



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

Summer 2017

Inside this issue:

Monthly Sundays	2
Letter from the President	3
About The Church	3
Newsletter Schedule	3
Calendar of Events	4
In Memoriam: Rev. Cynthia J Ward	4
Know Your Rights	5
Church/HUUB BBQ	6

MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ KNOW YOUR RIGHTS Facilitator Training, Thursday, 1 Jun, 5:30 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 4 Jun, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ Church/HUUB BBQ, Sunday, 4 Jun, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 17 Sep, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ Board of Trustees, Tuesday, 26 Sep, venue & time TBA

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Editorial: The Three R's by Gregory Giacobe

This Spring was definitely a time of renewal, rejuvenation and resistance at First UU. With the mild winter turning to a cold, lingering spring, we played host to a number of gatherings. In February and March, the church was the site of two town hall meetings on the foreclosure crisis in New Jersey. Led by Orange City Council President Donna K Williams, the town halls both elucidated the grave situation for many homeowners, as well as giving them a chance to express their frustrations. In addition, the University of Orange, a free people's university, began using our spaces in earnest as they held a multi-session musical theory course, their Urban Alchemy Workshop, Amplifying Youth Voices, and Unearthing Hidden Treasures - part of their ongoing Placemaking series. In May, the U of O, along with the HUUB and the Rosa Parks Community School, presented the Music City Festival. Along side these happenings, U of O and the HUUB continued their series of Building Solidarity potlucks with increasing turnout and engaging speakers.

First UU and the HUUB proved valuable allies for our tenants, Wind of the Spirit, the Laundry Workers Center and Lanbi as we built resistance to the anti-immigrant policies emanating from the current administration in Washington. We heard our neighbors cries for justice, and responded by providing not only space but our time and organizing abilities to help make Orange a "sanctuary" city. As a result, our coalition was able to pass a strong resolution in the Orange City Council declaring Orange a Fair and Welcoming community. Next on the agenda is to pass an ordinance and police directive for the Orange

Police not to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We are continuing to work with our allies, as well with the UU Legislative Ministry, to spread the sanctuary movement to the county and state levels.

The theme continued as First UU held its second annual innovative Flower Communion on 21 May. On a mild, partly sunny afternoon, about 15 Members and Friends came together to share in the spirit of former Member Rev. Norbert Capek as we weeded and planted new



flowers in the church's redesigned front entrance way. After a brief break, a small but determined group of Members got down to business for the church's Annual Meeting. Reports were presented, a budget for the 2017/18 church year was examined and approved, as well as a new resolution to suspend term limits for all elective positions. This was done due to a lack of available candidates. In addition, a call was sent out to all Members and Friends for volunteers to serve on the Board, the

Nominating Committee, to handle Social Action activities, including tending the church/community garden, and to augment the Worship & Music team. Those interested should contact the church office.

With summer almost upon us, First UU/the HUUB will take a break to rest, take stock and prepare for the new church year in the fall. We will continue with FAITH+WORKS in our worship program, as well as our work with tenants and other groups on issues effecting our community and neighbors. We here at First UU/the HUUB wish you and yours a happy and healthy season, and invite you back for our first service on Sunday, 17 September 2017 at 5 PM. See you at church!

FAITH + WORKS

First UU has taken to heart the Bible saying "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). We are learning to live our faith through works via the HUUB, which opens our buildings to our Orange neighbors. But to sustain that effort, we know we need more FAITH. In these challenging times we turn to wise people who can articulate FAITH and describe how their faith supports their WORKS. Join us for a six-part series called "FAITH+WORKS" on occasional Sunday evenings for this church year. Invited guests speakers will tell us of how their faith motivates their work, and how we can do the same. Please join us on the dates below.

