



MAKING THE  
CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

May 2012

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## MARK IT DOWN

- May 6 Maypole Dance
- May 6 Canvass Kickoff
- June 3 Annual Church Picnic



## FROM THE EDITOR Angela Randall-West

There are a number of good reasons why I enjoy working on the church newsletter. In addition to a passionate purpose to learn and share, a couple of the best is getting an early glimpse of "From Darrell's Desk" and church events. When I first read Darrell's column for this month, "Bhutan Tries to Save the World" (page 4)," I wondered where in the world is Bhutan (see map above). I found its location and learned how little I know about eastern geography.

On the topic of church events, I am a self-proclaimed, natural born foodie. So, the mere mention of food, cooking, and...food (like Darcy Hall and Anne Miller's plans for the First UU of Essex Community Cookbook) perked up my taste buds. I would even say that food could be one of the sources of the interdependent web of UU traditions. Social hour after Sunday service is confirmation. Furthermore, if you grew up in a Southern Baptist Church as I did, you'd know how important food is to fellowship and church ministry. When the mom of my fiancé, Raymond Johnston, passed away last year, we found many stained and tattered cookbook pages and 3-by-5 cards of her favorite recipes. Although she was not considered a good cook when she and Ray's dad first married, she perfected family recipes that won his and the hearts of her Episcopal church's congregation for more than 48 years.

This month, I dedicate *Minnie's Pound Cake* to tying the Maypole (May 6), all events, and Sunday services filled with fellowship, passion, and purpose in the UU tradition.

# From Darrell's Desk

## Bhutan Tries to Save the World

The small Asian nation of Bhutan has for several years chartered what they call their *National Happiness Index*. That is, instead of a gross domestic product based on a need for every expanding economic markets, they measure the collective effectiveness of those things in life that make people happy: having enough food and medical care, time to spend with family, leisure and so on. In April they hosted what was called a “High Level Meeting on Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm” at the United Nations. Kathleen and I attended the opening plenary session. Speakers from all over the world took place, including several heads of state. What united them was their agreement that a new way of measuring human progress was needed before all was lost.

Quite simply, the theses was that judging a nation's economic success by standards that require endless expansion, which in turn require ecological devastation and the exploitation of people, is no longer viable or useful. In fact, it is harmful, and must be

stopped. One might think a “Happiness Index” is frivolous. However, the more one learns about it, the more serious it becomes.

In the depth of the recent Great Recession, we read that consumer spending was down; saving was up. Yet this was considered bad for the economy, which requires constant producing and consuming of ever greater piles of stuff at the expense of the environment and the quality of people's work and personal lives.

Is it possible to make a deep and profound change in the way nations measure and value what they do? Is it possible to cease the greed that motivates our economic engines? This conference, and those that may follow agree that we must try. Perhaps in the future we will hear more about the “Happiness Index” and eventually it will be taken seriously.

I am reminded of the Native American story I have retold children on many occasions:

The sparrow sees the forest is on fire. He goes to the river, dips his wings in the water, returns to the forest, flies

near the flames, flaps his wings, and three drops of water fall on the raging fire. The eagle sees him and asks why is he wasting his time in such futile effort. The sparrow says, “These are my friends. I must do whatever I can do.”

The eagle is impressed. He flies up to the heavens and tells the clouds—who are so moved by the sparrow's love and bravery—they bring the rain and the forest is saved.

Bhutan is a little nation, far away in the Himalayas. Yet they see us as friends and our forest is burning. Now, if they can just get the attention of the eagle...

Minister's email

[minister@essexuu.org](mailto:minister@essexuu.org)



## May 2012 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Maypole Dance</i></li> <li>• <i>2012</i></li> <li><i>Canvass Kickoff</i></li> </ul>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sermon:</i></li> <li><i>“How I Got Here”</i></li> </ul>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Sermon: “Exploring Our Connection to Water”</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Sermon: “Thinking Faith Alive”</i>	28	29	30	31		

### Church Picnic June 3, 2012 following the Sunday Service

The annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2012, directly after the service. Church members, past and present and their family and friends, are invited for an afternoon of fellowship, barbecue, fun and games. Watch for further information and picnic potluck sign-up.



# Sermon Teasers

**06 May**

**Maypole Dance**

**Darcy Hall &  
Melanie Axel-Lute  
Music: Bill Stafford**

Service will be dedicated weaving (or unweaving) the tangled history of the maypole and its relationship to UUism in America. The actual dancing of our maypole will follow the service.

**13 May**

**“How I Got Here”**

**Rev. Darrell Berger**

Darrell will host guest speakers Georgiana Hart, Anne Miller, Greg Giacobe, and Bill Slezak as they each tell their story about how they came to Unitarian Universalism and to our congregation.

**20 May**

**“Exploring Our Connection to Water”**

**Jim Walsh  
Music: Dave Braham**

Water is all around us, making up over three-fourths of the Earth's surface and nearly two-thirds of our bodies. Despite the prevalence of water and the how important it is for life, it is not often that we stop to think about water and our relationship to it. During this discussion, we will not only explore our relationship to water, but how the utilization of water for profit by the fracking industry, industrial food production and water privateers is changing how we interact with water and what we can do about it.

*Jim Walsh is a dedicated political organizer with over ten years experience working in local and national movements to empower communities to work for social, racial and economic justice. Jim currently serves as the Eastern Region Director for Food & Water Watch. In this capacity, Jim is overseeing and implementing a regional strategy to ensure the wellbeing of the public triumphs over private interests who profit from the exploitation of the essential resources of food and water.*

## COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

Do you have a great recipe you would like to share? Do you have a great dish for a Church Supper, Holiday Dinner or Potluck? An old-time "heritage dish"? If so, send it along to Anne Miller ([awmiller123@verizon.net](mailto:awmiller123@verizon.net)) or Darcy Hall ([darcylhall@aol.com](mailto:darcylhall@aol.com)). A committee is currently forming to assemble a Church Cookbook. We are still in the early stages of planning, so volunteers/suggestions welcome for ideas relating to food, title, artwork and other aspects of the project. Current and former First UU members near and far plus friends and others in our Orange community are invited to submit their favorite recipes. Current and former First UU members near and far plus friends and others in our Orange community are invited to submit their favorite recipes.



# Sermon Teasers

27 May

“Thinking Faith Alive”

Eve Stevens

Music: Bill Stafford

We Unitarian Universalists dedicate much of our spiritual practice to intellect and reason. We draw from many religious traditions along with personal experiences to feed the never-ending growth of our individual and UU faith. This sermon will explore the balance between the irrational, the logical, the projected, and the divine. Eve Stevens will examine what the field of psychology and its various theories tell us about our spiritual needs, how we interact with the divine, and how we form our faith, as a result.

*Eve Stevens grew up in small town South Carolina as a nearly cradle UU. After studying history in Upstate New York and working as a teacher's aide for Albany City Schools she started at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Eve was recently granted candidate status by the UUA and is pursuing ordination in the UU ministry after graduation in May 2013.*

## May Coffee Hour Coordinator: Flore Dorcely

### May Senior Ushers

May 6	Paul Axel-Lute
May 13	Greg Giacobe
May 20	Anne Miller
May 27	Ann Lang

### Meetings & Events

- Maypole Dance, Sunday, May 6, Church Lawn
- Canvass Kickoff, Sunday, May 6, Parish Hall

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

**MAKING THE  
CONNECTIONS**

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF ESSEX COUNTY**

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**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 1834.

**Darrell E. Berger, Minister  
Flore Dorcely, President  
Greg Giacobe, Church Administrator  
Angela Randall-West, Newsletter Editor**

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

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