thinking about my childhood lately. It's a kind of search and discovery time that I've been allowing myself. I am always someone that lives both in the past and present with a future orientation. But with my present condition and my new found realization of the sheer joy of living I've found myself looking back as a way to inform the present in a way that calls my attention to being free.

I guess freedom is really what I have been after for the past 50 or so years. First it was the freedom from my parent's domination. Then it was the realization that I was under the controls and codes of conduct associated with the laws of the land. Lastly, it became clear to me that the freedom that I ultimately was seeking was about the internal constraints that I had placed upon myself.

So, I'm making a new commitment to myself and all of you. I am going back to a time when I really believed that it was possible to change the world and that change needs to begin with me. In this view I am taking baby steps this month and I will try to share with you all how I'm doing. The first step I'm going to take is a return to spiritual

practice. This will allow me to ground myself in what I say I believe. To live it out and not give lip service to it. Secondly, I want to encourage each of you to search out your hearts and find if your words and deeds are matching up? If I'm a UU then am I living out my principles and purposes on a daily basis?

*Come with me and
you'll see a world of
pure imagination
living there you'll
be free if you truly
want to be...*

—Willy Wonka

Lastly, as I move towards recovery of my body, mind and spirit I want to seek that freedom once again. Almost child like in that I don't want to be afraid to say and do things for fear of mistakes. So I am recommitting myself to being an anti oppressive force in this world. What does that mean? Well first and foremost for me I want to look closely at how I participate in oppression of women. I need to find out if I'm half the man I have told myself I am. Its time, for I

heard the words of former President Jimmy Carter loud and clear. If I am to live free then I want my sisters, to be free to. That means dismantling the patriarchy inherent in my attitudes, behaviors and actions. I think a great man once said Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere (Martin Luther King, Jr.) If I am committed to freedom then starting with half of the worlds population is a great place to start.

In faith, hope and love,

— Gordon

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MARK IT DOWN

- ♦ Sunday, 4 May, Social Action Meeting, 12:30 PM, Parish Hall
- ♦ Sunday, 11 May, Canvass ends
- ♦ Wednesday, 21 May, Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room



May Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

04 May **Beloved Community Sunday** Discussion Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove Social Hour Host - Georgiana Hart

Beloved Community Sunday is a time when people of all backgrounds who are interested in the future of the City of Orange, NJ can gather to get to know each other, and work together. This Sunday, we will talk about the Heart of Orange, and the upcoming University of Orange Place-making which will take place on 31 May at Oakwood Avenue School, a day to get to know this historic community.

11 May **Mother's Day** Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Cindy Long, Social Hour Host - Gregory Giacobe

Join us for a warm and enlightening Mother's Day celebration. This is our day to honor mothers, motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothering in society. We will explore the past and look at society today as we give love, thanks and acknowledgement of the gifts mothers bring to us all.

18 May 11:15 AM **East-West Sunday: Sikhism** Discussion Leader - Wayne Eastman, Social Hour Host: Darcy Hall

The final East-West session of the church year will be devoted to the founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak. Darcy will lead us in a craft project for all ages, and the Orange Wanderer, AKA Wayne, will walk to the church from the train station and introduce a short film.

25 May **Time to Change** Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Georgiana Hart, Social Hour Host - TBA

It is a crisis that manifests itself across the world in the form of child marriage, unequal pay, female genital mutilation, human trafficking, and more. It is the most serious challenge facing our world today: the subjugation and abuse of women and girls. These words of our 39th President along with what I've learned about the practices of some African Traditional treatment of widows has touched my heart and I now know that I must change. Join us for an engaging and serious look into the practices of a male dominated world and the possibilities that we can do something very different starting today.



