



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

April 2015

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MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Board of Trustees, Wednesday, 15 April, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: To Save FUUCE, To Save the Earth, To Save Ourselves By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

What can you do to help save FUUCE? What can you do to save the Earth or make it a better place to live?

So let's begin with the beginning. I was invited into a conversation about merging congregations, partnership, redemptive and socially relevant work. And what has ensued?

We've talked a lot! We have sought outside help, and talked some more, and guess what? Now, it's time to act. Now is the time to figure out deep within your hearts and minds whether you have what it takes to pull the plug on this historic congregation or whether you have what it takes to be part of a new creation. I have lots of thoughts but – ultimately - this is about the members that still care to act, show up for the upcoming congregational vote, and voice their opinions for the future of this spiritual home. Earth Day is almost here, Spring is purportedly here. Easter and all of its connotations is here. Let's look outside for a minute and consider these thoughts:

In commentary published some time ago in Seedmagazine.com, co-editor Lee Billings suggested that Earth Day might be more effective if stripped of its

"save the planet" sensibilities. He offered that a better message would be "save the humans."

This concept made me think, "Now maybe here is a way to finally get things done." But upon further reflection, I realized this more anthropocentric view is also the problem that set the whole abuse of the earth and ultimately ourselves in motion.

I get that we humans far too often can't possibly get involved in the issues of the day unless it affects us personally. For example, my friend's daughter is marrying a non-white female and all of a sudden Black Lives Matter and GLBT issues are on his mind, dialog, and agenda. Or another associate of mine is now all abuzz with housing

for the low income people that are being forced out of building and neighborhoods. By the way his building is going coop and he doesn't want to pay the price they are asking.

Let me get back to my point. We human beings very often can't see the forest for the trees! This is widely known. But what I'm suggesting today is that it actually takes for most people a real sense that the cause they are getting involved in is their cause, too. The appeal to our species' self-preserving, even self-serving, instincts has arguably gotten



April Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

05 Apr EASTER/EQUINOX GATHERING Leader: Mindy Thompson Fullilove

Easter Sunday is one of the holiest days in the Christian calendar, and coincides with the rites and celebrates of the spring equinox. In Japan this is organized around Cherry Blossom time, which has just started in Tokyo! Please come observe Easter and Equinox with us!

12 Apr *Should Unitarian Universalists Pray?* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Cindy Long, Social Hour Host - Gregory Giacobe

Unitarian Universalist run the gamut from the most vocal atheist to the ardent theist with people all along the spectrum of belief. This sermon will explore the age old practice of prayer and explore if it is a good idea for UU's to take up the practice of prayer.

19 Apr [NO SERVICE] You are invited to attend the service at the UU Congregation at Montclair, 67 Church St, Montclair, NJ.

26 Apr BELOVED COMMUNITY SUNDAY Discussion Leader: Mindy Thompson Fullilove Social Hour Host: Georgiana Hart

Spiritually Speaking: To Save Ourselves, con't

even stronger over the years, as behavioral psychologists and behavioral economists have put forth their insights to help make greener choices more appealing to our status-seeking, myopic brains.

In *Heal the Earth, Heal the Soul: A Time For Change*, John and Mark Sandford introduce ancient Biblical perspectives for properly relating to nature. The land itself is injured when we sin, and is healed along with mankind when we turn from our wicked ways. The authors dismantle the corporate mental strongholds of Aristotelianism and Docetism which have facilitated the injury of our planet and the destruction of local ecosystems. Surpassing the humanistic "green" perspective, we learn that mankind's repentance, in proper relationship with plants and animals, can indeed lead to healing the earth.

Or in another text I read recently, Senator Gaylord Nelson, father of Earth Day, said, "No writer has more persistently argued for the need of a national ethic of environmental stewardship than Michael Frome." That was forty years ago. In this collection, Frome reviews his own work, merging preservation of the wilderness with social justice, human dignity and the American spirit. Above all, he renews his faith and hope, and spreads the message like a gospel.

So, my friends, as Earth Day approaches us yet again, and the spring and summer are almost upon us, I'm calling on our community of caring, involved activist UU's and friends to do more than you have ever done before.

The time is now. Your physical health, mental health and spiritual health may well depend upon your getting involved.

