



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

January 2015

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MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Sunday, 11 Jan, Celebrations & Music, 9:30 AM, Sonen Room
- ◆ Sunday, 11 Jan, Social Action, 12:30 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Board of Trustees, Thursday, 15 Jan, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ CHURCH REVISIONING, Pt. 2, 18 Jan, 12:30 PM, Parish Hall

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: A Hope & A Prayer By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Dear friends,

How glad I am to be alive! 2014 was a very interesting year for me personally, professionally and emotionally. I can't say it was the best of times. Yet, on the other hand, it really wasn't the worst of times either.

Our small congregation has changed. Even as we have lost dear friends, we are in the middle of growing and changing. As I look around I see new faces on a few Sundays. I also see a few of our friends from Montclair and, in all honesty, I believe we are headed in the right direction.

Our committees are working hard. Our leadership seems to have their heads on right. They are discerning, grappling and searching their hearts and minds for the best possible outcome for our historic congregation.

So, what wisdom can I share with you? What touching tidbit do I have to share to make our New Year better, brighter, more focused and engaged?

Well, here it is. I hope it finds your spirit open to it. I pray that it reminds you in some way of what's important in life. And ultimately, what's important in our shared ministry.

What can We Do?

Headquartered at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at the Orange campus, the Essex Co UU Urban Ministry operates programs that provide education and enrichment for the community, housing for UU and other social justice groups coming to the Metro New York area for service projects, and space for spiritual and non-religious nonprofit groups needing rental space to serve the communities of Orange and Essex County, NJ.

We make use of an extensive pool of volunteers from Northern NJ and the wider Metro NY area UU congregations, colleges & universities, and the Essex County social service community to offer a greater level of programming than our staff & membership could

provide on its own. An important part of our mission might be to bring together people from different walks of life to work together toward justice, equality and spiritual enrichment.

What also might we Do?

Education & Enrichment - Adult RE courses, book clubs, discussion groups, continuing professional education (CPE) training, etc.; Immigrant support services and possible day laborer support;



January Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

04 Jan BELOVED COMMUNITY Discussion Leader: Mindy Thompson Fullilove Social Hour Host: Mindy Thompson Fullilove

11 Jan *It Takes Every Kind of People* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Gregory Giacobbe, Social Hour Host - Georgiana Har

With its blend of Africans, Asians, Europeans, Latino, and Native American peoples the UU movement and our USA is moving toward a global community inclusive of concepts, mores and cultural paradigms that unite us in a tapestry of humanity. Join us for this first service after the New Year as we celebrate our Global Community.

18 Jan *Ferguson, MO & Beyond: Fertile Ground for a New Civil Rights Movement--Or Not?* Rev. Dr. Heidi Swarts Musician - TBA, Usher - Georgiana Hart, Social Hour Host - Ben Rosenberg

Many observers see the protests against police killings of African-Americans Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and many others as a new social movement for black civil rights. Others see it as a flash in the pan. Still others see differences between these protests, contemporary culture and this historical moment and the ground from which the classic Civil Rights Movement emerged. In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., let's reflect on this historical moment and how this nascent movement is like and unlike the greatest American social movement of the 20th century. What can we hope for?

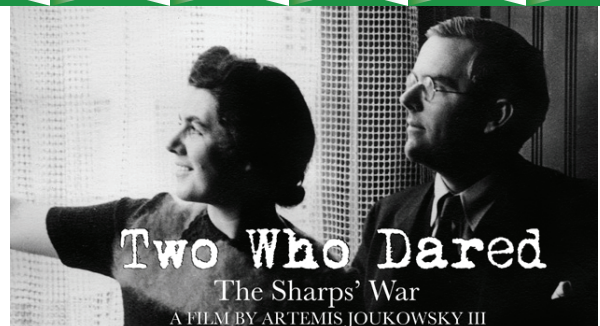
Rev. Dr. Heidi Swarts is a community minister whose ministry has included teaching, scholarship on social movements in American politics, and preaching and rites of passage. She is currently in training as a chaplain at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. Rev. Swarts has a special expertise in faith/institution-based community organizing.

25 Jan *Thurman's Magic* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Frank Barszcz, Social Hour Host - Darcy Hall

Howard Thurman was a giant. He was an influential African American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He was Dean of Chapel at Howard University and Boston University for more than two decades, wrote 21 books, and in 1944 helped found a multicultural church. Thurman was considered one of the three greatest African-American preachers in the early 20th-century.

"Two Who Dared" Showing 25 January @ Social Hour

Darcy Hall and Wayne Eastman will host a showing of "Two Who Dared", a fascinating, fast-paced 45 minute documentary about the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee during World War II. Those interested in our church's historical connection to Norbert Capek as well the UU heritage of service and social justice will want to attend. A light buffet lunch will be served during coffee hour which people are welcome to enjoy while viewing the film.