May 2014 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

- 1 National Day of Prayer (Interfaith, USA)
Beltane [Northern hemisphere] / Samhain [Southern hemisphere]
(Wicca/Pagan)
- 2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
- 5 Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Jewish)
- 14 Visakha Puja [Buddha Day] (Buddhist)
- 15-18 New Year's Day (Theravada Buddhist)
- 18 Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
- 23 Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
- 27 Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
- 29 Ascension of Jesus (Christian)
Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

Happenings @ Montclair

New UU Class begins soon @ UUCM

New to our church and faith tradition? Want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and its history in Essex County? Join us over four consecutive Wednesday evenings – 14, 21 & 28 May and 4 June from 7:30 to 9:30 PM – to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. To sign up, contact Judith Stein-Farrall at uumontclair@verizon.net or 973-744-6276 x 23. **UU Congregation at Montclair is located at 67 Church Street, Montclair NJ 07042.**

Adult RE Classes and Groups are Continuing!

Upcoming sessions include:

- Dance of Universal Peace – Friday, 9 May, 7:30 PM (Rotunda)
- The Oneness Blessing (Leader: Bradley Grove Hyson) - Tuesday, 13 May, 7:00 to 9:00 PM (Rotunda)
- Senior Lunch Bunch - Wednesday, 14 May, 12 Noon (Peierls Room)
- Men's Group – Saturday, 14 June, 8:30 AM (Peierls Room)

For more information and to register, contact Judith Stein-Farrall at uumontclair@verizon.net or 973-744-6276 x 23.

UU MESH Cafe

On the second Sunday of each month, we have a collection for the UU MESH Cafe (MESH is Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless). Volunteers cook for and serve 45-60 hungry and homeless guests a hearty dinner each Wednesday night in Fletcher Hall. Your financial or scrip contribution will be used to support this vital congregational community ministry. We can also accept contributions of juice (apple and/or cranberry preferred). If you would like to write a check, please make it out to UUCM, with MESH written in the memo line. For more information, contact Peter Arian (peter@analyticrecruiting.com), Joel Naftelberg (joelnaft@gmail.com) and Randi Hawkins (ranhawkins@aol.com).

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 BELOVED COMMUNITY 11 AM Social Action 12:30 PM	5	6	7	8	9	10 Canvass Kick-off 6 PM
11 SERMON: Mother's Day 11 AM Canvass Ends	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 SERMON: EAST-WAET: Sikhism 11:15 AM	19	20	21 Board of Trustees Sonnen Room 7:30 PM	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24
25 SERMON: Time to Change 11 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey

presents the

Get Yourself Tested Walk-a-Thon

Saturday, May 17, 2014

10:00 am

Brookdale Park
Watchung Ave, Bloomfield
9:00 am Registration and Check-In

Every year in the U.S. there are more than **19 million new cases** of STDs. By age 25, an estimated **1 in 2** sexually active young people will get one.

Do you want to help?

Raise Money

Ask for donations from your friends and family and help us expand our testing and education services.

Raise \$50 you get a free GYT Walk-a-Thon T-Shirt!

Raise Awareness

Share information about our Walk-a-Thon with your friends and family!



Not able to attend our GYT Walkathon?

You can support our campaign and make a gift!

Visit www.plannedparenthoodmetronj.eventbrite.com to register or make a donation or send checks to

PPMNJ

151 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Questions?

Lina Bonova
Director of Development
(973) 622-6900 ext. 1232
lina.bonova@ppmnj.org



Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey

Thank you to our Sponsors*



*As of March 7, 2014

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
PO Box 998.
Orange NJ 07051-0998

Meeting Address:
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Orange NJ 07050-2907

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

Office Email: office@essexuu.org

Minister's Email: minister@essexuu.org

Web: essexuu.org

Minister: Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

President: Darcy Hall

**Vice President: Mindy Thompson
Fullilove**

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

Custodian: Anisha Sanders

Administrator: Greg Giacobe

WE VALUE: Community... Exploration... Fellowship... Spirituality... Liberal Religious Education... Diversity... Freedom... and Action.

OUR VISION: To be a life-affirming liberal religious community where people of diverse beliefs, ideas and background 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.

OUR MISSION: To study and practice religion in freedom and fellowship. To provide support and care for our community and the community at large.

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.



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.

Orange NJ 07051-0998

Making the connections

