



MAKING THE
CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

October 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 2 From Darrell's Desk
- Page 3 Black Maria Film Festival
- Page 4 October at a Glance
- Page 5 Sermon Teasers

MARK IT DOWN

- Oct 2 Sermon: "How Many
- Oct 5 Celebrations & Music –
7:30, Sonen Room
- Oct 9 Sermon: "A Saint for the
Twenty-first Century"
- Oct 15 Black Maria Film Festival
– 8pm, Parish Hall
- Oct 16 Sermon: "UUism and
Mysticism"
- Oct 23 Sermon: "Pilgrims for
Today"
- Oct 30 Sermon: "Living Fully in
Trouble Times"
- Nov 19 Board of Trustees Mtg –
7:30, Sonen Room



From Darrell's Desk

Your Permanent Record

In the mid-1980s, my parents requested a portable audiocassette recorder so they could hear my sermons. I bought one, taught them how to use it and was surprised by the results.

Yes, I think they did listen to some sermons. However, I know from experience that listening to sermons after they have been delivered is like ordering a cheeseburger for takeout. It is just never as good as if consumed in the place it was created.

Continued on pg. 2

From Darrell's Desk

continued from pg. 1

What surprised me is the creative use my folks found for the recorder. They purchased some blank cassettes and recorded their voices. I never in a thousand years would have guessed what my father recorded. He wrote and delivered parodies of radio commercials!

He had long been very suspicious of advertising claims, especially promises of rebates. "That's how they get you," he'd say. "They give you a piece of paper, but how many people bother to redeem them?" He considered the whole advertising industry a scam. I think he was onto something.

His parodies were occasionally hilarious. In one of them you could redeem a rebate certificate for a live skunk.

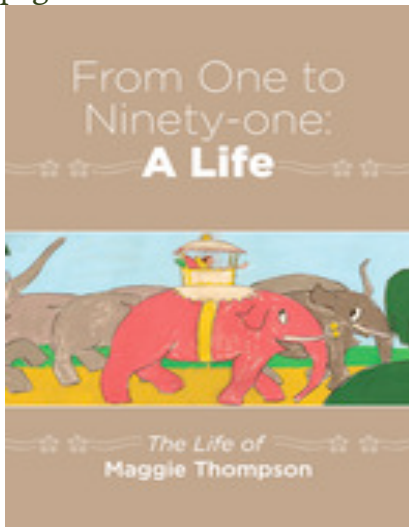
My mother's contributions were less creative but more substantial. She simply talked about her life. She described the places she had lived as a little girl, her grandparents, what it was like to move from a farm to the big city of Toledo, Ohio.

Over the years, I collected hundreds of cassette of sermons,

interviews with old baseball players, bad recordings of local bands, and those recordings of my parents. As cassettes became obsolete, I discarded many, but kept my parents'. I wish there were more.

I gave my mother a blank journal and a "How to Write a Journal" book for her 84th birthday in 2004. For the next year she would write, in longhand, a few paragraphs at night when the spirit moved her. When she was stuck, I suggested topics: her high school friends, the cider mill my father's family owned, the dogs she had loved.

She completed about sixty pages before she took a fall that



made writing impossible. I am so thankful for those sixty

pages. It is not that they help me to remember her. I don't need a journal for that. Rather, her writings helped me put together pieces of *my* life: why I am an only child, how my father's parenting skills developed, even how my parents fell in love.

I am reminded of her little journal fragment because of Maggie Thompson's wonderful memoir, "From One to Ninety-One: A Life." While it is a great book to read and a wonderful gift to her family, it is not the only format for a memoir.

An audio record, a handwritten journal, a computer document; any format will do. It can be long, short, or in between. It can be well organized or willy-nilly.

Whatever its form, I do encourage each of us, regardless of age, to commit something of your life to a permanent record. It will be a greater gift to more people than you could imagine.

Minister's email
minister@essexuu.org

From One to Ninety-one: A Life, by Maggie Thompson, is published by Levellers Press, and available from collectivecopies.com, amazon.com and other fine book retailers.

Invite friends and family to this showing of “spirited and provocative award films”

The International Thomas Edison Black Maria Film Festival will return to its home turf on Saturday evening, October 15, for its North Jersey finale event.