4 Jun TBD Doug Farrand Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Musician - Doug Farrand, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - TBA

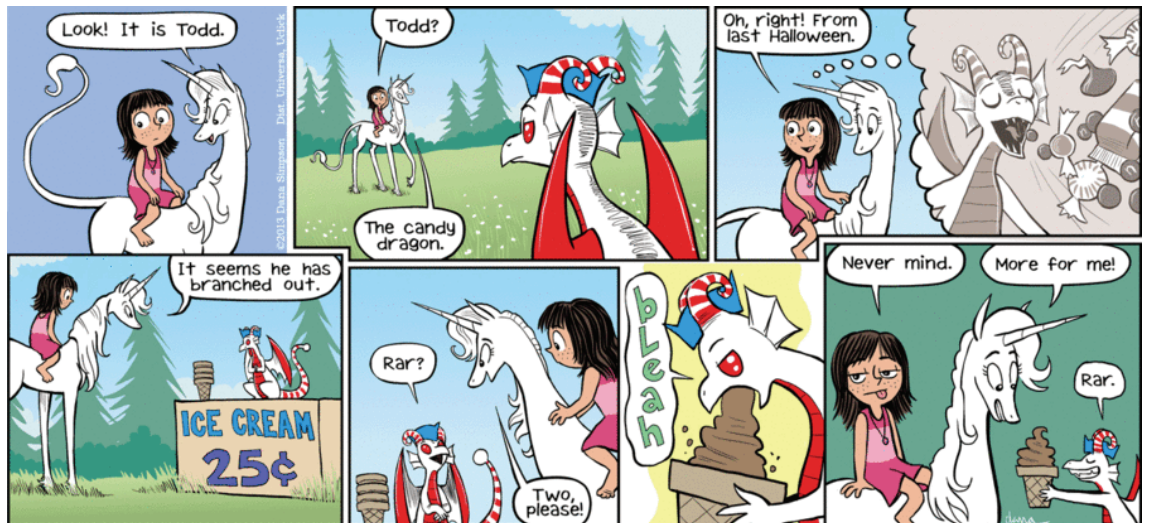
Douglas Farrand is a composer, musician, educator, and learner. Having lived in and around Nottinghamshire (UK), Cork (Ireland), Singapore, Ohio and Upstate New York (US), he currently resides in Newark NJ and works in Orange NJ. He directs and teaches with Sonic Explorations, a K-4 daily, free music program at the Oakwood Avenue Community School, and works with the music department of the University of Orange, a free people's urbanism school. Douglas' primary interests are in music and teaching that invite us to explore our myriad processes of listening and embody a collective investigation of place, community, and personhood. His work has been realized in the USA, Canada, Belgium and Switzerland, and includes close collaborative work with fellow composers, performers, artists, educators, & students. Douglas studied composition privately with Craig Shepard and at Oberlin Conservatory with Josh Levine and Ashley Fure. He has received additional mentorship in composition, improvisation, musicianship, and education from Christopher Fox, Tim Feeney, and Vic Rawlings.

17 Sep *Evolving Consciousness* Rachel E. Diken Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Musician - Doug Farrand, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - TBA

Rachel E. Diken is a poet and playwright. She writes a theatre column at *The Atticus Review*, is a contributing Poetry Editor for the women's advocacy journal *Persephone's Daughters*, and also writes a daily haiku via Twitter [@haikuavenue](https://twitter.com/haikuavenue).



Phoebe & Her Unicorn
By **Dana Simpson**



Letter From The President

Dear Congregants and Friends:

Though this has been a shocking year in national politics, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County has been counted “present” in the growing resistance. The Sunday after the November election, we help organize a potluck at which 35 people shared their anguish and searched for the way forward. Through our new “Faith+Works” series, we have supported people’s spirits in this difficult time. Through our HUUB, we have offered our space for organizing sanctuary city events, solidarity potlucks, Teach-Ins, and more. When a general call went out to UU congregations to have teaching about white supremacy, we could respond that that had been a part of our organizing since January.

We can also be proud that we have taken care of our campus. A leak in the roof got patched, the boiler got replaced, and our building has been proposed for the National Register of Historic Places. Our buildings have welcomed many, many people to worship, organize and play.

Therefore, we [are] both sobered by the national situation and determined to be part of turning away from hate and repression, and [work toward] building a democratic society based on love and acceptance. There is more love somewhere!

On Sunday, May 21st, we plant[ed] flowers for Flower Communion, and then tour[ed] our buildings, to appreciate our new boiler and other improvements that are keeping our buildings ready for service. At our annual meeting, we hear [d] reports about the HUUB and about our Faith+Works worship series. We [passed] important issues of reorganization and our budget for the upcoming year. We reaffirm[ed] our commitment, as people of faith, to be part of the struggles that lie ahead.

