

First Church

FIRST
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH
OF ESSEX
COUNTY

OCTOBER
2012



Election 2012

BY ANGELA RANDALL-JOHNSTON, EDITOR

Don't let the talking heads speak for you

The talking heads (e.g., pundits) will be out en masse before, during, and after the three presidential debates (airing October 3, 11, and 16 at 9 PM EST). Their blue- and red-coded graphs will make it "real clear" on which party line the Electoral College votes [in their opinion] will surely land. Statisticians which predict how "undecided voters" will vote, and the fact finders will hang on candidates' every word to dissect

the facts of their differences, specific examples, and choices. However, contrary to Mr. Romney's opinion (see from Darrell's desk, "On the New Jim Crow") contemporary voters like fact checking too.

Decide for yourself. Check out these sites:

- Debate Videos - <http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012-debate-schedule/2012-presidential-debate-schedule/>
- [Obama/Biden Election website](http://www.barackobama.com/)
- Romney/Ryan Election website - <http://www.mittromney.com>

inside this issue

from Darrell's desk	2
sermon teasers	2
coordinator, usher, musician	3
black maria film+video fest	3
october 2012 at a glance	4
sermon teasers	4
black maria showings	5



2012

10:30 am - Join us for Sunday morning services at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County.



On "The New Jim Crow" BY DARRELL E. BERGER

Americans have the opportunity to vote for an African American President next month, but about one-third of African American men will not be able to vote, having lost this privilege and many others to prison convictions. "The New Jim Crow" (2010, The New Press) by Michelle Alexander tells how American courts, legislatures and presidents have conspired to create a wall that has separated the African American community from justice more efficiently, and with less objection from the rest of the American electorate, than either the plantation or the Klan.

"Slowly, but surely, the rights of the accused have been eroded..."

"On 'The New Jim Crow'" will be the title of my sermon for October 7. The book can be obtained from Amazon.com or local bookstores. Reading the book is not a requirement for attendance!

There is an old parable about the origins of World War II. Workers around the world were told they were building baby carriages.

from Darrell's desk

But each worker toiled in isolation from the others, assured that his tasks were helping society. However, at the end of the assembly line, out came machine guns.

Since the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Jim Crow has been pronounced legally dead. But no sooner was the ink dried on the law than Richard Nixon created his "southern strategy," attracting racists voters with crypto-racist rhetoric. "Law and Order" was its shibboleth. The riots in Newark and Detroit were rewritten into popular history as caused by violent and angry black people, not by poverty and or police brutality. The present day's "war on drugs" is in unbroken line of this racist subterfuge, which includes Mr. Romney's characterizing those voters Mr. Romney knows will vote for President Obama "no matter what."

Slowly, but surely, the rights of the accused have been eroded. Racial profiling, stop and search continue. New immigration legislation depends on the ability to stop drivers guilty of "driving while Mexican." Prisons have been privatized, with no pretense of rehabilitation, as a black American Gulag has emerged, protected by the economic desperation of mostly white, rural towns that depend upon prisons for jobs.

White liberals rightly applaud the election of an African American president and of the increasing presence of an educated Black elite, while remaining blind to the oppression of black communities and the modern shackling of African American men. "The New Jim Crow" connects the dots, lifts the veil, and leads the blind to see.

See you October 7.

SERMON TEASERS

A glimpse of upcoming services

OCTOBER 7 - ON "THE NEW JIM CROW"

Please see this month's "From Darrell's Desk" for his motivation to speak on this important book written by Michelle Alexander, 2010, and published by The New Press: NYC, NY.

OCTOBER 14 - REPORT FROM GA

Church member Georgiana Hart will bring us highlights from several workshops at the Phoenix 2012 General Assembly, including immigration, an update on Josseline, leadership in reading "The New Jim Crow," and more! The vigil outside the detention camp made a sharp contrast to the actual city of Phoenix!

OCTOBER 21 - HEART OF THE MATTER

Rev. Jeffrey Gamblee takes the idea of forgiveness, as put forth by poets Henley, Souther and Campbell and weaves it into the challenges of facing situations where contrition and atonement aren't happening.

continued on page 5

Did You Know?

During WWII, Nazi prisoners of war detained in Southern states were permitted to travel freely—go to movies, frequent segregated White-only mess halls, walk in downtown and other areas—where African American soldiers were restricted due to "Jim Crow" laws.

October Coffee Hour

Coordinator:

Darcy Hall

October 7

October 14

October 21

October 28

Senior Ushers

Paul Axel-Lute

Anne Lang

Anne Miller

Greg Giacobe

Musicians

Bill Stafford

Dave Braham

Dave Braham

Dave Braham

Black Maria Film + Video Festival BY FRANK BARSZCZ

First UU of Essex looks forward to hosting the 31st Annual Black Maria Film + Video Festival and an even larger record turn-out crowd than last year. This year's program will feature:

Anima Mundi - 4 min. by Kate Balsley, Brown Deer, WI.
Director's Choice Selection

Vivid, highly kinetic images flowers, at times reminiscent of the paintings of Georgia O'Keefe are compressed into multiple layers in a crazy profusion of color and motion.