Director and Founder, John Columbus will present a selection of spirited and provocative award films from the 30th Annual Festival. The name “Black Maria” hails from the world’s first motion picture studio built in 1893 by Thomas Edison in West Orange, NJ. The October 15 program caps the Festival’s tour of 70 institutions from coast to coast and begins at 8 PM at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County, 35 Cleveland Street, Orange, NJ—just a stone’s throw from the birthplace of the motion pictures.

First UU Hosts Black Maria

First in W. Orange, then Poland, now Orange

by Frank Barszcz

The screen will include award winning documentaries, animation, experimental and mixed genre shorts, as well as showcase the work of local filmmakers. Following a year that began in Poland, where the Black Maria commenced its 30th Season, Columbus promises that the Orange program will be the most fetching in the Festival’s 30th season. Admission to this very special program is \$10, and includes refreshments served in the “afterglow” reception in the Parish Hall. The program will draw from the line-up of sampler award films listed below.

For more information on Black Maria or this showing, contact Frank Barszcz at (973) 324-9351 or John Columbus at (201) 200-2043 or go to

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=236873933030105>

Oct 15 Festival Line-up

Mrs. Buck in Her Prime – 9.5 min. (2010) by Eric Yates Green, Washington, NC

The Stitches Speak - 12 min (2009) by Nina Sabnani, Mumbai, India

The Burning Wigs of Sedition – 9:22 min. (2010) by Anna Fitch, San Francisco

Stanley Pickle – 11.33 min. (2010) Vicky Mather, Berkshire, England

Steeple - 2.75 min. (2009) by Bryan Papciak, Providence, RI

New London Calling - 10 min. (2010) by Alla Kovgan, Somerville, MA and Moscow, Russia

Grandpa Looked Like William Powell – 4.33 min. (2010) by David Levy, Brooklyn, NY

Hail – 3 min. (2010) by Emily Hubley, South Orange, NJ

Irma – 12.25 min. (2010) by Charles Fairbanks, Lexington, NE

Just About Famous – 14.50 min. (2009) by Jason Kovalsev and Matt Mamula, c/o Blue Collar Films, Los Angeles, CA

Fatum! - 9 min. (2010) by Pablo Millan, Galicia, Spain

A City Symphony Underground - 12 min. (2010) by Catherine Stratton, Maplewood, NJ

Carpe Diem - 5 min. (2010) by Alison Neale, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Pinburgh - 5 min. (2010) by Doug Cooper, Pittsburgh, PA

Earl Butz – 2.5 min. (2010) by Dorothea Braemer, Buffalo, NY

Social Hour and Altar Flower Volunteers Needed

Many of our church’s activities are run and coordinated by volunteers—members and friends who give their time and talents to help make the church a pleasant experience. Would you like to help? We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as hosts for our Sunday Social Hours held after services, as well as to bring flowers for our altar table each Sunday before service. For Social Hour, please contact the coordinator listed in this month’s newsletter, or call the church office at (973) 674-0010 or at office@essexuu.org. We will contact you to confirm your date. Thank you.

October 2011 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 "How Many More Rivers to Cross"	3	4	5 Celebrations & Music, 7:30 Sonen Room	6	7	8 5 th Annual UU Queens Revival 7-9:30pm Dinner @6 www.UUCQ.org
9 5 th Annual UU Queens Revival 7-9:30pm Dinner @6 www.UUCQ.org "A Saint for the 21 st Century"	10	11	12	13	14	15 30 th Black Maria Film Festival Season Finale 8pm
16 "UUism and Mysticism"	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 "Pilgrims for Today"	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 "Living Fully in Troubled Times"	31					

Sermon Teasers

2 October

How Many More Rivers to Cross

Rev. Darrell Berger

Musician: Dave Braham

Having recently finished reading Maggie Thompson's memoir, I was amazed at how many "chapters" there have been to her life. The ability to keep changing, and not merely aging, is not easy.

9 October

A Saint for the Twenty-first Century

Rev. Darrell Berger

Musician: Dave Braham

St. Francis of Assisi is the favorite saint of many UUs, with his love of animals, humility and spiritual growth. I recently discovered a saint who could be called the Saint Francis of the new world: St. Martin de Porres. Learn why this saint is an inspiration to us and to the whole world as it faces the future.

16 October

UUism and Mysticism

Rev. Rosemarie Newberry

Musician: Bill Stafford

Unitarian Universalism is considered a religion for rationalists. How can mysticism be a part of our faith? This service looks at our history with mysticism and how it might fit into our lives today.

