

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

# FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY

OCTOBER 2010

## FROM DARRELL'S DESK—"ACROSS THE GENERATIONS"

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### MARK IT DOWN

- **Sunday, October 3rd, Social and Earth Action (rescheduled) 12 Noon, Sonen Room**
- **Tuesday, October 12th, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**
- **Thursday, October 28th, Celebrations and Music, 7:30 pm, Sonen Room**

Later this month I will be using the Television series "Mad Men" as my text. This show began depicting the late 1950's and is now in the mid-1960's. Already some things have changed quite a lot in addition to the width of the ties. Some women have risen from the secretarial pool to management and copy writing. Muhammad Ali has challenged everyone's idea of a sports hero. The Beatles have invaded America.

Recalling that time is very easy for me, yet I understand for a great many people today it is history. Whether or not they come to understand it may determine, both personally and collectively, whether they are doomed to repeat it.

I recall a few years ago when my mother would visit from Ohio and have long talks about the "old days" with our daughter Erica when she was in middle and high school. She told her exciting and dubious stories about Prohibition and always went into detail about the various dogs throughout her life. She also told her about what it was like to be a young woman in the 1930's and 1940's.

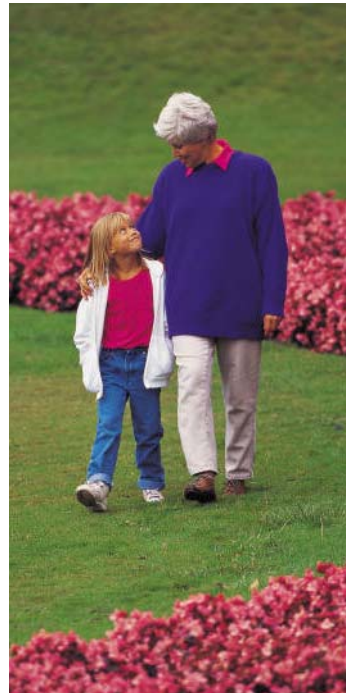
Most women were "housewives." In my mother's social circle she was a rarity because she had finished high school. Among the families in transition from farm to factory, few went beyond. Most stayed their entire lives close to where they had been born. The Depression was rough, and my mother grew very tired of corn soup. My grandfather was grateful for work from the WPA. He had helped plant the trees in the park by the state highway.

"It's altogether different today," my mother would say, with what I always thought was a bit of envy. Erica always enjoyed these talks, because my mother was a skilled storyteller and did not sugar coat anything. I think it helped Erica appreciate her opportunities and encouraged her to go as far and as high as she can go.

That kind of honest talk between generations is rare. One thing I have always liked about church work is it is one of the few places where one gets to work with and be friends with people of all ages. Even in our congregation, which tends to

be a bit heavy toward those who lived through the "Mad Men" years, there are opportunities to get to know people who don't remember the Clinton Administration!

I invite all of us to take advantage of this opportunity. No matter what your age, there are folks in worship and at coffee hour who have vastly different life experiences. Take time to hear their stories. Take time to tell yours.



**OCTOBER 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.

Oct 3      **What God Asks of Us**      **Rev. Darrell E. Berger**  
**Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior Usher: Ann Lang, Flowers: Donna Blaine**

The entire quote is from St. Jerome: "What God asks of us is not found at a great distance." Where do we find God, assuming we are even looking?

Oct 10      **Report from GA**      **Georgiana Hart**  
**Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute, Flowers: Greg Giacobe**

This past June, member Georgiana Hart attended the UUA General Assembly, the annual gathering and business meeting of our free faith denomination, held this year in Minneapolis, MN. Georgiana will relate her impressions, as well as the important decisions that were made at this year's GA. Please come and hear what is happening in the rest of our liberal religious movement

Oct 17      **Mad Men and Angry Women**      **Rev. Darrell E. Berger**  
**Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Laura Rogers and Anne Miller, Flowers: The Millers**

"Man Men" is a television series that depicts the business and personal lives of those in the advertising industry on Madison Ave. beginning in the late 1950's and now taking place in the mid-1960's. The women who were docile and accepting of their roles in the first season have now begun to reconsider. This worship will remember those days and reflect on what they say about our society today.

Oct 24      **Good and Evil: Hope and Heroism in the 21st Century**      **David Chapman**  
**Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior Usher: Ann Lang, Flowers: Harold Mills**

,Why do good people, people with high ethical standards and sound theological beliefs, often fail to keep their decisions and actions at the same level of goodness as their moral guidelines? This talk involves a look at good and evil in light of the science of our 21st century, and what it means for us individually, socially, and spiritually. Dave makes a call for a new definition of heroism and moral character.

