



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

Winter 2018

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## MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 16 Dec, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 17 Dec, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 14 Jan, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 20 Jan, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ Board of Trustees, Thursday, 31 Jan, 3 PM, via FFC
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 10 Feb, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 18 Feb, 6 PM, Parish Hall

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

## Editorial: Two Years of Building Solidarity

By Holly Barszcz

As the new year is approaching, we are coming up to the second anniversary of the Building Solidarity Potluck Series. I have had the pleasure of running these monthly events for the past two years as a HUUB Fellow. I'm going to take some time to look back at how the series started, what we have done, and where we are now.

When I became a Fellow at the start of the HUUB Fellows program in September of 2016 with Khemani and Patricia, we knew we would be "Community Listening Fellows," but it was still unclear what we would be doing. The HUUB was only a year old, and the board wanted us to reach out to our neighbors and get people inside of our space for it to become a site of community engagement and collaboration.

The Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) training kicked off the Fellowship, where we learned about the framework we would use moving forward. We were joined by members of the Church, some of our partner organizations, and community members and organizers. ABCD asks us to identify assets and talents already present in Orange and expand upon those rather than focusing on what the community might lack.

A few moments from the training stood out to me, namely the story of the roving listener who went block by block to meet every person in the neighborhood, hear their stories, and all of their gifts and

skills (sometimes over a meal); our own asset inventories where many folks listed cooking as a skill, and the huge asset of the church as a hosting space. Those pieces all worked together nicely and made me wonder, what if we held potlucks at the HUUB, to welcome our neighbors and hear what they care about and what skills they have? To create a space to share food and stories?

The HUUB Fellows and mentors liked the idea of a monthly potluck series, and after a couple of trial runs in October and November with low turnouts, we took some time to rethink the format and our outreach methods.

During this rethinking period, the 2016 presidential election took place, and the results really shook us. A few folks from the HUUB, the Church, and University of Orange decided to have a "hotluck potluck" at the HUUB with friends and family to com-

miserate together over a warm meal and discuss what next steps we would take to make positive change in our communities. The camaraderie was amazing, and our friends at University of Orange picked up on the potential of potlucks as communal healing spaces.

A few weeks later, University of Orange asked if they could link their Jan Term Building Solidarity event with the January potluck, making it the HUUB's first ever Building Solidarity Potluck. This event was partly inspired by Social Emergency Response



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Monthly Sundays

Gatherings will starting at 5 PM

**FAITH + WORKS**

First UU has taken to heart the Bible saying "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). We are learning to live our faith through works via the HUUB, which opens our buildings to our Orange neighbors. But to sustain that effort, we know we need more FAITH. In these challenging times we turn to wise people who can articulate FAITH and describe how their faith supports their WORKS. Join us for a six-part series called "FAITH+WORKS" on occasional Sunday evenings for this church year. Invited guests speakers will tell us of how their faith motivates their work, and how we can do the same. Please join us on the dates below.

**16 Dec TBA Speaker - Molly Rose Kaufman Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - TBA, Social Hour Host - TBA**

MOLLY ROSE KAUFMAN, is a community planner, journalist and youth worker. Her writing has appeared in YES! Magazine, Kinfolk Magazine and the New York Times. As a community organizer in Orange, NJ, she co-founded the University of Orange, a free people's university, worked with residents and planners to write the Heart of Orange plan and co-developed ORNG Ink, a youth-led, user driven arts collective. She has a BA from Hampshire College, an MS in journalism from Columbia University and was a 2016 Civic Liberal Arts Fellow at the New School. She currently serves as the University of Orange Provost & Program Director and is a Listening Consultant at HUUB.

**20 Jan *Observing 400 Years of Inequality* Speaker - Mindy Thompson Fullilove Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - TBA, Social Hour Host - TBA**

2019 marks 400 years since in the first Africans landed at Jamestown to be sold into bondage. First UU will join thousands of organizations observing this solemn occasion that has affected our nation's history so deeply. Join us for a look back and a look forward.

*Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, LFAPA, Hon AIA, is a professor of urban policy and health at The New School. Prior to joining The New School in 2016, she worked for 26 years as a research psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute and was a professor of clinical psychiatry and public health at Columbia University. She has conducted research on AIDS and other epidemics 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 numerous articles, book chapters, and monographs. She has also written: The House of Joshua: Meditations on Family and Place, Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America and What We Can Do About It, and Urban Alchemy: Restoring Joy in America's Sorted-Out Cities. A third edition of Homeboy Came to Orange: A Story of People's Power, which she helped her father, Ernest Thompson, write, was released in May 2018 by New Village Press.*

**10 Feb *Homecoming* Speakers - Rev. Darrell Berger & Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - TBA**

The First UU is delighted to welcome home two of our former ministers, Darrell Berger and Gordon Bailey. In keeping with our new Faith + Works format, these beloved ministers will share their own faith journeys and the ways in which these have influenced their works. While serving at First UU, Darrell and Gordon realized that our congregation was nearing the "end" of the parish ministry we'd had for 125 years. From their wealth of faith and ministerial experience, they asked us to face this

Editorial (cont.)