Meet our guest: Rev. Rosemarie Newberry is an ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister currently working as a chaplain at the New Lisbon Developmental Center. Her CV highlights work in UU congregations in NJ, Long Island and Cleveland. Currently she is an affiliated community minister at the UU Congregation of Monmouth County in Lincroft, NJ. Rosemarie lives in an all-female household with her two daughters, one cat, and a dog. She enjoys day hiking and studying German.

23 October

Pilgrims for Today

Rev. Ben Tousley

Musician: Bill Stafford

This intergenerational service will be a lively, participational, and moving meditation about the many people—immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans—who have journeyed to America, and how we can be pilgrims in our own times. Ben's longtime musical partner, Sue Kranz, will join him on flute and vocals. This service is appropriate for children 7 and older.

Meet our guests: A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Rev. Ben Tousley has brought concerts and services to over 100 UU churches during the past 29 years. His Community Music Program, which brings songs and stories to schools and libraries, was awarded the Boston Beyond War award in 1989. Reverend Tousley's diskography of six albums includes the 1997 children's CD, "Lookin' for a Rainbow," and his recent release, "Take My Hand." His impressive career as a servant leader includes work as a chaplain to college students, hospice bereavement coordinator for the elderly, and a volunteer coordinator for a homeless shelter. He currently teaches part-time at Springfield College School of Human Services in Boston, and works part-time as chaplain for Hospice of the North Shore in Danvers. Find more information about Ben Tousley at <http://www.bentousley.com>.

Sue Kranz is a native New Jerseyan who has been much in demand as a vocalist and instrumentalist in the Boston area. A gifted singer-songwriter, she has released three albums of original songs and covers and has often appeared with the women's singing group Constellations. A world traveler who has collaborated musically from Peru to Nepal, likewise, Sue has brought her creative gifts to her classroom as an elementary school teacher for many years in Cambridge and western Massachusetts.

Sermon Teasers *continued...*

30 October

Living Fully in Troubled Times

Rev. Allen Wells

Musician: Dave Braham

The way we personally can adapt to our troubled times and learn to live fully in them is the same as how our social and economic culture can adjust to the reality of a changed world and transform itself to become sustainable and thrive. It's all about a change in consciousness.

Meet our guest: Rev. Allen Wells is Director of Allen Wells Counseling in Morristown, N.J. a holistic mind/body, spirit counseling center, and specializes in the new field of Contemplative Psychotherapy, sometimes referred to as Mindfulness Psychotherapy. He served as minister of UU congregations in Weymouth, Mass., Hollis Queens and at The First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn, and also served as Director of Religious Education for the UU Congregation of Monmouth County and the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. Most recently Rev. Well completed a four year term as Consultant Minister of The First Unitarian Society of Rockland County, N.Y. He holds a graduate in counseling from the University of Chicago, and a postgraduate degree in counseling from the Institute of Religion and Health in N.Y.C. Allen's life long interest has been in unifying our internal, personal, psychological world, which we commonly call spiritual, and our external political, social, economic, environmental world, which we usually consider material. He defines himself as an earth-centered, Buddhist, UU. You can find him on the picket line or teaching meditation.

Meetings & Events

Celebrations & Music, Wednesday, 5 October, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

Black Maria Film Festival, Saturday, 15 October, 8:00 PM, Parish Hall

Board of Trustees Meeting, Wednesday 19 November, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

	<u>Senior Ushers</u>	<u>Musicians</u>
02 October	Anne Miller	Bill Stafford
09 October	Paul Axel-Lute	Dave Braham
16 October	Anne Miller	Bill Stafford
23 October	Ann E Lang	Bill Stafford
30 October	Greg Giacobe	Dave Braham

Coffee Hour Coordinator for October: Georgiana Hart



WHERE EVERY MIND IS FREE AND EVERY SOUL IS WELCOME!

**MAKING THE
CONNECTIONS**

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY**

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 998
Orange NJ 07051-0998

Meeting Address: 35 Cleveland St.
Orange, NJ 07050

Church Phone: (973) 674-0010
Minister's Email: minister@essexuu.org

Office Email: office@essexuu.org



**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 1892-93. 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 1934.

The Reverend Darrell E. Berger
Flore Dorcely: President
Greg Giacobe: Church Administrator
Barrie Peterson: Chaplain
Angela Randall-West: Newsletter Editor

We are on the web!
www.essexuu.org

**First Unitarian Universalist Church
of Essex County
P. O. Box 998
Orange, NJ 07051-0998**