*Born and raised in New Jersey, Dave Chapman worked at many vocations, from shoe shine boy to financial advisor. He studied the humanities and comparative literature at Ohio Wesleyan University and now does freelance writing while he develops his career as a professional speaker. An active member of the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County in Baptistown, NJ, and lives in Flemington, New Jersey, with his fiancée, Janice Buffalow and their dog, Shadow. Dave's interests include music, literature, social psychology, comparative religion, and, of course, the theology and interfaith outreach programs of Unitarian Universalism.*

Oct 31      **Halloween**      **RE Committee**  
**Musician: David Braham, Senior Usher: Paul Axel-Lute, Flowers: TBA**

Our RE Chair, Flore Dorcely, will lead a service around this popular feast day.


# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Queens Revival

October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>  
7:00-9:30 PM

\$15 each night or \$25 for both  
(includes dinner - served at 6 PM)

For more information visit  
[www.UUCQ.org](http://www.UUCQ.org)

## October 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Social and Earth Action 12 noon Sonen Room,	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm Sonen Room,	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Celebrations and Music 7:30 pm Sonen Room,	29	30
31		 Coffee Hour Coordinator for October: TBD				



30th Annual

Black Maria Film and Video Festival

Saturday, October 2

8:00 pm, Parish Hall

Donation: \$8, refreshments included

The Festival promises an evening brim full of engaging work, sampler below previews selections:

*Pickles to Nickels* - A cardboard world where monkeys steal pickles & shopkeepers find romance.

*Missed Aches* - Meaningful meaning is torn asunder by cascading malapropisms.

*Banana Bread* - Droll "AA" fiction film breaks boundaries with an unexpected plot twist.

*Breaking Boundaries: The Art of Alex Masket* - Powerful documentary by local filmmaker Dennis Connors about a young artist with autism whose pictures are indeed worth a thousand words.

*Corporate Art Policy* - Tongue-in-check send up of bad taste in one corporate headquarters.

*Found: Nothing Missing* - A playful ditty about something lost then found.

*The Last Day of I.S. Bulkin* - An agent of the Heavenly Corporation pays a visit on a hapless guy.

*Never Too Late* - Two long suffering hotel maids make a decision to tie the knot.

Additional works will be screened including a sneak preview of a animated political cartoon from Italy premiered in the Black Maria's Special Program in Poznan, Poland.

For additional information contact Frank Barszcz at 201-303-1810 or the Festival Office at 201-200-2043.



## *Growing Our Spaces and Our Spirits*

### **Fall 2010 Chalice Lighters Call**

In our UU district this year, **three** congregations with **two** projects come to you under **one** banner:

“Growing our Spaces and our Spirits”

The Mount Kisco NY, Lincroft NJ, and East Brunswick NJ congregations all share a goal of growth. We aspire to grow in size, to grow in sustainability and to grow in spirit. We hope that you will respond generously to this call so that we can achieve our goals.

At Mount Kisco, we are working to sustain growth in both our spirit and in our physical space through:

- Supporting our congregation with growth in programming and leadership development
- Connecting to our community through social action projects that embody our values and provide outreach opportunities
- Expanding and updating our physical space using environmentally sustainable methods and materials

The Mount Kisco growth program will be funded through the regular budget, through extra congregational giving and through your contributions to Chalice Lighters. Our plan includes: a ministerial intern to help guide our growth programming; updated and expanded physical space to meet the needs of our growing congregation with energy efficiency and community visibility; and community outreach for our sustainable food programs. With these improvements we can achieve our vision of sustainable growth in numbers and in commitment.

At Lincroft and East Brunswick, our congregations aspire to be generous people – but we live with an attitude of scarcity in too many aspects of our lives. After years of struggling to overcome this “glass half-empty” mindset, we are going to try something different. To significantly grow our giving spirits, we will engage appropriate professionals to develop and deliver programming on gratitude and generosity. These programs are more likely to succeed if our two congregations learn together. With your help we can get the professional assistance we need to truly become congregations of generous people - giving freely of our time, talents, and treasure. Once our project is complete, we expect to share our methods and our results with other congregations in the district.

The UUDMNY Chalice Lighters Call in the fall of 2010 asks you to help our three congregations grow our spaces and our spirits. Our projects were chosen by the district as ones that would best contribute to our district’s strength and values. Thank you in advance for all the help you can give us.

***With your generosity, Unitarian Universalism will grow in the UU District of Metro NY.***

***With your generosity Mount Kisco will grow their space and their sustainability.***

***With your generosity Lincroft and East Brunswick will grow their generous spirits.***



## Workshops on Affordable Housing Will Begin October 26

A powerful video highlighting the role of the Federal Housing Administration in creating segregated neighborhoods will be presented in an interactive workshop at 12:15 p.m. Sunday, October 26, at The Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave. (at Springfield Avenue).

Members of the church's Affordable Housing Task Force will present the after-church workshop, "Prejudice, Privilege & Poverty," part of a well-researched series called Just Neighbors. The session uses video and group discussion to explore how early lending practices and laws have had a long term effect on education, employment and economic opportunity.