Spiritually Speaking: A Hope & A Prayer, con't

Community Development, and maybe even a credit union to help people learn about money.

Here is the best part for me as I dream a dream and have visions of grandeur for this new creation. Why can't we in partnership with Montclair, Metro NY District and the UUA decide that we as a community of more than 20 million people could provide:

- Ministerial and Pastoral Care for the new era that is upon us. This isn't about Sunday only. Visiting Chaplains trained by us from around the region might visit the jails, elderly, homebound, or sick in spirit
- Relational. Effective ministry, with a life span focus, built on relationships with people of diverse backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities, i.e. the Haitian, Latino, gay, Black, West Indian, Middle Eastern, African, communities, etc.
- Goal-centered. In articulating our vision and mission as a CHURCH/Community-based Ministry and AS UU's
- Multidimensional. An effective ministry incorporates use of the gifts and talents already here in Orange, Montclair, Essex County, Northern NJ, and Metro NY.
- Holistic and developmental. A New Vision of Ministry proposed as an approach that attends to a wide spectrum of needs and that was attuned to the distinct developmental, social, cultural, and religious needs of Orange as our mission statement calls us to do.
- People-centered and needs-focused. We can create Programs, models or specific activities, recognizing that the day has passed when one program structure could respond to all the needs of the human family.

So my good people what say you? My vision isn't as in depth as yours but I've been thinking about this for a long time now. The end of the year has come and gone. The New Year is upon us and what shall we do? Let us come together as a people of faith. Let us work together as a community that has a vision.

May we grow together as committed sojourners always seeking to walk humbly, serve mercy and build the beloved community that has been so elusive.

We've got a lot to do in 2015, get your rest now! I'm ready to run a good a race. Are you?

Lots of love,

--Gordon



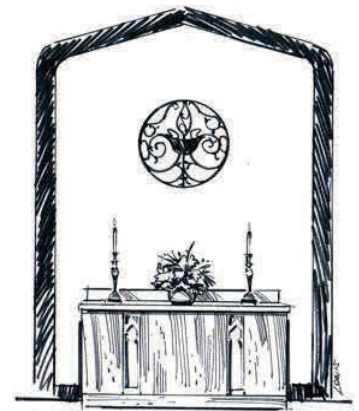
January 2015 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

- Mary, Mother of God (Catholic)
- 1 Feast of St Basil (Orthodox Christian)
- Gantan-sai(New Years) (Shinto)
- Twelfth Night (Christian)
- 5 Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)
- Guru Gobindh Singh Birthday (Sikh)
- Epiphany (Christian)
- 6 Feast of the Theophany (Orthodox Christian)
- Dia de los Reyes (Christian)
- Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox Christian)
- 7 Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
- 11 Baptism of the Lord Jesus (Christian)
- 13 Maghi (Sikh)
- 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (Christian)
- World Religion Day (begins sundown on 17) (Baha'i)
- 19 Timkat (Ethiopian Orthodox Christian)
- 24 Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
- 25 Conversion of St. Paul (Christian)

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NEW YEARS' DAY	2	3
4 BELOVED COMMUNITY 11 AM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 SERVICE: <i>It Takes Every Kind of People</i> 11AM	12	13	14	15 Board of Trustees Sonen Room 7:30 PM	16	17
18 SERVICE: [MLK Sunday] <i>Ferguson, MO & Beyond</i> 11AM	19 MLK Day	20	21	22	23	24
25 SERVICE: <i>Thurman's Magic</i> 11 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

