



MAKING THE  
CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

June/Summer 2014

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

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## MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Sunday, 8 June, Annual Meeting, 12:15 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Wednesday, 18 June, Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ Celebrations & Music, 6 August, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ Board Retreat, TBD (mid-August?)

## Spiritually Speaking: *The Person In The Mirror* By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Ahh! Sweet June and the weather is nice. Children are playing. Grass is growing. And the pace of life takes on a decidedly summer time attitude. As I've grown older, I am filled, not with the expectations of the beach season or fun parks, but of lazy days, blue skies and long walks with my loves, my community and myself (time for internal discourse).

These are the days I've longed for since last year (same season). Short pants, tee shirts, sun tea, cook outs, beautiful bodies and older ones sitting on a porch. All of this allows me to see, and be seen, in a different light. I'm happier now and more open to the world around me. I must admit I'm a guy whose disposition is totally improved by the warm weather and sunny days.

So what happens if this isn't your season? Where do you turn if this time of year turns you off? How do you survive the long season of the sun? I guess it is much like those of us that tolerate winter. I imagine you find an air-conditioned space, draw the blinds, pull the curtains and delve into movies, novels and quite time in the house. Wow, that doesn't sound so bad after all. The kids are outside! People are off to the beach, mountains or visiting their loved ones. Do the malls, stores and other places you might visit seem emptier? Where am I going with this? It is the fact that no matter the season, no matter your age, no matter your health condition, you've still got yourself! You still have the situation that you've been a part of all along, or even created. You still have the person in the mirror. Michael Jackson was a lot of things, the "King of pop", a childhood star, an innovator of sight, sound and effect. Yet, for me, as a

man that shares the same skin illness (vitiligo), same era (late baby boomer) and same ethno-cultural group (African American), I am most appreciative of a song that he sang (Man In The Mirror) that captures so much of my mind when it comes to life for me at this point and time.

I've been a crusader of sorts, seeking to dismantle the "isms" that affect me and the world around me in negative ways. I'm a do-gooder to a point and have stuck my nose in other peoples' business too many times to remember. But the issue of anti-oppression, concern for the environment and my deepest hope for the world that we live in to become the paradise (Beloved Community) I think it was meant to be consumes me.



I dream of blue skies but not just blue, clean fresh, exhilarating air that invigorates. I fantasize about a world where racism and ethnic division no longer exist and people of the planet much like the wild flowers of a meadow live side by side in each others' company. All the more beautiful and possibly

fragrant! I am seeking a world free from the homophobia that strikes and dismantles families, churches, proms and legal affairs, and to promote, if not love, then certainly acceptance of the diversity of the human family.

I'm no longer a healthy man; I am going through my "Job" season, as my sister told me. Not that I was ever the Creator's most perfect human. Oh, far from it! Nevertheless, this is my season of health woes and other issues that come up with parenting, life circumstances and my own internal idiosyncratic ways dealing with life.

I'm saying to you all that if we look in the mir-

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June Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

01 Jun Beloved Community Sunday: Aid in Dying Presenter - Ethan Andersen 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 Death with Dignity Act, which is currently moving through the New Jersey Legislature. This informational presentation, along with a clip from the documentary "How to Die in Oregon" will be followed by a Q&A for the interest and education for members & friends.

Ethan Andersen is a field organizer for Compassion & Choices, a national organization promoting end-of-life choices for the terminally ill. Majoring in Finance at Rutgers University. he spent a year volunteering at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, which brought him into contact with terminally ill adults, and their struggle with end of life issues. After working on a political campaign, Ethan started volunteering with Compassion & Choices and became very involved in the process for passing the Death with Dignity Act in New Jersey. Now a Field Organizer, his my goal to educate and inform the public of this legislation, which he believes would provide terminally ill adults with the choice they deserve.

08 Jun [Flower Communion] Resilience: Getting Through Life's Challenges Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson Musician - Dave Braham, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - TBA

Resilience describes our ability to respond to and recover from difficulties or life's unexpected circumstances. From large scale tragedy and trauma to personal setbacks, we all face obstacles or reversals which knock us off balance and threaten our sense of stability. How can we, as individuals and as a community, recognize and cultivate resilience?