The 75-minute session will be free and open to the public. It will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Two more workshops from the Just Neighbors series will be held later this fall, also from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall:

- Sunday, October 17 - "Does Working Work?" By taking a look at three case studies of working families struggling to meet their basic needs, participants will gain insight into how economic trends and changes in employment practices have created a cycle of poverty. Youth in grades 10 to 12 are invited to attend.
- Sunday, November 14 - "Housing Matters" After reviewing facts and figure about the hypothetical town of Shelbyville, we will role-play a Town Council meeting at which the council and town residents debate the need for and the options for providing affordable housing.

The Just Neighbors workshops were created by Family Promise, a Summit-based organization with affiliates in 41 states working to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. Family Promise began as the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which mobilizes local congregations to provide temporary housing for homeless people so they can achieve lasting independence.

The Unitarian congregation participates in Summit's Interfaith Hospitality Network through HomeFirst, a Plainfield-based affiliate of Family Promise. For many years, the Unitarians have provided temporary lodging to homeless families during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

Childcare will be available during the workshops by signing up in advance with Lorraine Wearley at [lorrainewearley@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainewearley@gmail.com). Cost will be \$10 per child. Also contact Lorraine for more information.

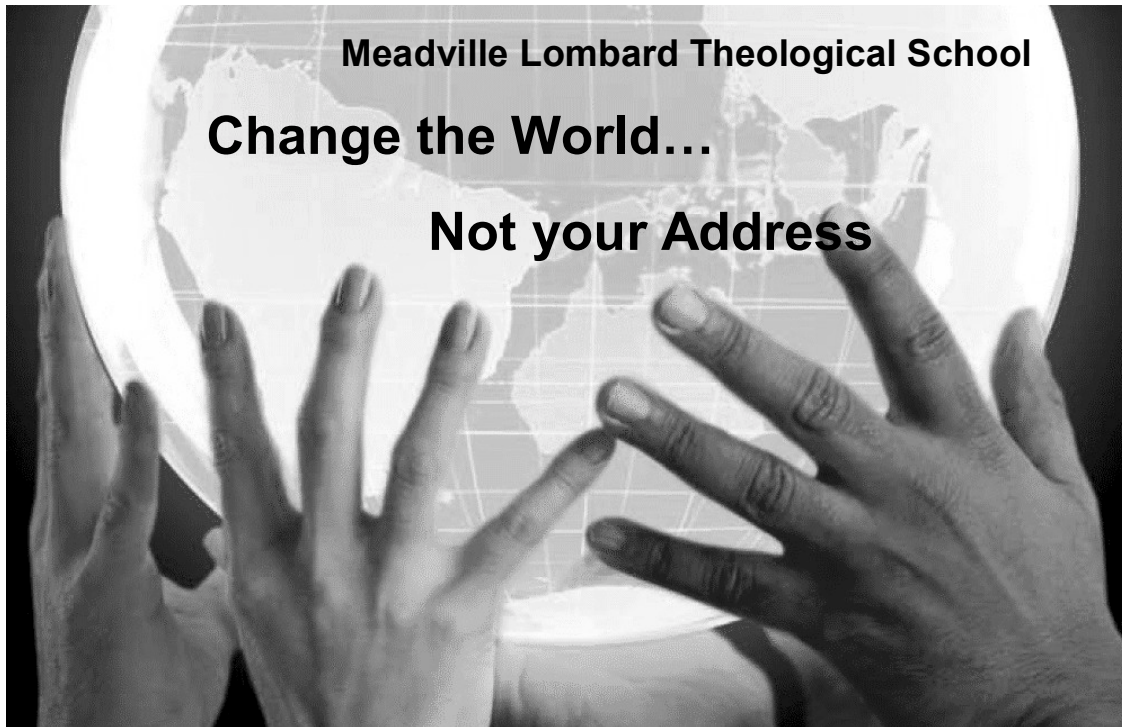
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Meadville Lombard  
Theological School

## Prospective Student Conference

October 6-7, 2010



Our **Master of Divinity** degree program is designed to provide you with the academic and experiential grounding in community and congregational settings that are crucial for religious leaders in our multicultural, multi-racial and interfaith world of the 21st century.

Through our **TouchPoint distance learning format** this program is available to students wherever they are.

- Join us and learn about our degree programs.
- Learn about financial aid options and scholarship opportunities.
- Meet our world-class faculty.

**Can't make these dates? Contact us about other opportunities or to arrange a private visit [jurbikas@meadville.edu](mailto:jurbikas@meadville.edu) | 773.256.3000 x250 For more information visit [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu)**

**We are on the web!**

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

**MAKING THE CONNECTIONS**

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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

Flore Dorcely: 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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