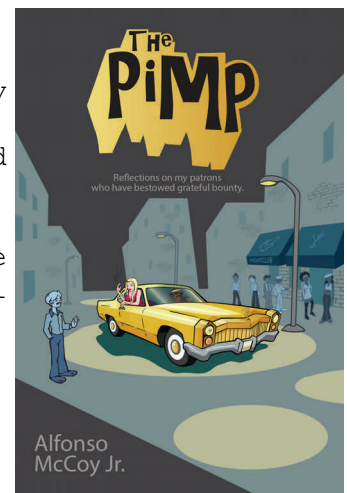
Happenings @ Montclair



- **Solo UU's — Friday, 9 January, 7 PM (Rotunda).** 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.
- **Men's Group — Saturday, 10 January, 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.
- **Music in Montclair — Sunday, 11 January 5:00 PM (Sanctuary).** "Flowers In The Snow" featuring music by contemporary composers Daniel Dorff, Amanda Harberg, Eric Ewazen, Evelyn Curenton, David Sampson and a world premiere by UUCM composer-in-residence, Tom Parente. Performers include clarinetist Ayako Oshima, flutist Julietta Curenton, in addition to pianists Amanda Harberg and Tom Parente. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors, \$5 children. For more info: <http://www.northjersey.com/arts-andentertainment/music/resident-church-team-up-onclassical-concert-series-1.1151096>.
- **Senior Lunch Bunch — Wednesdays, 14 & 28 January, 12 Noon (Peierls Room).** 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.
- **Film Screening PAY 2 PLAY: Democracy's High Stakes — Wednesday, 14 January, 7:30 PM (Sanctuary).** A film by John Ennis about the corrupting influence of money in politics and what Americans can do to take our power back. A community discussion will follow. Donations appreciated. For more info, contact Stefano Crema at stefcre@aol.com or Cecilia Cosca at ccosca@optonline.net.
- **Crazy QUilters — Saturday, 17 January, 10 AM (Rotunda).** Be it a queen-sized bed quilt or decorator pillows, the work done by the Crazy QUilters brings joy to the creators and the recipients. Our bee includes sharing of a potluck 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.
- **Undoing Racism Committee — Tuesday, 20 January, 7:30 PM (Alliance Room).** We are a long-standing committee of UUCM whose goal is to work with our congregation and the wider community to develop, strengthen and act upon anti-racist, multicultural perspectives through worship services, educational programs, lectures, book & film discussions, other cultural events, and community

In Memoriam: William Alfonso McCoy, Jr

William Alfonso McCoy, Jr. of Newark, NJ, passed on 14 May 2014. He was 73. He is buried at the Arlington Cemetery, Kearny, N.J. An accomplished writer of literature, poems, and short stories, he had published several novels, including, "The Pimp" [Right]. A longtime resident of East Orange, Alphonse joined the First UU Church of Essex County on 7 June 1998. He is survived by four sisters, a brother and several nieces and nephews.



Guest At Your Table 2014 Round Up

Starting 11 January 2015, we ask that you return your Guest At Your Table envelopes or notify that you have mailed it directly. Please hand in or notify by 25 January. If you misplaced or lost your envelope and still wish to make a donation before we close our Guest program for this church year, please speak with Gregory Giacobbe, UUSC Local Representative, after service during coffee hour.

For those of you who took a Guest envelope and are planning to return it through the church, write a check payable to the "UUSC" with "Guest At Your Table 2014" in the memo line. Also, don't forget to fill out the donation form located on the flap of your donation envelope.

If your donation is close to or above one of the membership levels, please consider joining UUSC. General membership is \$40, Youth/Student is \$10, and Senior is \$20. All unrestricted donations (those not designated for any specific UUSC program or activity) of \$125 or more is matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset NY.

You can now also give online. Go to www.uusc.org/givetoguest. Please be sure to list the First UU Church of Essex County as your congregation. Also, please notify us of the amount and if you decided to become a UUSC member. Thank you.



Travel to Italy with UUs next summer!



Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to the Hill Towns of Italy, 26 July to 4 August 2015.

Experience the enchanting hill towns of Tuscany and Umbria, view the awesome landscapes, admire the incredible art, taste the wine, enjoy fresh pasta, and all the delights this area of Italy offers us. Spend three nights in Florence, and three each in the hill towns of Siena and Assisi, staying in charming accommodation. We'll explore Cortona, made famous by the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun," see the Renaissance architecture designed by a humanist Pope in Pienza, meditate to Gregorian chanting at the 12th century Abby St. Antimo. The hill towns of San Gimignano, Montalcino, Montefalco, Bevagna, and Spoleto are also on our itinerary. We'll learn each town's stories from its art, food, and inhabitants. Because we are booking small monastery guest house accommodation, we need to make deposits by 1 February 2015. Please see the Itinerary and costs at <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/> or email Beverly Carr at Beverlz@me.com for more information. Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto, ON.

Heavenly Nostrils by Dana Simpson



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Small Wonder:
A Day of Learning and Sharing for
Small Congregations

Saturday, January 24, 2015
Snow Date February 7, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Stamford, CT

Facilitated by

Rev. Karen Brammer, Former Small Congregation Consultant (UUA)
Mark Bernstein, Congregational Life Staff (CERG)
Pat Infante, Congregational Life Staff (CERG)

- Network with leaders from other congregations in your area
- Discuss ideas for more effective ways of strengthening and growing your congregation
- Learn about new initiatives at the district and regional level of the UUA
 - Plan strategies for greater collaboration among congregations

Continental breakfast and lunch provided.

Registration is \$25 each for the first and second person to register from the same congregation and free for all others from the same congregation to register.

Register at <https://www.formdesk.com/uiforms/smallwonder>.

Questions? Contact Mark at 610-639-3389 or mbernstein@uua.org.

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
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Orange NJ 07051-0998

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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

Sexton: Tony A Jones

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



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.

Orange NJ 07051-0998

Making the connections