I look forward to seeing you [in the next church year].

Sincerely,

Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD

ABOUT THE CHURCH

ABOUT THE CHURCH highlights important events in the lives of our Members. If you have a joy or concern you would like to share with the church membership, please contact the Church Office at office@essexuu.org or 973-674-0010, option 9. We have updates below:

- Upcoming birthdays include SHIRLEEN DORMAN on 2 June, and RICKEY SLEZAK on 12 July. SHIRL is also undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for her cancer. You can contact her at 732-775-0655 or sfdorman@yahoo.com or on [FaceBook](#).
- Belated birthday wishes to WAYNE EASTMAN who celebrated his 62nd on 20 March, and MARY JO GUY who celebrated her 83rd on 5 May.

Newsletter Schedule & Submission Deadlines

The First UU Newsletter is now on a quarterly schedule. Newsletters will published on or about 1 March (Spring), 1 June (Summer), 1 September (Autumn) and 1 December (Winter). Deadline for submissions will be on the 23rd of the month before publication. The table below summarizes the new schedule:

Issue	Publication Date	Submission Deadline
Autumn	1 September	23 August
Winter	1 December	23 November
Spring	1 March	23 February
Summer	1 June	23 May



June 2017

- 1 HUUB: *Know Your Rights* Facilitator Training, Parish Hall, 5:30 PM
- 4 FAITH+WORKS: Doug Farrand, Sanctuary, 5 PM; Church/HUUB BBQ, Parish Hall, 6 PM
- 11 University of Orange Spring 2017 Graduation, Parish Hall, 1 PM
- 21 General Assembly 2017 @ New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans, LA
- 25
- 30 [*Church Year Ends*]

July 2017

- 1 [*Church Year Begins*]

September 2017

- 17 FAITH+WORKS: *Evolving Consciousness*, Rachel E. Diken, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- 26 Board of Trustees, venue & time TBA



In Memoriam: Rev. Cynthia J Ward

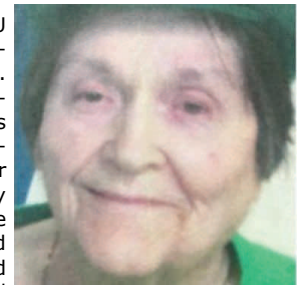
We want to acknowledge the passing of former minister, Rev. Cynthia Johnson Ward, who died on 9 May 2017 at Brooks Howell Home in Asheville NC at the age of 88. Born in Auburndale MA on 11 August 1928 to Charles and Alice Libby Johnson, Cynthia faced the death of her mother when she was only 5. She was then raised by her father and step-mother, Lucille Burnham Johnson. The oldest of five (four girls and a boy), Cynthia graduated from Newton (MA) High School and attended Rutgers University - Douglass College in New Brunswick NJ, where she graduated with a BA in English in 1950. Cynthia worked as a journalist and editor. She later taught high school English, and earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Trenton State College (now the College of New Jersey) in 1975.

While working as a waitress at The Warren House hotel in Spring Lake NJ, she met and later married (in 1950) Jack Leo Ward of Elizabeth NJ, beginning a relationship that would last over 50 years. Jack and Cynthia bore five children: Mark, Keith, Terry, Lisa and Scott. They settled in Princeton and then Pennington NJ. While Jack went on to develop a private psychiatric practice in Trenton NJ, Cynthia was a homemaker.

Born and raised a Congregationalist, Cynthia, along with Jack, transitioned toward Unitarian Universalism, with Cynthia served as a religious educator at various congregations throughout the 60s and 70s. In 1975 she became the RE Coordinator at the Unitarian Church of Princeton (now the UU Congregation of Princeton) NJ, a position she held for seven years. After a time, however, Cynthia began to pursue her call toward ministry in earnest. She carried out her ministerial internship at the First UU Church of Essex County in Orange NJ from 1983 to 1984, received a Master of Divinity from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1984, and was ordained on 17 November 1985 by the Princeton congregation.