Centers (SERCs) taking place all over the country, which have a few main elements: food, collective activities, shelter, and information. At the potluck there were speakers from Clean Water Action and Split Rock Sweetwater Prayer Camp, a musical performance by Margaux Simmons, a bystander training led by the Meta Theatre Company, and action tables to get involved with other organizations like NJ Working Families. The event was a hit, and from there on out we structured the rest of the potlucks to incorporate those elements from SERCs, but gradually with a looser structure. We always have an art component, and we invite everyone to bring their own content to share, often favorite poems or stories, or ones they've written. The delicious food and great conversations go without saying. Some great moments from the series were the group reading of Voices of a People's History, decorating holiday cookies, Tisa's "Welcome Back" ice cream cake after the summer off, a class of visiting students from Denmark singing to us in Danish, and so many more.

The potlucks are ever evolving and I am so proud of how many meals we have shared at the HUUB, and the dependable space we have created there. It's been great getting such positive feedback on the series over the past couple of years, and to consistently see new faces at each event. I am so thankful for the support and guidance from HUUB Managing Director Charlie Wirene and HUUB Fellows Mentors Molly Rose Kaufman and Aubrey Murdock. I'm looking forward to another year of great meals and conversations at the HUUB!



In Memoriam: Lucinda P. Long

Lucinda (Cindy) Parshall Long passed away suddenly on 25 November 2018. She was 71. Born in Salisbury, MD on 5 December 1946 to the late Sarah and George Richard Long, she was the mother of Joseph Geschlecht of West Orange, NJ, renowned lawyer and devoted educator.



Cindy earned a BA from Mary Washington College in Fredricksburg, VA, an MA and PhD from Johns Hopkins University, and began her career as a university professor, becoming the first woman to join the political science faculty at Montclair State University. Many years later, she returned to teaching part-time while still working in the private sector.

Cindy also attended Rutgers Law School in Newark NJ, where she was an editor of the Rutgers Law Review and earned her JD with honors. She began her legal career at NJ firm Lowenstein Sandler, where she also instigated the establishment of the company's first parental leave, part-time, and on-premises childcare programs.

In 1991, Cindy joined Valley National Bank as their first general counsel and first woman vice president. Over 25 years at Valley, she oversaw all aspects of the bank's legal operations as it grew from a small community bank into a major financial institution with over \$24 billion in assets. She was especially proud of the legal internship program she established for aspiring law students.

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](mailto:office@essexuu.org) or 973-674-0010. We have updates below:

- Two new Members joined in the last several months. REBECCA DOGGETT signed the Church Membership Book at our Monthly FAITH+WORKS service on 30 September 2018, and LORI SUTHERLAND signed at our F+W service on 16 December 2018. We welcome both of them with great joy. Their contact information will appear in the next edition of the Church Directory. Or you can access the Directory on the church website in the Members Only section.
- Belated congratulations to CHARLIE WIRENE & CAMILLE GUYOT-BENDER on the birth of their daughter, ELOISE, on 30 August 2018.
- Belated birthday wishes to our former minister REV. YIELBONZIE CHARLES JOHNSON who celebrated his 66TH on 26 August.
- Happy Birthday to Treasurer BILL SLEZAK (28 December), members CHARLIE WIRENE (23 December), TOM DORMAN (1 January) and REBECCA DOGGETT (8 February), DARCY HALL (7 February), Sexton TONY JONES (also 7 February), and Board Secretary GREGORY GIACOBE (15 February).
- Our healing thoughts go out to MOLLY ROSE KAUFMAN who is recovering from a knee injury, and to GREGORY GIACOBE who was hospitalized for fluid on the lung.
- Congratulations to DESTINY DIGGS-PINTO for being named a 2019 Merit winner in Jazz double bass by The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts). DESTINY is the daughter of Members CARMEN PINTO and JACQUE DIGGS.



**In Memoriam: Harold E Mills**

Harold E. Mills passed away on Monday, 5 November 2018. He was 96. Living most of his life in Maplewood, NJ, he had been living for about two years in Wall Township.



Born on 29 May 1922 in Massillon, OH, Harold spent most of his youth growing up in Canton, OH, where he graduated in 1940 from Canton William McKinley Jr. Senior High School. That same year, he joined the Navy as a reservist and was called to active service in 1941, spending the next four years in the Pacific Theater. For most of that time, he served on the USS Cowell, and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for his actions from April-June 1945 in fighting off Japanese kamikazes during the Battle of Okinawa.

Harold graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1950 with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. He then moved to East Orange, NJ and began working at Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) in Newark, where he worked as an Electrical Engineer for more than three decades until the early 1980s.

Soon after moving to East Orange, Harold began attending "Sunday Evening Club" meetings at the Calvary Methodist Church where he first met his wife to be Lorraine. Harold and Lorraine were wed on 10 April 1954, and they moved to Newark for three years before moving to Maplewood in 1957. Throughout their many years, Lorraine and Harold traveled extensively within the US and overseas, including Hawaii and Alaska, Ireland (where they visited Lorraine relatives), China, New Zealand, Australia, Costa Rica, Israel and Turkey. They also traveled to many provinces in Canada, including Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland Labrador and New Brunswick.

