



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

November 2013

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

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MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Tuesday, Farewell to Darrell & Kathleen, 6:30 PM, Hat City Cafe
- ◆ Tuesday, 12 November, Celebrations & Music, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ Wednesday, 20 November, Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

Report on The 85th Anniversary of Planned Parenthood Awards Gala

The swank courtyard of the Newark Museum was packed with many people right at 6:00 pm. The area was circled with taste delights, wine and teas. In the center was a silent auction of jewelry and handbags and memorabilia, all captivating to the eye. But most prominent were the friendly faces, gathered to honor and enjoy the celebration.

The first table that caught my eye was the restaurant The Orange Squirrel, with a delicious taste of goodness-knows-what soup. I was captivated at the graciousness of the people who served, and surprised that they remembered my name when I went back an hour later for seconds! Soon I spied Becky Doggett and her husband Joe, that I had invited from the Montclair UU congregation. I hadn't even been sure they were coming, and I learned that not only do they visit detainees but are the hosts of a man from Nigeria who is seeking asylum because of his gender preference.

After I'd become familiar with Spice Thai cuisine of tilapia and marinated beef, I got a little white wine for the Allegro seafood grill and Buono's Italian specialties. Then I bumped into Rickey and Bill Slezak who showed me where the cheeses were—they started with appetizers, like a good gourmet is supposed to do. I was all ready to introduce them to the other main courses, like the Costanera for Peruvian cuisine. Then Carla's toffee and another vegetarian desert by So Tasty Vegan. In between bites I met another couple from the Montclair congregation, Kitty and David Bessey. All these restaurants are

local, and we should schedule a "class trip" some evening.

They had special champagne and more desserts for the honorees. Quickly it was on to the program featuring videos of Donald Payne and the exuberant Cory Booker. Marc Morial, President of the National Urban League spoke as well as honorees Thomas Bass of the Bass Foundation, Rebecca Linn, President of the Orange Orphan Society (I didn't even know of them) and us: The First UU Church of Essex County for contributing half our offerings. A slide show accompanied each presentation and photos of our church, Ironworks and Lambi shone on the big screen. The last speaker and honoree Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood. She talked of her visits to clinics in the South and

began her career organizing low wage workers in hotel and janitorial industries.

The evening for me was very satisfying, mostly because of the warm reception and interest shown to me personally by the attending Montclair congregants. There were at least four others, including Patty Dow who is on the Board of Trustees of Planned Parenthood, who gave me their names and greetings—it seemed that the gala affair was as much for Unitarians as for Planned Parenthood!



Pictured above l to r: Terry Booker, PPMNJ Board Chair; Roslyn Rogers Collins, PPMNJ Pres. & CEO; Rebecca Linn, award honoree & Exec. Dir. of the Orange Orphans Society; Georgiana Hart, FUUCEC member & award honoree; Thomas Bass of The Bass Foundation, award honoree; Cecile Richards, PPA President; and Marc Morial, President of the National Urban League.

November Sunday Services

Services start at 10:30 AM

03 Nov Beloved Community Sunday Social Hour Host: Georgiana Hart

10 Nov *The Very Hardest Thing* Rev. Dr. Edward Frost Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior Usher: Cindy Long, Social Hour Host: Cindy Long

The faith of a young woman in the 18th century the village of Braintree, Massachusetts would have been built by simple Sunday School lessons. She would learn first that there is a God and that God is good never mind the complications of evil yet. She would learn Bible verses by heart. She would learn the basic rules of the Christian life: live by the Beautitudes, the

Golden Rule, and the Ten Commandments. Only gradually would truths be discovered and come to bear on this simple faith in God's goodness and loving care for his children. Then, as John Adams's daughter said, comes "the very hardest thing."

Dr. Edward Frost is the Senior Minister Emeritus of The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, where he served from 1989 to his retirement in 2005. Following graduation from seminary, Dr. Frost earned degrees from Boston University and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Meadville/Lombard at the University of Chicago. He is the author of "With Purpose and Principle," a history of the development of the Principles and Purposes and "Coming Alive," a book of sermons and short writings. He is the father of three adult children, and has three grandsons (and another on the way).

17 Nov East-West Family Spiritual Education: Buddha Social Hour Host: Darcy Hall
11:15 AM Take the eastbound train to Orange arriving at 11:04 or drive.

