

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

MAY 2010

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## MARK IT DOWN

- **Thursday, May 6th, Celebrations and Music, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**
- **Wednesday, May 12th, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**

## FROM DARRELL'S DESK—"A HIGH PROFILE BEHIND THE SCENES"

Dorothy Height died on April 10 at age ninety-eight. She was President of the National Council of Negro Women for forty years and was one of the most solid cross beams in the foundation of the Civil Rights movement. Among a great many of her contributions was "Wednesdays in Mississippi" in the 1960's, that brought together Black and white woman from both north and south.

Congressman John Lewis recently said that the road that brought Obama to the White House began in Selma. He is correct. The way for that road was cleared by people like Ms. Height. Her generation also paved it and planted trees and flowers along the way.

One of the great distortions of history is the "great man" approach. One person, almost always a man until very, very recently, is singled out as a leader of a movement or nation. History is then taught as the story of that man's bravery and wit, or his calumny. During the process that person becomes boring and unreal to successive generations of school children.

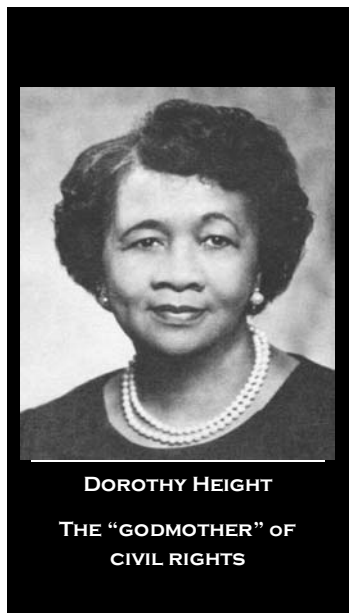
It is not my perception that history proceeds like that, now that I have had the opportunity to observe just a few decades of it. Yes, individual leaders, some closer to heroes, others more villainous, depending on one's point of view, are important to history. But there is never just one leader and nothing of historical significance is ever accomplished alone, even assassinations.

If Obama stands on the shoulders of Martin Luther King, then King stands upon Dorothy Height, A. Phillip Randolph and many others. These leaders depend on countless local leaders, and finally, to the ordinary person willing to do what he or she can.

Most of us are not Obamas or King' or Heights. We seldom are even leaders in our communities, at least not for any length of time. Yet all that great historical personalities have accomplished depends upon the action of the rest of us, who have not devoted our lives to a cause.

If I were a conspiracy nut, and sometimes I think I am, I would conclude that the "great man" approach is a conspiracy. The powerful retain their power by constantly telling everyone that change is caused by great individuals, not by thousands or millions of people leaving their comfort zones to simply do what they can.

That might be the mission of our congregation here in Orange. We must do what we can.



DOROTHY HEIGHT

THE "GODMOTHER" OF CIVIL RIGHTS

**APRIL SUNDAY SERVICES**

We ask congregants to please arrive and be seated in the Sanctuary before the listed start time of services. If you arrive late, the usher will let you in at the appropriate time or a sign will be post that you use the rear (Osgood) entrance so as not to disrupt the service in progress. Thank you.

May 2      **Celebration of May**      **Melanie Axel-Lute**  
 Musicians: Bill Stafford, David Braham and Ray Johnston, Senior Usher: Greg Giacobe

We will welcome in the summer season in the age-old way with story, song, and dance, finishing with our traditional Maypole.

*Service will take place in the Parish Hall. Maypole Dance will take place on the front lawn, weather permitting.*

May 9      **LANBI**      **Martal Bonhomme**  
 Musician: TBA, Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute

Our friend, Martal Bonhomme, will speak on his effort to create The Lanbi Center. "Landbi" means conch shell in Haitian Creole. During the Haitian Revolution, the lanbi was used as an instrument to rally and galvanize the people in support of ending slavery and achieving independence. Today, through the creation of the Lanbi Center for Humanities and Civics, the conch shell will serve as a trumpet to awaken disenfranchised constituents in Northern New Jersey.

*Martal Bonhomme is Director of the LANBI School for Humanities and Civics, an organization that serves the Haitian community in the Oranges.*

May 16      **HOMOSAPIENISM: Being Human 101**      **Pandora Scooter**  
 Musician: Cindy Long, Senior Usher: Ann Lang

If Jesus is God, then feeding multitudes with a few loaves and fishes is not impressive. If he is a man, then this portion of the Sermon on the Mount is about unlocking human empathy and generosity. This is a miracle.

May 23      **The Patron Saint of Step-fathers**      **Rev. Darrell Berger**  
 Musician: TBA, Senior Usher: Greg Giacobe

St. Joseph's Aspirin for Children is an inspired name because St. Joseph, husband of Mary, is a protector of children. This sermon is about how I came to know Joseph, what a fine guy he is, and how his spiritual example is sorely needed in the world today, and in the church which declared him a saint.

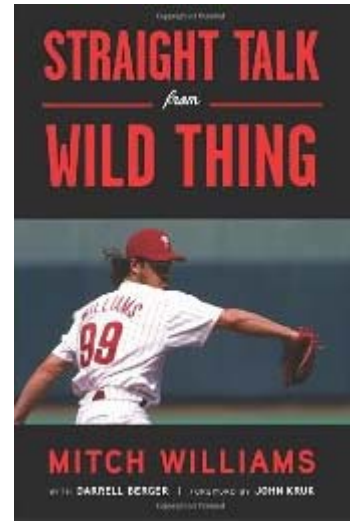
May 30      **Earth Day and then Some**      **Harold Mills, Donna Blaine and Darcy Hall**  
 Musician: TBA, Senior Usher: Ann Lang

This service will examine the roots and history of Earth Day and what is going - and can be done - here and now.

*At least half of all unrestricted donations for this period (though June) will be given to the Haitian Pastors Association for Haitian relief. Please note on your check if you want it credited toward your Canvass Pledge. Thank you.*

### Darrell's New Book


Darrell's new book, "Straight Talk from Wild Thing," co-written with former Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Mitch Williams is now available in many bookstores and on line at places like Amazon.com. It is published by Triumph Books, which also published his first, "Then Roy said to Mickey," with former Yankees outfielder Roy White.



### June 13th is Flower Communion Sunday

Created by our former member, the Rev. Norbert Capek, it 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.

## May 2010

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

**We are on the web!**

**[www.essexuu.org](http://www.essexuu.org)**

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35-47 Cleveland St.  
Orange, NJ 07050



Church Phone: 973 674-0010  
Minister's Email: [DBerger361@gmail.com](mailto:DBerger361@gmail.com)  
Business Email: [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org)  
Inquiries: [info@essexuu.org](mailto:info@essexuu.org)

## 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

Greg Giacobe: Church Administrator

Barrie Peterson: Chaplain

Donna Blaine: Sexton

Nina Barszcz: Newsletter Editor

Office Hours: Mondays 9 AM to 2 PM and  
Fridays 1 PM to 6 PM

Minister is available Tuesdays, Wednesday  
and Thursdays by appointment. Call church  
main line

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