In the early 1960's, Harold and Lorraine began attending the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County in Orange, NJ and joined on 20 January 1964. A devout member, Harold served in a number of capacities in church leadership, including most notably as Treasurer (1989-2004). He also served as the church's full-time handyman for more than 40 years.

Harold also played violin in the South Orange Symphony Orchestra for many years. He also played the piano, preferably the music of composers of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Harold was a generous and charitable giver to many environmental, Native American, and other civil rights and

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**In Memoriam: Jean Sandow**

Jean Sandow died peacefully at home on Friday, 7 December 2018. Born on Staten Island in 1942, she moved to Millington with her husband Dennis in 1975.



Jean earned a teaching degree from Albany State Teachers College and a Masters from William Paterson University. She taught learning disabled children at the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC), a private school in Morristown and Chatham. She was named ASAH Region II Educator of the Year in 1993.

Jean joined the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County in 1966, and served as a trustee for 12 years, including three years as President (1983-85, and 1992-93).

An accomplished calligrapher, Jean taught that art at the Watchung Hills Adult School, as well as volunteering her fine hand to local organizations, including the Long Hill Library and the Somerset County Environmental Education Center. She enjoyed stained glass artistry, and was active in the Skyline Ridge Civic Association.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Dennis, her sister Janet, three sons, Robert, Douglas and Gregg, and four grandchildren.



**Newsletter Schedule & Submission Deadlines**

The First UU Newsletter is now on a quarterly schedule. Newsletters will be published on or about 1 March (Spring), 1 June (Summer), 1 September (Autumn) and 1 December (Winter). Deadline for submissions will be on the 23rd of the month before publication. The table below summarizes the new schedule:

Issue	Publication Date	Submission Deadline
Autumn	23 September	—
Winter	1 December	23 November
Spring	1 March	23 February
Summer	1 June	23 May

## December 2018

- 16 FAITH+WORKS: Molly Rose Kaufman, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- 17 Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM

## January 2019

- 14 Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM
- 20 FAITH+WORKS: *Observing 400 Years of Inequality*, Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- 31 Board of Trustees, via FFC channel, 3 PM

## February 2019

- 10 FAITH+WORKS: *Homecoming*, Revs. Darrell E Berger & Gordon Clay Bailey, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- 18 Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM

### In Memoriam: Harold E Mills

civil liberties organizations and causes through the years and many causes for underprivileged children and others.

Harold is survived by two daughters, Laurie and Patricia, three sons, Edmund, Keith and Bruce, and a granddaughter, Alexis. Harold was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Lorraine, in April 2014.

### In Memoriam: Lucinda P Long

Cindy was an important presence in the NJ legal community, serving in leadership capacities in many organizations, including the NJ Bar Association, the NJ Corporate Counsel Association, NJ Bankers Association, and the NJ Supreme Court Fee Arbitration Committee. She was recognized for her service with numerous awards, including: the NJ Women Lawyers Association Platinum Award, the Rutgers Law School Distinguished Alumna Award, and the Partners for Women and Justice Hope Award.

Cindy's commitment to justice was obvious from a young age, when she gave a fiery speech to her all-white high school and decried the injustice of segregation still in practice there. She continued to be a champion of civil rights and women's rights throughout her career as an educator and lawyer, with a particular interest in the advancement of young women and working mothers in law and business.

Cindy joined the First UU Church of Essex County on 15 May 1988, and served in various capacities in leadership including trustee, Board Secretary, and Vice President. She served as Board President from 1993 through 1995. Cindy also was a leading member of the church choir, and gave generously to the church.

Cindy loved singing, art, and debating politics. Her gregariousness, optimism, resilience were a gift and an inspiration to anyone who knew her.

She is survived by her son, Joseph Geschlecht.

A memorial service was held on Friday, 7 December at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, NJ. Donations in her name can be made to the Cure Alzheimer's Fund or the Girl Scouts of America.

### Monthly Sundays

unhappy truth. With their help, we invented The HUUB and dedicated ourselves to service in Orange, NJ. We look forward to learning where their journeys have taken them and what they've learned along the way.

*Rev. Darrell Berger served as consulting minister at FUUCEC from 2007-13. Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey served as consulting minister from 2014-15.*

### APOLOGIES

Due to the health issues experienced by the editor for the last few months, we apologize for the lateness of this edition of the newsletter. -Editor

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

## MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

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Orange NJ 07050-2709

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays,  
9 AM—3 PM

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

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

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

**President: Mindy Thompson Fullilove**

**Vice President: Frank Barszcz**

**Treasurer: Bill Slezak**

**Secretary: Greg Giacobe**

**Administrator & Newsletter Editor:  
Greg Giacobe**

**Sexton: Tony A Jones**

**HUUB Director: Charlie Wirene**



**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**

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## Making the connections