We weathered the storm of "fracking" in New York State, and this is relevant because the Delaware River and other water sources that come into NJ come from New York, at least for the time being, but forces are moving and conspiring against the people. States around us are trying desperately to encourage industry to move in, create

"The environment is burning in a hundred, in a thousand places worldwide. But there is no fire escape here, no out, no other solution than a shift in knowing who we are."
— Jim Nollman, *Spiritual Ecology*

THE CELEBRATION SPACE

This has been a year of change and challenges as we transform ourselves and look for a new direction for our small, but active and committed, liberal religious community here in Orange. Last year, in the wake of talks of merger with our faith neighbors, the UU Congregation at Montclair, the church brought on Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey to guide us into our next phase. However, when the nature of that relationship changed to "partnership – two churches, one community", the Board of Trustees committed itself to move forward toward an urban ministry that would be a show piece for UUs in New Jersey, and the Metro New York district. We have undergone several workshops and visioning sessions, among ourselves, with our partners in Montclair, and increasingly with groups in our community, to help us better plan and successfully launch an urban ministry in Essex County.

But the process is far from over. Whether we move forward depends on what YOU, the members of the First UU Church of Essex County, decide is our collective future, and what form it will take. Will it be an independent urban ministry non-profit organization housed within our walls and using our space to further its goals based on UU principles? Will the church continue at a much reduced level of activity, being more of a motivating agent for the urban ministry? Will the church continue at all, with its proceeds being handed over to a new non-profit, or to a special fund for scholarships, or to the UUA with the stipulation of establishing a new congregation in a promising area nearby? These are basically the options available to us at the moment, and whether there will be a worship program at the church next year and in years to come.

However, we on Celebrations have made plans for as

far as we can see. At the Board's direction, Gordon's time allotment has been changed so he can focus more of his time on developing the urban ministry. This necessitated that his time in the pulpit be reduced from twice a month to once a month effective immediately. His future dates for the rest of this year are: 12 April, 10 May and 7 June, the last being our annual Flower Communion. We have held our last Sunday of this year (14 June) in reserve for our Annual Meeting. (Please mark it down.) Beloved Community Sundays will continue at a roughly monthly schedule, but there will be only one more East-West Sunday, on 3 May, after which it will cease.

Looking ahead - and if the church continues for another program year - we will reduce worship to 10 services in total - roughly one per month. The time of services will change from 11 AM to either the late afternoon or early evening on Sundays under a format we have labeled "Soulful Sundays", based on "Soulful Sundown" that have been tried at other UU churches. Services will be followed by a communal dinner. Beloved Community may continue, but not likely on Sunday mornings. Other such programs, such as Adult RE and/or a book club may augment activities at the church, depending on interest. (INTERESTED? LET US KNOW! Contact the church at office@essexuu.org.)

As things progress, we will keep you updated on the worship calendar for the rest of the coming year and what's ahead.

Thank you all. See you at church.

--Gregory Giacobe, Chair, Celebrations & Music
ggiacobe@optonline.net



Spiritually Speaking: To Save Ourselves, con't

jobs, and build more wealth. Yet, I wonder deeply about the cost we will incur for the choices we make today.

I met an Onondaga Chief many years ago at GA (General Assembly) in Quebec or maybe Nashville. We spoke about many things and I have carried his message in my heart all of these years. Our Mother is calling us into right relationship with her. She needs her children to do the right things. It's a matter of life and death!

Oh yeah, about our congregation, she may be gasping but she's not dead. Come out people, come back and participate. FUUCE needs you!

May this Spring bring you joy, may this season of longer daylight hours provide you time to enjoy the beauty all around us, may your hearts make decisions based on the seven generations ahead, so all may live life abundantly on our blue green and Orange UU home.

