



MAKING THE  
CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

June/Summer 2012

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## MARK IT DOWN

- June 3 Children's Festival
- June 3 Annual Church Picnic
- June 10 Flower Communion
- June 10 Congregational Meeting
- June 17 Tour of Yogi Berra  
Museum/NJ Jackals Baseball  
Game
- Aug 22 Celebrations & Music Mtg @  
7:30



## Children's Festival & Church Picnic Sunday, June 3

The annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2012 immediately following the Children's Festival during the morning service. Church members past and present, their family, and friends, are invited for an afternoon of fellowship, barbecue, fun, and games.

# From Darrell's Desk

## The Seven-Day Ministry

Several weeks ago I met with UU Metro District Executive, Andrea Lerner, and Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks of the Plainfield UU congregation—which shares our goals of urban ministry. The “take away” from the meeting for me was that ministry has become, and will be more so in the future, not centered on Sunday morning worship, or, at least, it will be much less centered there than in the past.

In a way, this is not news. UU's were talking like this thirty years ago, when I was just starting out as a minister. Small group ministry, affinity groups, interest groups, prayer or meditation circles, were just some of the names for how we were supposed to move ministry from making Sunday morning carry so much congregational weight.

This did help large churches become larger. However, it has been my

experience that for churches with fewer than 150 members, Sunday worship has remained, for better or worse, the center and primary mechanism of community cohesion and ministry.

What I began to consider after our meeting, was that while small churches have continued with Sunday-centered ministry, the world has moved on. Social media, fragmented work schedules, and lowered commitments to one's immediate community have all contributed.

Our congregation does in fact spread its ministry beyond Sunday in many meaningful ways: from sharing our facilities to involvement in revitalization of the Orange Valley, for example. But we *know* each other through Sunday worship. We have an expectation that new members will attend worship regularly.

What I learned in speaking with Andrea and Tracy is that we probably need to change that model. To what? I'm not at all sure. That's why beginning *now*, we need to begin talking together about what this means and what strategies we might create to minister to this future. Let me know your thoughts on this topic.



Minister's email  
[minister@essexuu.org](mailto:minister@essexuu.org)

## June 2012 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children's Festival</i></li> <li>• <i>Church Picnic</i></li> </ul>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Flower Communion</i></li> <li>• <i>Annual Congregational Meeting</i></li> </ul>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tour of Yogi Berra Museum/Jackals Ballgame 12:30pm</i></li> </ul>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

# Sermon Teasers

*03 June*

*Children's Festival*

*RE Committee*

*Music: Dave Braham*

Join us as we wrap-up this year's RE program by celebrating the work and accomplishments of our children. Our Children's Sunday will feature presentations by our children and the dedication ceremony of Leona Scarlett Schultz, Georgiana Hart's granddaughter. Our All-Church picnic will follow, outdoors on the lawn, weather permitting. See Darcy Hall for details.

*This service will be coordinated by our RE Committee and conducted by our DRE Lakesha Groover*

*10 June*

*Flower Communion*

*Rev. Darrell Berger*

*Music: TBA*

This worship service will precede our Annual Meeting. We hope the worship service will begin an all-congregational conversation about the nature of our ministry in the future, and some concrete steps to realizing it.

*17 June*

*Tour of the Yogi Berra Museum*

*Rev. Darrell Berger*

This is *not* a worship service, at least not in the usual sense. Darrell auctioned off his special tour of the Yogi Museum, in Little Falls, on the campus of Montclair State, at our service auction. This is a reminder to Ross and Anne Miller, Ron Battison, Bill Slezak, Frank Barszc, Harold and Lorraine Mills and Wayne Eastman, that they have purchased their participation. There is room for more. Cost is \$20. Meet at the front door of the museum at 12:30. A New Jersey Jackals game starts at 2pm for those who wish to enjoy a ballgame in the afternoon. Batter's up!

