



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

November 2014

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MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Saturday, 15 Nov, NEW HORIZONS Workshop, 12 Noon, Hale House, 2nd Fl.
- ◆ Sunday, 23 Nov, HOMECOMING PUTLUCK, 12 Noon, Parish Hall

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: New Horizon? By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Here is a question I have for you: how do I get my Congregation involved? What if church was a verb - a way of life, rather than simply a place to go on Sundays? The people of The Unitarian Universalist Association have a long and storied history of being involved in causes, public policy, advocacy and human rights to name a few. Are we embracing this call, which relates back to our legacy, our heritage and even our theological mandate of social involvement? To me the single most important way to ready our congregation is to embark on a

"Rethink Church" journey. To me, we should start the conversation now and get to the business of recommitting ourselves to having a thriving congregation and community-based ministry in Orange that involves not only a staff of hired people, but also an active and involved UU congregation that has a mantra of SERVICE! The questions for us at FUUCE are: How do we redefine the church experience? How do we take our brilliant UU message beyond the church doors,

and invite people to become engaged in Orange, Essex County and the World? Ultimately, once we as individuals are prepared for the journey, how do we engage others to actively rethink church here in Orange and truly be a part of the ongoing work and life of this historic congregation?

Invite members to engage in dialogue!



So, I've taken a large liberty. Call it my freedom of the pulpit gone viral. I am putting together a weekend (14-16 November 2014) that will aug-

ment a process of discernment that started with Georgiana's strategic planning exercise a few weeks ago, checking in with us about a host of ideas, possibilities, dos & don'ts, strengths & weaknesses. But more than that, we need to gather information (The Workshop portion will be held on Saturday, 15 November from 12 Noon to 4 PM with several UU and other professionals that have done community-based ministry) and then get your voices (and some important community voices, too). All of this is to assist us. Not to go passively into

November Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

- 02 Nov [NO SERVICE] You are invited to attend the service at the UU Congregation at Montclair, 67 Church St, Montclair, NJ.
- 09 Nov **Strange As Folks** Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Bill Slezak, Social Hour Host - TBA
 "What's Gender Got to do with it?" These words hit me like a ton of bricks recently. Here I am a multicultural 21st century human being and I have a lot to learn about the multiplicity of orientations that exist in the human family. Join us at FUUCE as we explore some assumptions, misconceptions, and even celebratory facts as we learn together more about STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE.
- 16 Nov **Our Ministry Begins When We Leave This Place (We CAN do More)** Rev. Donald Robinson
 Musician - Dave Braham, Social Hour Host: TBA
 Our ministry cannot be solely on Sunday; far from it, the ministry actually must begin as soon as we leave our gathering places. As Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt says, "Nothing that Unitarian Universalists need to do is more important than making justice real--- here, where we are." Rev. Robinson will share his experiences and practical recommendations on how to re-focus our Unitarian Universalists (UU) ministry to fortify, support, and improve how we approach and serve communities experiencing crisis, such as those near the congregation in Orange and Newark.
Rev. Donald E. Robinson is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, and is Founder & President of Beacon House in Washington, DC. In 1991, with the support of the Edgewood residents and the DC metropolitan area UU churches, he founded Beacon House, and has devoted the last thirty years of his life to improving the lives of at-risk youth, serving as a teacher, community youth counselor, social service representative, and community organizer. Rev. Robinson has received two master's degrees; one in Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity in 1989 and the other in Counseling and Community Psychology from the University of the District of Columbia in 1977. Besides his usual 24/7 commitment to Beacon House, Rev. Robinson also speaks at various UU churches, performs invocations for various agencies, and serves as a community resource for any individual in need.
- 23 Nov [HOMECOMING SUNDAY] **Thanking Howard** Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Dave Braham, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Potluck Lunch - Darcy Hall, coordinator
 Join us for this lively service celebrating Howard Zinn. He was a historian, author, professor, playwright, and activist. His life's work focused on a wide range of issues including race, class, war, and history, and touched the lives of countless people. He shared the truth, as he understood it and America will never be the same with out his kind.
- 30 Nov **BELOVED COMMUNITY: The City Story** Discussion Leader: Mindy Thompson Fullilove Social Hour Host: Georgiana Hart
 Over the next few months, we will invite people working throughout the city of Orange to join us for a spirited discussion of our trials and tribulations, triumphs and joys. The work is hard, the outcomes important, and the supports sometimes slim. Our goal is to learn of one another's efforts so that we can all work more effectively. The topic for Sunday, 5 October will be drawn from the University of Orange storytelling project, Hidden Treasures of Our Orange. Some cities have all read a book together, but we don't know of a city that has undertaken the collection of its stories. How will it change us as we get to know one another?