We encourage members to attend and to invite people who might be interested. We'll continue to create an informal, café atmosphere conducive to an "all ages together" (babies and toddlers are most welcome!) alternative spiritual experience. This month will focus on the Buddha. We had a good roll-out last month, and are hoping for an even better follow-up this time. Tell your friends, especially if they have young children!

24 Nov [Homecoming] *Sagra Della Castagna - The Chestnut Harvest in Southern Italy*
Rev. Phil Passantino Musician: Bill Stafford, Senior Usher: Cindy Long, Social Hour Host: Gregory Giacobbe

Those roasted chestnuts on our Thanksgiving table come from somewhere... they come from Italy! Phil shares the wild story of his cultural adventure in search of his roots in Calabria during their October harvest festival, with some funny Italian folk songs and a folk tale.

Phil Passantino has officiated weddings on TV (Style Network's "Glam Fairy") and radio (WPLJ-FM's "Scott & Todd Morning Show"). He's spoken at UU fellowships from Ireland to Louisiana. He presents educational kids' programs to schools and libraries. He's also a songwriter who plays a mean accordion, African mbira, and guitar. His website is www.PhilSings.com.



Guest At Your Table 2013 Kicks Off on 24 November

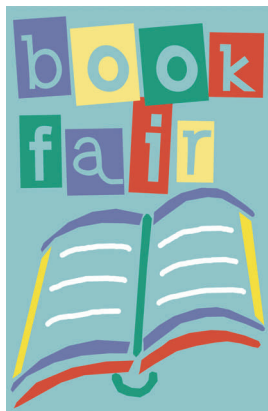
This fall, Unitarian Universalists of all ages nationwide will come together to give thanks by giving back. Through the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table** program, Unitarian Universalist communities celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and learn how to put these values into action. And the experience of families learning together has built lasting connections to UU values for generations of UU youth. Focusing on four major program areas - advancing economic justice, defending civil liberties & the access to democratic processes, promoting environmental justice, and protecting rights in humanitarian crises - UUSC carries out efforts to advance human rights and social justice by working in partnership with local grassroots organizations in the United States and around the world, and standing with grassroots communities as they confront

unjust power structures and challenge oppressive policies. Each program area has a special focus on issues around race, class, and gender as well as how these oppressions perpetuate injustice and human rights abuses. UUSC also provides unique opportunities for social justice activists to translate their values into action by participating in on-the-ground projects.

Guest at Your Table has been an important part of UUSC, and of UU culture, for nearly thirty-five years with more than 700 congregations participated last year. Donation envelopes will be distributed at our Homecoming service on 24 November with reminders at the start of each service through the end of December. Callback of donation envelopes is scheduled to begin on 12 January 2014.

If you have not yet picked up your Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope, you can do so at Church Bookstore in the Parish Hall or by talking with Gregory Giacobe, our UUSC local representative at ggiacobe@optonline.net or 201-823-2459. You can learn more about UUSC's work or support UUSC directly at www.uusc.org. To learn more about this year's Guest At Your Table, including *Stories of Hope*, go to www.uusc.org/guest_at_your_table. You can also donation online at www.uusc.org/givetoguest. Your gift to Guest at Your Table is tax deductible — be sure to complete the form on your box. And remember, gifts of \$100 are eligible to be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, to double the impact of your support!

You are invited to the first Morristown Unitarian Fellowship Book Fair Beacon Press and Skinner House Books from the UUA



Dates: Sunday 11/10 and Sunday 11/17

Times: 8:45 am – 1:00 pm

Place: Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF)

in the Terrace Room (11/10) and Great Hall(11/17)

21 Normandy Heights Road

Morristown, NJ 07866



Cash, checks and credit cards accepted
40% of the profit goes to MUF !!!!!!!



November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 BELOVED COMMUNITY 10:30 AM	4	5 Farewell to Darrell Hat City Café 6:30 PM	6	7	8	9
10 SERMON: The Very Hardest Thing 10:30 AM	11	12 Celebrations & Music Sonen Room 7:30 PM	13	14	15	16
17 EAST-WEST: Buddha 11:15 AM	18	19	20 Board of Trustees Sonen Room 7:30 PM	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline
24 SERMON: Chestnut Harvest 10:30 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30

😊 *Dear Members and Friends:*
Please join us as we gather to celebrate and show our appreciation for Reverend Darrell Berger. Darrell, as you know, resigned last June to work in Staten Island.