In faith,

--Gordon

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Easter/Equinox Gathering 11 AM	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 SERVICE: <i>Should UU's Pray?</i> 11AM	13	14	15 Board of Trustees Sonen Room 7:30 PM	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 BELOVED COMMUNITY 11 AM	27	28	29	30		

Nominations of Church Officers & Trustees for 2015/16

On 29 March, the Nominating Committee presented the nominations for the Officers and Trustees to the First UU Church of Essex County Board of Trustees for the 2015/16 Church year in accordance to the Bylaws of the Church (Art. V, Sec. 4). Joining continuing Trustees Cindy Long and Frank Barszcz whose terms run through June 2016 and June 2017 respectively. As of 1 April 2015, the candidates are:

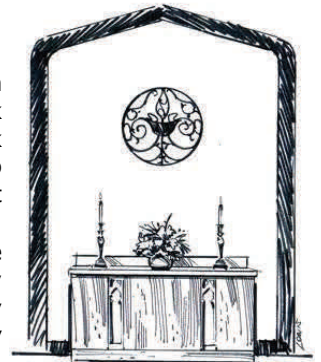
President:	[open]
Vice-President:	[open]
Secretary:	Gregory Giacobe (continuing)
Treasurer:	Bill Slezak (continuing)
Trustee (through 2018):	[open]
Nominating Committee (through 2017):	Nina Barszcz (continuing)



Voting on the proposed slate shall take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting, on Sunday, 14 June 2015. Any church member is eligible to stand for the above offices as long as they fulfill the requirements set forth in the Bylaws (Art. V, Sec. 2) and have ten members of the church who are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting nominate that person. Notification of the intention to run, as well as a list of members supporting the nomination, must be given the Board Secretary in writing no later than 1 May 2015. The Secretary will then make a list of all nominees for church offices available to church members no later than ten days before the Annual Meeting.

Happenings @ Montclair

- **UUCM Passover Seder — Friday, 3 April at 6 PM (Fletcher Hall).** Gather together for an evening to celebrate our freedom and the hope of emancipation of all peoples! Food, drink and a wonderful Passover service will help us reflect together about our past and to think about our future. We will need specific food donations and assistance from all who participate. The cost will be \$12 per adult and \$6 per child. Contact Hilary Fandel at hilaryfandel@gmail.com or 973-652-4163.
- **Senior Lunch Bunch — Wednesdays, 8 & 22 April, 12 Noon (Peierls Room).** We generally choose a topic at each meeting for the next meeting, but the conversation usually wanders over several topics of interest to the group assembled that come up spontaneously (and with plenty of laughter thrown in). Everyone is welcome! For info, email Gary Sanderson at gwsanderson@verizon.net.
- **Solo UU's — Friday, 10 April, 7 PM (Peierls Room).** Solo UU's are adults living the single life from our unique perspective within the UU community. We find many opportunities to connect socially, while we build a support network with adults currently living solo. Activities include joining together for discussions and dinner, and going to a movie, concert or play. To find out more, join us on the second Friday each month at UUCM where we meet at 7:00 PM for drinks and appetizers, and then socialize at a restaurant in Montclair. Newcomers are welcome! For info, call Ed Harris at 973-783-7645.
- **Men's Group — Saturday, 11 April, 8:30 AM (Peierls Room).** Are you a man? Are you a UU man? Would you enjoy getting together with other UU men? All UU men are welcome to join a thoughtful, mutually supportive group. Friendly, fraternal conversations provoke reflection, insight and more than a little uplifting humor. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uucammen/> to learn more about our group.
- **Memorial Society of Northeast New Jersey Annual Conference — Saturday, 26 April, 2 PM (Montclair Public Library).** Established in 1964 in connection with the UUCM, the Memorial Society is now independent, serving the larger community of Essex, Passaic and Bergen Counties, and has over 1,300 members. It is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, volunteer group dedicated to helping people plan simple, dignified and affordable end-of-life arrangements. Through pre-planning without any prepayments, they can help you spare your family the stress of hasty and unnecessarily expensive funeral arrangements. Come and learn more. UUCM member David Lewis will be the speaker and will explain who they are, what they can do for you and try to answer all your questions. The meeting is free and open to the public. There will be refreshments and plenty of free parking next to the library. For more info, email davegl77@verizon.net.