Spiritually Speaking: New Horizon?, con't

another year, but to try to totally get each of you involved, participatory and excited. What could this church-wide effort mean for your faith development and even your life? "Rethink Church" is a call to action for all members and friends of FUUCE to embrace the Unitarian Universalist way of making the world a better place.

So, first, I've got the task of building some understanding and enthusiasm among our people in the pews, and the larger number of you who - for whatever reason - haven't been coming to services. I know without this effort my goal for us is futile, hence the beginning of the process. Hence the weekend workshop, guest speakers and Sunday service with Rev. Don Robinson from Beacon House Ministry in Washington DC. Then we can begin, in my mind, the purposeful dialogue about the opportunity and challenge that "Rethinking our Church" presents to us.

My friends, the challenges are great! The cost of not doing something is frightening. You must decide if our Faith Community is needed in Orange, New Jersey! You must decide if you can find your voice and give the gift of your presence, your mind and your spirit to this endeavor! Lastly, your decisions will have an impact; not only on our congregation, but also in all of the lives we could potentially touch by creating a Community-Based Ministry here in Orange that is focused on service, advocacy, and love.

I look forward to your calls, emails, and participation.

In faith,

— Gordon

November 2014 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

- All Saints Day (Christian)
- 1 Samhain [Northern Hemisphere]/Litha [Southern Hemisphere] (Wicca/Pagan)
- 2 All Souls Day (Roman Catholic)
- 5 Ashura (Islam)
- 6 Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday (Sikh)
- 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
- 15-25 Winter Lent (Orthodox Christian)
- 21 Yule (Christian)
- 23 Christ the King (Christian)
- 24 Guru Tegh Bahadur martyrdom (Sikh)
- 26 Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)
- 27 Thanksgiving (Interfaith - USA)
- 28 Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Baha'i)
- 30 Saint Andrew's Day (Christian)
- Advent begins (Christian)

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 [NO SERVICE] Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 SERVICE: Strange As Folks 11AM	10	11	12	13	14	15 NEW HORIZONS Workshop 12 Noon
16 SERVICE: Our Ministry Begins When 11 AM	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 SERVICE: Thanking Howard [HOMECOMING SUNDAY] 11 AM	24	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29
30 BELOVED COMMUNITY: The City Story, Pt. 1						

2014 The Orange Church HOMECOMING BRUNCH



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

- We'll provide the main course (turkey + vegan option). Bring a side, salad, or dessert or to share. See old friends. Meet new ones.
- Informal discussion of **the change** that is coming to our church.... an opportunity to **be part of the change**.
- As we focus on **the future**, learn a little bit about our amazing **125-year history in Orange, NJ**.
- **RSVP: darcylhall@aol.com** and tell us what you will bring to share for lunch. **All ages welcome**.

"Things do not change. We change."—Thoreau

November 23, 2014 Time: Noon, right after the service
Location: 35 Cleveland Street, Orange NJ



Guest At Your Table 2014 Kicks Off on 23 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 car-

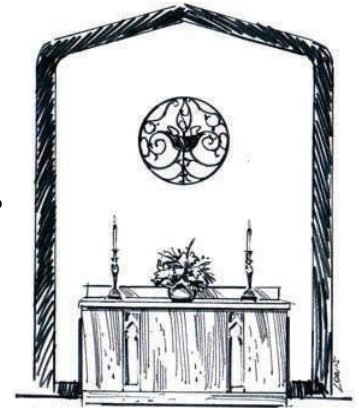
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Happenings @ Montclair

Adult RE Classes and Groups are Continuing!

Upcoming sessions include:

- **Men's Group – Saturday, 8 November, 8:30 AM (Peierls Room).** Are you a man? Are you a UU man? Would you enjoy getting together with other UU men? All UU men are welcome to join a thoughtful, mutually supportive group. Friendly, fraternal conversations provoke reflection, insight and more than a little uplifting humor. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uucammen/> to learn more about our group.
- **Crazy QUUilters – Saturday, 15 November, 10 AM (Rotunda).** Be it a queen-sized bed quilt or decorator pillows, the work done by the Crazy QUUilters brings joy to the creators and the recipients. Our bee includes sharing of a pot-luck lunch. The workshop is open to all willing hands. If you are new to the group or would like info about our upcoming meeting, contact Arlene Marin at arlenemarin@hotmail.com.
- **Senior Lunch Bunch – Wednesdays, 12 & 26 November, 12 Noon.** We generally choose a topic at each meeting for the next meeting, but the conversation usually wanders over several topics of interest to the group assembled that come up spontaneously (and with plenty of laughter thrown in). Everyone is welcome! For info, email Gary Sanderson at gwsanderson@verizon.net.
- **Solo UU's - Friday, 14 November 7 PM.** Solo UU's are adults living the single life from our unique perspective within the UU community. We find many opportunities to connect socially, while we build a support network with adults currently living solo. Activities include joining together for discussions and dinner, and going to a movie, concert or play. To find out more, join us on the second Friday each month at UUCM where we meet at 7:00 PM for drinks and appetizers, and then socialize at a restaurant in Montclair. Newcomers are welcome! For info, call Ed Harris at 973-783-7645.