## 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.



## **June Coffee Hour Coordinator: Darcy Hall**

### **June Senior Ushers**

June 3	Greg Giacobe
June 10	Paul Axel-Lute

### **Meetings & Events**

- Children's Festival/Annual Church Picnic, June 3 @ 10:30
- Annual Congregational Meeting, June 10 @ 12 noon, Parish Hall
- Celebrations & Music, Wednesday, August 22 @ 7:30, Sonen Room

## Richard Reno Neff in memoriam

Richard Reno Neff ("Rick" to his family and many friends) passed away on March 17, 2012, at the age of 74. Rick was a folk musician, businessman, Unitarian-Universalist minister and reference librarian. In recent years, he was the author and publisher of "Rick's Journal," an e-newsletter for family and friends on politics, philosophy, art, and economics. He was born in the Bronx, NY, on June 11, 1937, to Mary Himoff and Earl Reno, and lived there until he was nine. His mother later married Walter S. Neff, who adopted him. The family moved to Chicago in 1947, where Rick attended the Dewey Lab School of the University of Chicago. Rick entered the University as a freshman at the age of 16, but left when he was 18, to travel, work odd jobs, and write and perform folk music. During this time, Rick wrote, among other songs, a version of "John Riley," a traditional song that was recorded by The Byrds on their "Fifth Dimension" album.

During his 20s, Rick worked at the Monroe Company in Chicago. In the 1960s, he was active in the civil rights movement, joining in the Selma- Montgomery march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1966, after two early marriages ended in divorce, he married Joan Mahoney. They moved to Berkeley, Calif., where Rick attended Thomas Starr King Seminary and became a Unitarian- Universalist minister. While in Berkeley, Rick and Joan had a son, Joshua Michael, in 1969. In 1971, they had a second son, Jeremy Daniel, after moving to Farmington, Mich., where Rick took his first post as a minister. Rick and Joan divorced in 1975. In 1976, Rick married Kathryn Price, and they relocated to Flushing, NY, where Rick became minister of a Unitarian- Universalist church. In 1979, they moved to Joliet, Ill., where Rick assumed the ministership of another Unitarian- Universalist congregation. In 1986, Rick and Kathryn moved to West Orange, NJ, where Rick assumed the ministership of another church. While in New Jersey, his marriage to Kathryn ended. In 1993, Rick retired from the ministry.

At the age of 56, decided to begin a new career: he attended library school at Rutgers University, where he earned his MLS in 1997. He subsequently worked in and managed libraries in Livingston, Butler and Linden, NJ. Rick loved working as a librarian, but health problems forced him to retire in 2002. After that, he lived in Lake Wylie, South Carolina, from 2003-2008. He moved to Overland Park, Kan., in 2008, where he lived until his death. He is survived by a brother, Alan Neff, in Chicago; two cousins, Susan Burns and William Forbes of Kathmandu, Nepal; his sons, Joshua and Jeremy; three grandchildren, Morgan Rowena Neff, August Levi Neff, and Hazel May Neff; and numerous friends and former congregants around the country, who will miss him and his distinctive Journal. Fond memories and condolences may be left at [www.overlandparkchapel.com](http://www.overlandparkchapel.com) Arr.: D.W. Newcomer's Sons Overland Park Chapel, 8201 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66204, (913) 648-6224. D Cards and/or flowers can be sent to either of the following:

Jeremy Neff 429 E. 70th Terr. Kansas City, MO 64131	Joshua Neff 3010 Bainbridge Cir. Lawrence, KS 66049
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If you'd like to make a donation in Rick's name to a charity, please contact either Jeremy or Joshua Neff.

Published in *Kansas City Star* from March 31 to April 1, 2012

# Annual Congregational Meeting

Dear Members of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County,

This is to officially notify you that the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, June 10, 2012 at 12:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Among the items planned to be presented are:

- Approval of the minutes of the 2011 Annual Congregational Meeting. The text is available for review on the church website, [www.essexuu.org](http://www.essexuu.org). Hardcopies will be available in limited supply at the Annual Meeting. We urge those with web access to review these minutes and send any corrections, additions, or omissions to the Secretary at [secretary@essexuu.org](mailto:secretary@essexuu.org).
- Reports from Officers, staff, and committee chairs. These will be combined in an Annual Report that will also be available on the church website no later than June 5, 2012. Please review periodically for updates.
- Approval of the budget for the 2012/13 church year.
- Presentation of the Nominating Committee's slate for the 2012/13 Church Year.
- Election of Officers, Trustees, and Nominating Committee members.
- Vote on the proposed amendments to the Church Constitution and Bylaws regarding the Board's discretionary spending, and an amendment to the Reserve Funds Resolution to specify an "Investment Committee" as an advisory body to the Board of Trustees. For the text of both proposals, please see inserts or visit <http://essexuu.org/bylaws.html> and follow links near the Bylaw Articles affected.

If you have any questions, please the church office at 973-674-0010, or e-mail at [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gregory Giacobe,  
Church Administrator



**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 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)**

**First Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Essex County  
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