Kimberly Quinn Johnson is a seminary student at Meadville Lombard Theological School, and a candidate for UU ministry. She is serving as an intern Minister at the 4th Universalist Society of Manhattan. As a member of the UU Congregation at Montclair, she was active as a youth advisor and chair of the Undoing Racism Committee. Kimberly is a program leader with the UU College of Social Justice, which offers experiential learning journeys and social justice training designed to help Unitarian Universalists deepen and sustain the work of justice in their congregations and communities. She also currently teaches Women's and Gender Studies at New Jersey City University. Before ministry, Kimberly worked as a union organizer with the United Auto Workers.

\*\*\*\*\*
\* Created by our former member, Rev. Norbert Capek, the 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. \*
\*\*\*\*\*

**Spiritually Speaking: *The Person In The Mirror* (cont.)**

ror and are 100% honest and fair, what ways might we change? How might we grow our souls, bodies and minds in new and more productive ways? How can we use this season for the good of all? I will be recuperating and pontificating a good deal over the next four to six weeks. Look at Facebook ([www.facebook.com/gordonclaybailey](http://www.facebook.com/gordonclaybailey)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/revqcbailey>) for my postings. Engage with me in dialog over the electronic mediums and even send me a snail mail if you still use the tried and true form of correspondence.

I'm looking to change the tenor of my ministry and even myself. I feel a new manifestation is at hand and I'm in the early stage of a great beginning. I am planning a plethora of things for the next congregational year. An alternative worship each month, a year of adult RE that expands our understandings, more en-

gagement with our youth, connections with our local community that brings us into a closer engagement, and more. In the final analysis, what is our time together about if transformations of mind, body and spirit aren't possible? I'm ready. Are you?

I hope this summer will be a wonderful one for you all! I trust you will be as safe as possible, use your sunscreen, hats, fans or AC as needed. Drink lots of water! Be kind to yourselves and to the world around us. And know that I love you and have had an awesome season with you all!

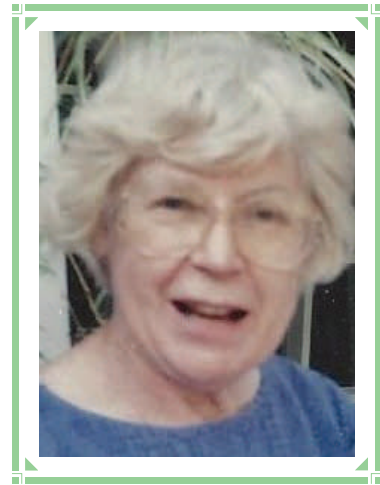
In faith,  
—Gordon

*If I am Latino (Asian, African, Amer-Indian) and you are European, it should not matter!*  
*If I am gay (GLBT) and you are straight, it should not matter!*  
*If I am old and you are young, it should not matter!*  
*If I am not able bodied and you are able bodied, it should not matter!*  
*If you are well educated and I am not, it should not matter!*  
*If you are economically well off and I am poor or marginally getting by, it should not matter!*  
*If you are an activist I am only able to manage my own affairs, it should not matter!*

**In Memoriam: Lorraine Mills**

Long-time church member Lorraine Greene Mills of Maplewood, N.J., passed away on Saturday, 12 April 2014 at the age of 91. She and her husband, Harold Mills joined the church on 20 January 1964. They had recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Born in East Orange, NJ, Lorraine lived in Maplewood for the past 56 years, and graduated of Kean College before working as a social worker for the Visiting Homemakers in Westfield, NJ,. She is survived by Harold, sons Edmund, Keith & his wife, Bruce, Richard; daughters Joanne, Laurie DeSpirito & her husband, and Patricia Mills; sister Charlotte Harpell, and grandchild Alexis. A memorial service was held at First UU of Essex on 29 April 2014.



