

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

OCTOBER 2009

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MARK IT DOWN

- **Saturday, October 3, Board Retreat, Barszcz Residence, 9-2:30**
- **Thursday, October 8th, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Hale House**
- **Wednesday, October 21st, Celebrations and Music, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**

FROM DARRELL'S DESK- UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST URBAN MINISTRY

On Sunday, September 27 I preached at the First Parish UU Church in Scituate, Massachusetts, where I served from 1978-89. It was part of their 375th anniversary celebration. In my sermon I recalled several significant events while I was there, among them our involvement in what is now called the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (www.uuum.org).

It was founded by Rev. Joseph Tuckerman in 1826. Tuckerman's vision was to help the poor of Boston by appealing to the affluent. It took many forms over the years. In the 1980's various suburban congregations, including Scituate, helped renovate and decorate Renewal House, a facility for battered women and their children. This gave a hand-on component to

social justice that UU's find all too seldom. The result was a long-standing commitment to the Urban Ministry.

Our congregation is one of the few UU urban ministries in New Jersey. Yet the Montclair congregation is right up the road, and certainly that town has some urban issues. Morristown, home to a UU fellowship, has worse police relations with immigrant workers than Orange. As Dr. Mindy Fullilove says in her book *Root Shock*, it is hard to realize that the Springfield Ave. that runs through Summit and right by its UU church, is the same Springfield Ave. that begins in Newark and continues through Irvington.

Unitarian Universalists value their individuality and UU

congregations value their autonomy. But neither individuality nor autonomy can accomplish everything. Sometimes we need to work together. I have begun to speak with ministers of these other congregations. It is too early to tell what, if anything, might come of the discussions. We might find we have much more to offer each other than we had known. We might find we do not. If we do, let's get on with it! If we don't, then at least we will know that we don't. Even disappointing information is useful, and nothing would be lost except the hope that what one minister began in Boston almost two hundred years ago might be recreated here.



OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

Oct 11 **UUA Association Sunday - By many names, reaching larger than ourselves** Jim Nelson
Musician: Cindy Long, Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute

How we identify with our larger movement sheds light on our history as well as our vision. How do we connect as a congregation, and share our beacon? Additionally, some of us connect with U*U groups individually, and connect our U*U identify with broader movements. In our circle of identities, we are nourished as we plant seeds for community care and global-local peacemaking. Join Jim Nelson in further exploration.

Member Jim Nelson will lead this service on this year's Association Sunday. [See accompanying article.]


Oct 18 **Defending the Rainbow of Steel:** Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell
A Narrative Analysis of the Anti-Racist Struggle at UUA GA 2009 **Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Ann Lang**

Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell serves as the Chicago contact for the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship and is Program Chair of the Racial Justice Task Force of the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. He is a graduate of Morehouse College, Atlanta University, and the University of Chicago. Presently, he is a co-chair of the the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus. Ordained Baptist minister, he has been a social justice activist since 1968. He will be a guest speaker at the special 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Harper's Ferry raid being sponsored by the John Brown /Harriet Tubman Historical Society.

Oct 25 **What Good is Evil?** Rev. Darrell Berger
Musician: TBA, Senior Usher: Greg Giacobe

Every ten or fifteen years or so, some UU theologian makes the announcement that what is wrong with UU is that we have no articulated doctrine of evil. I say that is one of our strengths. This Sunday I will explain why.

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 Coffee Hour Coordinators for October: Sandy Langley/Barrie Peterson			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting 7:30, Hale House	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Celebrations and Music 7:30 Sonen Room	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

We are on the web!

www.essexuu.org

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

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

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.

The Reverend Darrell E. Berger
Frank Barszcz: President
Sandra Langley: Vice-President
Barrie Peterson: Chaplain
Donna Blaine: Sexton
Nina Barszcz: Newsletter Editor

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