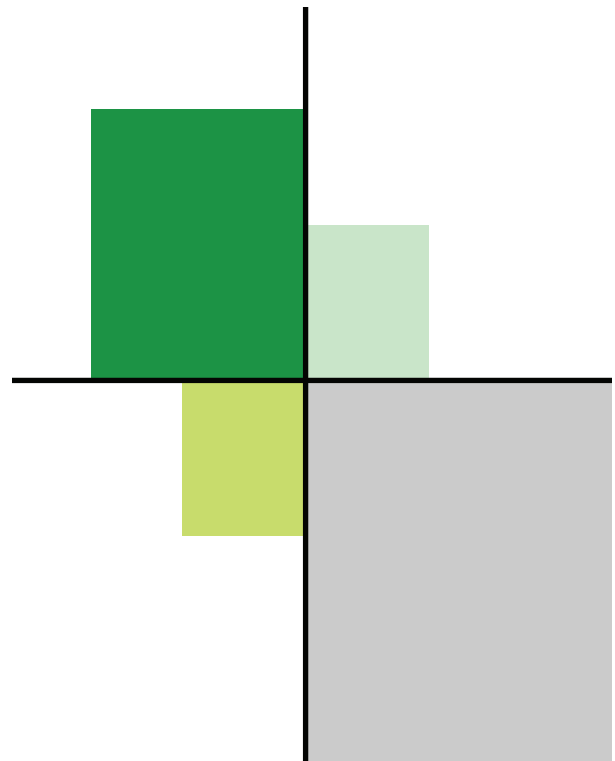
April 2015 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

- 2 Maundy Thursday (Christian)
- 3 Good Friday (Christian)
Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
- 4-11 Pesach [Passover] (Jewish) [begins sundown on 3]
Therevadin New Year (Buddhist)
- 4 Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
Lazarus Saturday (Orthodox Christian)
- 5 Easter (Christian)
Palm Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
- 10 Holy Friday (Orthodox Christian)
- 12 Pascha [Easter] (Orthodox Christian)
- 14 Baisakhi [New Year] (Sikh)
- 15 Lord's Evening Meal (Jehovah's Witness)
- 16 Yom HaShoah (Jewish) [begins sundown on 15]
- 21 First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) [begins sundown on 20]
- 23 St. George Day (Christian)
- 24 Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Jewish) [begins sundown on 23]
- 29 Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) [begins sundown on 28]

ABOUT THE CHURCH

ABOUT THE CHURCH highlights important events in the lives of our Members. If you have a joy or concern you would like to share with the church membership, please contact the Church Office at office@essexuu.org or 973-674-0010. We have updates below:

- HAROLD MILLS has returned home and is doing better.





58th ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday, April 19th, 2015

Regency House
140 Route 23 North, Pompton Plains, New Jersey

12:00 – 4:00 PM (12:00 – 12:45 PM *Socializing*; 1:00 PM *Lunch*)

HONORED GUEST AND RECIPIENT OF THE DOROTHY ELDRIDGE PEACEMAKER AWARD:

RICHARD D. WOLFF, PHD

“THE ECONOMICS OF WAR: ENDLESS VIOLENCE, PEACE, AND THE ECONOMY”

Also Honoring:

15 Now NJ

Recipients of the Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award

Evelyn and James Dette and Ethel Owens

Peace Action People of the Year



Audiences love **Richard D. Wolff, PhD**, Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Wolff analyzes the causes of and solutions to the global economic crisis and makes ordinarily dull, complex economic issues accessible and interesting. He is a dynamic speaker and leaves audiences empowered, and able to challenge lawmakers (and others) about the cost of war with irrefutable information.

His most recent work *Democracy at Work: A Cure for Capitalism* inspired the creation of the non-profit organization Democracy at Work. Wolff is also the author of *Occupy the Economy: Challenging Capitalism* and *Capitalism Hits the Fan: The Global Economic Meltdown and What to Do About It*.

He hosts the weekly radio program “Economic Update,” on public radio stations nationwide including WBAI. He writes regularly for *The Guardian* and *Truthout.org* and appears frequently on television and radio. Recent guest spots include “Moyers & Company,” “Up with Chris Hayes,” and “Democracy Now!”

15 Now NJ is a part of a nationwide grassroots movement aiming to raise the minimum wage through the mobilization of working people. Founded in June of 2014, 15 Now NJ has built living wage action committees throughout the state, organized marches, drafted legislation, and changed the conversation about poverty in New Jersey.

Reservations Required

Please visit <http://www.njpeaceaction.org> or call **973-259-1126**

Dinner tickets: **\$65** before April 6th (**\$75** after April 6th).

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
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Orange NJ 07051-0998

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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: Georgiana Hart

Vice President: Mindy Thompson Fullilove

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

Administrator: Greg Giacobe

Sexton: Tony A Jones

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



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

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