*June 2014 INTERFAITH CALENDAR*

- 5 Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
- 7 Sacred Heart of Jesus (Roman Catholic)
- 13 Ascension of Jesus (Orthodox Christian)
- 16 Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh)
- 19 New Church Day (Swedenborgian Christian)
- 21 Summer Solstice/Litha [northern hemisphere]/Winter Solstice/Yule [southern hemisphere] (Wicca/Pagan)
- 23 Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)  
Pentecost (Orthodox Christian)
- 24 Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)
- 29 Saints Peter & Paul Feast Day (Christian)
- 30 All Saints Day (Orthodox Christian)

*Happenings @ Montclair*

**UN's Commission on the Status of Women**

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women this past March had the presence of 2 UUCM members, Lauretta Freeman and Jill Wodnick. Come hear about how the UN's Commission on the Status of Women impacts the millennium development goals plus national and local issues of relevance. Please join Lauretta and Jill on Sunday, 1 June from 12:15 to 2:00 PM in Peierls Room. For this interesting conversation that blends interpersonal neurobiology, peace, policy and public health. For information, contact Jill Wodnick at [jillwodnick@gmail.com](mailto:jillwodnick@gmail.com).

**Adult RE Classes and Groups are Continuing!**

Upcoming sessions include:

- Etude Club - first Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 PM (Rotunda). Next meetings are on 3 June & 1 July. We invite aspiring singers and instrumentalists of all ages and skill to present a brief selection in a safe environment. All music levels, styles and instruments are welcome; each performer chooses their own repertoire. If you would like to perform, contact Markus Hauck at [musicdir@uumontclair.org](mailto:musicdir@uumontclair.org). The second hour of the meeting is dedicated to discussions/instruction about music theory, composition styles and music appreciation. For info, contact Amy Crafton at [amy@craftone.com](mailto:amy@craftone.com), or Judie Rinearson at [judith.rinearson@bryancave.com](mailto:judith.rinearson@bryancave.com) or 973-509-8902.
- Men's Group - Saturday, 14 June & 12 July, 8:30 AM (Peierls Room)

For more information and to register, contact Judith Stein-Farrall at [uumontclair@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:peter@analyticrecruiting.com)), Joel Naftelberg ([joelnaft@gmail.com](mailto:joelnaft@gmail.com)) and Randi Hawkins ([ranhawkins@aol.com](mailto:ranhawkins@aol.com)).

# June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> BELOVED COMMUNITY: Aid In Dying 11 AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> FLOWER COMMUNION 11 AM ANNUAL MEETING 12:15 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Board of Trustees Sonnen Room 7:30 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> General Assembly Providence, RI	<b>26</b> General Assembly Providence, RI	<b>27</b> General Assembly Providence, RI	<b>28</b> General Assembly Providence, RI
<b>29</b> General Assembly Providence, RI	<b>30</b>	Celebrations & Music, Wednesday, 6 August, 7:30 PM	Board Retreat, TBD (mid-August)	Newsletter Deadline, Tuesday, 2 September	Ingathering, Sunday, 14 September, 11AM	

**We are on the web: [essexuu.org](http://essexuu.org)**

## MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

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

Meeting Address:  
35 & 47 Cleveland St  
Orange NJ 07050-2907

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

Office Email: [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org)

Minister's Email: [minister@essexuu.org](mailto:minister@essexuu.org)

Web: [essexuu.org](http://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



**PLEASE JOIN US – PLEASE CIRCULATE – ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

# **Views of a Cynical Optimist: One Transgender Woman's Evolving Views on Activism and Advocacy**

**Sunday, June 22, 2014**

**10:00 – 11:00** lay-led service with guest speaker **Mari Rosenberger**

**11:30** continuing the conversation – light lunch with the speaker

**First Unitarian Society of Plainfield (FUSP)**

**724 Park Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey, [www.fusp.org](http://www.fusp.org)**



## **Mari Rosenberger**

**former U.S. Air Force flyer, staff officer,  
and instructor, who transitioned after  
retiring from the military**

Mari was active in grassroots efforts to add gender identity and expression to Nevada's employee non-discrimination policy. She has spoken at Sylvia's Place in NYC, as well as to college students at various universities. In 2011, when Chaz Bono was on "Dancing with the Stars," Mari was among a group of transgender activists who appeared in "The Insiders" segment rooting for Chaz. Mari and her partner Stephanie Battaglino were also featured in a GLADD piece on "Workplace Transition and Finding Love."

### **FUSP's mission**

*A welcoming, inclusive community to feed the human spirit,  
to inspire compassionate action,  
and to serve as a beacon for justice and love.*

### **Celebrating 125 years in Plainfield**

Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote 7 principles; the first is  
"the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

**For more info, email us at [welcomingcongregation@fusp.org](mailto:welcomingcongregation@fusp.org)  
or call FUSP at 908-756-0750.**