Guest At Your Table 2014 Kick Off , Con't

ries 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 11 January 2015.

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

Happy Thanksgiving



New Horizons

Join us as we explore our future at FUUCE!

Saturday, November 15 @ 12 noon to 4 pm: Workshop & light lunch

Sunday, November 16 @ 11 am: Worship Service w/visiting ministers

- **Learn about thriving UU community based ministries**
- **Examine our collective goals**
- **Dialogue about our future as a congregation in Orange**

Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey - Consulting UU Minister of FUUCE / Board Certified Clinical Chaplain and Pastoral Counselor

Reverend Don Robinson - UU Minister / Founder & President, Beacon House, Washington D.C.

Om Prakash, Reverend John Gilmore - UU Minister (Ret.) / Workshop Leader, Reinventing Work and Spirituality

Father Eddie Lopez - Director of Spiritual Care / Pastoral Education, Greenwich Hospital, CT

New Jersey Peace Action's 57th Annual Fall Peace Gathering

Saturday, November 8th, 2014

Where: **Columbia High School**
17 Parker Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040

Social Hour and Silent Auction: **1:00PM**
Program:**2:00PM**
Event Ends:**4:00PM**

Music provided by **The Owens Brothers Band** (chrisowensmail@gmail.com)

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

Refreshments will be served.

Civil Rights at 50: To Create Peace, Try Justice



Keynote speakers: **Theodora Lacey**, noted civil rights pioneer and leader, and her son, **Clinton Lacey**, a pioneer in the criminal justice system.

Theodora Lacey began her life as a civil rights activist working closely with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. After moving to Teaneck, Theodora played a major role in integrating the public school system. She was chosen by Bergen County SANE/Freeze (later Peace Action) as a delegate to the Soviet Union in the Bridges to Peace citizen exchange. Ms. Lacey has received numerous awards for her outstanding teaching, her leadership in civil rights, service, and community work.

Clinton Lacey is Deputy Commissioner, Adult Operations, NYC Department of Probation, with 25 years of experience working with youth and families. He was Associate Executive Director of Friends of Island Academy, working with 16 to 24 year olds involved in the criminal justice system. Clinton served as Director of the Youth Justice Project at Vera Institute of Justice, overseeing a technical assistance project focused on the reform of NYS juvenile justice policies. He has worked with the W. Haywood Burns Institute as a project manager addressing the training of those working with youth and families in the system. Clinton now supervises 27,000 clients on probation and is leading initiatives to reform the Probation Departments policies and practices.

TICKETS and Information:

NJ Peace Action • 673 Bloomfield Avenue • Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Phone: (973) 259-1126

Email: events@njpeaceaction.org • Web: www.njpeaceaction.org (online order)

MESH

Montclair Emergency Services
for the Homeless, Inc.

Invites you to an evening of

MESHing with Motown

Featuring

Valarie Adams and the Dimension Band

and

Frankie Faison, Emcee



National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is from November 15-23, 2014.

This is a time for us all to start to think about what we are thankful for, and a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.

MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless) provides meals, respite, and companionship to individuals who are lacking in those things which most of us take for granted.

Please support our efforts by joining us in this fun-filled evening of dancing to live music, wine, passed hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction

Van Vleck House & Gardens

21 Van Vleck Street Montclair, NJ 07042

November 14, 2014

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Tickets \$65.00 in advance / \$75.00 at the door

If you cannot attend, please consider a financial contribution.

Checks should be made payable to MESH or through Paypal on our website.

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
PO Box 998.
Orange NJ 07051-0998

Meeting Address:
35 & 47 Cleveland St
Orange NJ 07050-2907

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

Office Email: office@essexuu.org

Minister's Email: minister@essexuu.org

Web: essexuu.org

Minister: Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

President: Georgiana Hart

**Vice President: Mindy Thompson
Fullilove**

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

Administrator: Greg Giacobe

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.



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.

Orange NJ 07051-0998

Making the connections