Installation - 7.25 min. by Paul Donatelli, Laura Green and Sara Mott, Daly City, CA.
Director's Choice Selection

'Installation' is a visually poetic documentary about the construction of sculptor Richard Serra's monumental, sensuously labyrinthine installation "Sculpture Sequence" at Stanford University. In his 2007 New Yorker magazine essay, Peter

Schjeldahl states that Richard Serra's work is "...an affair of big rusty things without practical use. It evokes derelict ships, locomotives, and heavy-industrial factories. It also recalls times when miracles of human invention were still spectacular..." This film is an ode to both the voluptuous beauty of Serra's steel sculpture as well as to the finesse of workers and riggers who lift and fit the gigantic serpentine panels into place with grace and aplomb.

Hip Priest - 27 min. by Gregg de Domenico, Brooklyn, NY.
Juror's Stellar Narrative Selection Award.

This is a gritty narrative in black and white, shot on location in Brooklyn, NY. The protagonist is a street savvy clergyman who, in his unique way, ministers to the local denizens. The film's pacing, ambiance, and French La Nouvelle Vague influences (in particular the camera style **continued pg. 4**

Invite family,
friend, co-
workers,
neighbors, and
movie/film buffs
too

**Films of the 31st
Annual Black
Maria Film
Festival Season
Finale**

**Saturday,
November 3rd**

@ 8 pm

october 2012 at a glance

Sunday services
begin at 10:30 am

7

Sermon: Rev. Darrell
Berger, On "The New
Jim Crow"

21

Speaker: Rev. Jeffrey
Gamblee "Heart of the
Matter"

14

Report from the General
Assembly with
Georgiana Hart

28

Sermon: Rev. Darrell
Berger, "Siddhartha
and the Wounded
Swan"

17

Board of Trustees
Meeting; 7:30pm, Sonen
Room

of Alain Resnais' "Last Year At Marienbad") are fused with Scorsese-like edginess and a rich sound track all to make for a highly accomplished and riveting short narrative.

Be Filled With The Spirit - 8.66 min. by Mark Rogovin, Evanston, IL. Director's Choice Selection.

Noted photographer Milton Rogovin photographed black storefront churches of Buffalo, N.Y. in the mid 20th Century.

W.E.B. DuBois endorsed the photographer's work as a true and important documentation of African-American culture. This extraordinary film is a journey through time with live sound recorded on site and released in 1957 by

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. The film features an introduction and lively commentary by the Dean of Howard University's School of Divinity, Dr. Alton B. Pollard III and includes an NPR interview with Rogovin.

Yelp, With Apologies to Alan Ginsberg's Howl - 3 min. by Tiffany Shlain, Mill Valley, CA. Jury's



In 1893 the world's first motion picture studio was built in West Orange NJ, by Thomas Edison, It resembled police paddy wagons of the era, so was nicknamed "Black Maria." The studio represents a cultural milestone. The Black Maria Film + Video Festival was proposed to the Thomas A. Edison National Historical Park in 1980. It's first season occurred across 1980 and 1981. Today, the Festival presents at least 60 programs a year to audiences. While its home base is New Jersey City University, it remains an independent non-profit organization.

Sermon Teasers continued...

Rev. Jeff Gamblee fills the half time pulpit at the Fourth Unitarian Society of Westchester in Mohegan Lake, NY as their interim minister. Previously he served as interim minister at the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, Hastings on Hudson, NY. He also serves a part time post as chaplain for Life Source Services Hospice of Paramus, NJ. He was ordained by the Community Unitarian Church At White Plains in 2009 after a 25 year career in corporate and commercial television. Pastor Jef and his wife, Patricia Wallendjack live in Staten Island; they have two children, two grandchildren and one cat.

OCTOBER 28 - "SIDDHARTHA AND THE WOUNDED SWAN." This story, from the Buddha's boyhood, describes how he healed a wounded swan and by his example, teaches compassion for all sentient beings. At this worship, we invite you to bring photos or mementos of animals who have been important in your life.

"Moving on...Lessons from the Road" by author UU minister Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman (Charles B Ortman Publishing) is now available in electronic reader and in paperback from Amazon.com



For more information on Black Maria or this showing, contact Frank Barszcz at 973-324-9351 or John Columbus at 201-200-2043. Refreshments are included in the admission.

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex is a life-affirming liberal religious community that keeps an open mind to the religious questions people have struggled with at various times and places. It values personal experience, conscience and reason as the final authorities in religion; that the end religious authority lies not in a book or person or institution, but in ourselves. Sunday worship begins at 10:30 AM with liturgy, fellowship, music, and conversation.

For more information, please visit <http://essexuu.org/>, email info@essexuu.org, or phone 973-674-0010.

WHERE EVERY MIND IS FREE AND EVERY SOUL IS WELCOME!

**MAKING THE
CONNECTIONS**

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF ESSEX COUNTY**

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Minister's Email: minister@essexuu.org**

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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

First Church
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ESSEX COUNTY
P. O. BOX 998
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SUNDAY SERVICE
10:30 AM