She served the First UU Church of Essex County as interim minis-

ter from 1994 to 1996 as well as UU congregations in Hastings-on-Hudson, and Brooklyn Heights, NY. In addition, she was a frequent consultant for UU churches in religious education and congregational dynamics. She was also a mentor for women entering professional ministry and religion education at a time when many women found it hard making their way into that work and being taken seriously. Cynthia retired from the ministry in 2000, but remained active in her congregations, most recently at the UU Congregation of Asheville NC.



In reflecting on her denomination and ministry, Cynthia remarked, "I believe the challenge of being a Unitarian Universalist is the challenge of discovering just what it is you do believe and how that belief... can be alive in your life. As a minister I believe in the challenge of creating a community of faith, hope, justice and love... As a minister I believe in enabling persons to that challenge, that grows and changes in the life of the community and in the lives of the persons involved with that community. We come together today to make our visions into tomorrow's reality."

She is survived by two sisters, a brother, five sons and a daughter, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on Saturday, 22 July 2017 at 3 PM, in the chapel at Brooks Howell Nursing Home, 266 Merrimon Ave. in Asheville.

Her family is grateful for the excellent care that Cynthia received in her years at Brooks Howell and from the staff of Carepartners Hospice. Contributions in Cynthia's name may be made to any or all of the following: the UU Congregation of Asheville, 1 Edwin Pl, Asheville NC 28801; Carepartners Foundation, PO Box 25338, Asheville NC 28813; or Brooks Howell Home, 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville NC 28801.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Join us for a workshop led by Wind of the Spirit and the Laundry Workers Center

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS FACILITATOR TRAINING

TOPICS COVERED

- » Training methodology & history
- » Current impacts of executive orders
- » Immigration rights - what to do if approached by an immigration officer at work, on the street, or at home
- » Safety planning
- » Questions

WHEN

Thursday June 1

WHERE

The HUUB at the
First UU of Essex
Parish Hall
35 Cleveland St
Orange, NJ

TIME


6pm

Translation will be offered in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Please RSVP. For questions contact The HUUB at
973-674-0010 or **OrangeHUUB@gmail.com**



UNIVERSITY OF ORANGE



THE HUUB'S
FINAL SPRING SOLIDARITY
POTLUCK COOKOUT

JUNE 4th, 2017
5-8pm

This is the last potluck until the fall, so come meet your neighbors and kick the summer off right!

We'll have hot-dogs and burgers, so bring other grillables, sides, salads, or libations!

5pm - Doug Farrand's FAITH + WORKS talk

6pm - Grilling and celebrating The HUUB's first year of Community Listening Fellows!

Where:

The HUUB at First UU of Essex

35 Cleveland St, Orange, NJ, 07050



Welcome to **Garden State Equality's**

8th Annual *Equality Walk!*



The DAY: **Saturday, June 17, 2017**
The TIME: **10:00 am registration begins**
The PLACE: **Kennedy Park in Asbury Park**
Grand Avenue between Cookman & Lake Ave

Register: GSEquality.org/Walk

Meet us in Kennedy Park
Grand Avenue between Cookman Ave and Lake Ave
RAIN OR SHINE!

The walk will be a roughly 2 mile circle to & from the boardwalk in Asbury Park.

Your support keeps GSE strong and ensures **we are able to advocate for every member of the LGBT community** and those who need our focus such as **LGBT youth, senior citizens** and the **transgender community.**

We fight every day to protect students all over New Jersey from bullying, harassment, and intimidation.

Prizes! Special Guests! Fun!

If you can't physically be at the Equality Walk, we invite you to be a Virtual Walker. You can still register and collect donations online!

Register at: GSEquality.org/Walk

If you have questions, email us at Walk@GardenStateEquality.org or call us at (973) 509-5428

Garden State Equality, 1408 Main Street, Asbury Park, NJ 07712

www.Facebook.com/GardenStateEquality **Twitter:** @GSEquality **Instagram:** @GSEquality

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

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

Office & Meeting Address:
35 Cleveland St
Orange NJ 07050-2709

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays,
9 AM—3 PM

Church Phone: 973-674-0010

Office Email: office@essexuu.org

Web: essexuu.org

President: Mindy Thompson Fullilove

Vice President: Frank Barszcz

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

**Administrator & Newsletter Editor:
Greg Giacobe**

Sexton: Tony A Jones

HUUB Director: Charlie Wirene



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