Darrell and Kathleen will be our guests at:
Dinner at Hat City
459 Valley Street, Orange, NJ
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5
6.30 PM

I am still negotiating the menu, but it will be salad, sides and a choice of entrees for approximately \$30 per person (not counting drinks). Please let me as soon as possible if you are able to attend.

Sincerely,
Darcy Hall, President



ABOVE: (l to r) Treasurer Bill Slezak, member Shirl Dorman, Board Secretary Greg Giacobe & member Dave Braham at the "Celebration of Membership, Love and Justice" service at the UU Congregation of Montclair, 27 October 2013. Members of First UU Essex were invited as part of the ongoing discussion on merger.

LEFT: People Who Made A Difference Award, received 17 October 2013 (see front page article).

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

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**Vice President: Mindy Thompson
Fullilove**

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

Custodian: Anisha Sanders

Administrator: Greg Giacobe



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.

Orange NJ 07051-0998

Making the connections



WE VALUE: Community... Exploration... Fellowship... Spirituality... Liberal Religious Education... Diversity... Freedom... and Action.

OUR VISION: To be a life-affirming liberal religious community where people of diverse beliefs, ideas and background come together to provide spiritual and intellectual growth to one another and to work together in Orange, New Jersey for a greater good in the world.

OUR MISSION: To study and practice religion in freedom and fellowship. To provide support and care for our community and the community at large.

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.

New Jersey Peace Action's 56th Annual Soup Luncheon

Celebrate Peacemaking with NJ Peace Action

Saturday, November 16th, 2013

Where: **Bloomfield High School**
160 Broad Street
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Social Hour and Silent Auction: ...**11:45AM**
Lunch:**12:45PM**
Event Ends:**4:00PM**

Music provided by **Spook Handy** (www.spookhandy.com)

Silent Auction features theater tickets, jewelry, subscriptions and restaurant gift certificates.

Transforming War Memories: Combat Paper Works by Military Veterans and Family Members



The Combat Paper Project is based in San Francisco, CA with affiliate paper mills in New Jersey, New York and Nevada. The project has traveled to Canada, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Kosovo providing workshops, exhibitions, performances and artists' talks.

Veterans use their uniforms worn in service to create works of art. The uniforms are cut up, beaten into a pulp and formed into sheets of paper. The work generates a much-needed conversation between veterans and civilians regarding our collective responsibilities and shared understanding in war.

We will be joined by:

Jan Barry (US Army, Vietnam) Combat Papermaker and Warrior Writers Advisory Board member, author of *Life After War & Other Poems* (Combat Paper Press);

Sarah Mess (US Army, Somalia) Combat Papermaker, served in war zone field hospital in Somalia;

Walt Nygard (US Marine Corps, Vietnam) Artist and author of *The Summer Joe Joined the Army* (Post Traumatic Press). Combat Paper NJ and Warrior Writers workshop instructor;

Jennifer Pacanowski (US Army, Iraq) Combat Papermaker and Warrior Writers workshop leader, *After Action Review* contributor, author of *Whose Soul Is That?*

Eli Wright (US Army, Iraq) Began working with Combat Paper while on active duty, Combat Paper instructor at the Printmaking Center of NJ.

Coming home from war is a difficult thing. There is often much to account for as a survivor. A new language must be developed in order to express the magnitude and variety of the collective effect. Hand papermaking is the language of Combat Paper. By working in communities directly affected by warfare and using the uniforms and artifacts from their experiences, a transformation occurs and our collective language is born.

“The story of the fiber, the blood, sweat and tears, the months of hardship and brutal violence are held within those old uniforms. The uniforms often become inhabitants of closets or boxes in the attic. Reshaping that association of subordination, of warfare and service, into something collective and beautiful is our inspiration.”

-- Drew Cameron, one of initiators of The Combat Paper Project



OUR MENU:

**A CREATIVE VARIETY OF DELICIOUS HOMEMADE
SOUPS, FRESH BAKED BREAD, CHEESES,
DESSERTS AND REFRESHMENTS**

ON THE AGENDA:

**GREAT FOOD! GOOD COMPANY! WONDERFUL
MUSIC! SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLE, BOOKS AND
SPECIALTY ITEMS**

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