



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

Spring 2019

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## MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 17 Mar, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 18 Mar, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ *Church Seder*, Monday, 22 Apr, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ FLOWER COMMUNION, Sunday, 18 May, 1 PM, Parish Hall & Front Lawn

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

## Editorial: How Are Things at the HUUB?

By Frank Barszcz, HUUB Board President

It was more than four years ago, but it seems like yesterday, when members of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County, also known as First Church, decided to convene a series of gatherings to discuss "Where We Go from Here".

The congregation was facing the very real possibility of having to close our doors after 125 years of service. This followed the loss of a couple of long time church families to job transfers and retirement, and then the abrupt decision by a larger congregation to end discussions about a merger.

Some members of First Church were upset over this decision, others not so much. I have to say I was one who was upset, at first. Those who were relieved over the decision, however, saw it as an opportunity to do something new and different, to reach out to the community in a way that we had never done before. And so, our facilitated discussions with church members and friends helped to lay the ground work for what has become our urban ministry model.

With the help of facilitators Rev. John Gilmore (Om Prakash) and Julie Erickson, we came away with a couple of very clear and basic understandings of who we are as a church in an urban community, along with some ideas

about who we might like to be and how we might get there.

First Church has occupied our beautiful cedar shake-sided building at 35 Cleveland Street since 1893. This fact alone gave us credibility as an anchor institution in the City of Orange.

Second, we own our buildings including a sanctuary with Parish Hall and Hale House that, over the years, has served as the parsonage, classroom space for religious education, and home to various social service nonprofit agencies. As Rev. Gilmore pointed out, "our campus is our greatest asset. It's what will bring people together".

So, with that in mind we decided to turn our UU principals of inclusion outward, to invite community leaders and neighbors into our space, and ask them to share with us their dreams for and ideas about their community.

What makes it home? What makes it the place you choose to live? How can we work together to make this place what WE want it to be? This is Asset Based Community Development and the third component of our urban ministry model.

In order to build this dynamic model of outreach and inclusion to secure further our anchor position, we are continuously investing in our campus. This is neither

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**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.

**17 Mar** *Becoming Social Artists in Uncertain Times* Speaker - Angel Acosta Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove

Drawing on her work in the human capabilities movement, Jean Houston explores the idea of social artistry. This Faith + Works thinks through issues of faith, justice and education through the vantage point of social artists. At their core, social artists are paradigm pioneers and facilitators of transformation. They are involved and invested in contributing to change and societal shifts. With our current ecological crises and technological innovations, social artistry might inform how we can reframe the present moment. Through personal stories and insights, this talk will invite participants to imagine the possibilities of living our lives as works of art.

*For the last decade, ANGEL ACOSTA has worked in the field of education with a particular focus on college access, social justice and mindfulness. He is currently finishing a doctorate degree in the Department for Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University. He studied anthropology and leadership at SUNY Plattsburgh at the undergraduate and graduate level. His academic research focuses the potential relationship(s) between contemplative practices, critical pedagogy and healing-centered education.*

**Mon, CHURCH SEDER**  
**22 Apr,**  
**6 PM**

Come join us for our Annual Church Seder and Potluck on Monday, 22 April at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Good company, good food, and music are all part of the festivities as we come together to observe the Jewish Holiday of Passover, and the freedom for all peoples that it celebrates. Bring friends. Families and children especially welcome. We will be keeping kosher. So, if you wish to bring a dish, please make sure it meets this need. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Kaufman at [molly.rose.kaufman@gmail.com](mailto:molly.rose.kaufman@gmail.com) or 917-664-6335. This will be a FAITH+WORKS service.

**19 May,**  
**1 PM** **FLOWER COMMUNION** Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove

In this new iteration of Dr. Capec's idea, we encourage everyone to join us this day to bring and plant flowers on the beautiful border of our new walkway! Please gather in the Parish Hall for a brief ceremony before proceeding to the front lawn. Please dress comfortably and bring a trowel, if you have one! Donations of plantings welcomed (perennials preferred)!learning where their journeys have taken them and what they've learned along the way.

Editorial (cont.)

easy, nor quick, nor inexpensive. Years of delayed maintenance cannot be corrected overnight. We are tightening up our building envelopes and implementing sound design for beautification.

Reverend Gilmore was right, "open your doors and they will come". The breadth of events and activities we have facilitated or hosted at the HUUB over the last three years is incredible. With the guidance of a managing director and small staff, an active and involved board of trustees and led by our HUUB Community Fellows, local young people committed to the vitality of the place they are from and learning more about it, we are working to reconnect with our community. From youth-led safety and mayoral candidate forums to a housing conference on aging buildings' importance to a city's social and urban fabric, from collective recovery and community organizer trainings to the Sewing Angels program teaching a group of young women new sewing skills, and to hosting Syria Supper Clubs to provide income for recently relo-

cated refugee families, we are busy bringing Unitarian Universalism to life in our city.

I am no longer upset over the decision not to merge with a larger congregation. It was the right thing to do. And those of us who have been involved in this experiment have benefited from it in more ways than I can innumerate. The HUUB is now the face of our UU congregation in Orange, and we are winning new supporters every day. Like the work we are doing to repair and beautify our campus, our work in the community takes time and money and does not happen overnight. The income we generate from writing grants and contracting our services with other local organizations is helpful but not enough to sustain this dynamic program. We need the financial support of members and friends and of NEW members and NEW friends.

Please stay tuned for our Spring and Summer programs and lend your support in any way that you can. Warm regards.

Nominations of Church Officers & Trustees for 2019/20

On 15 March, the Nominating Committee presented to the Board Secretary the nominations for the Officers and Trustees to the First UU Church of Essex County Board of Trustees for the 2019/20 Church year in accordance to the Bylaws of the Church (Art. V, Sec. 4). As of 15 March 2019, the candidates are:

- President:** Mindy Thompson Fullilove (continuing)
- Vice-President:** Frank Barszcz (continuing)
- Secretary:** Gregory Giacobe (continuing)
- Treasurer:** Bill Slezak (continuing)
- Trustee (thru 2022):** [open]
- NomCom (thru 2021):** [open]

Voting on the proposed slate shall take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting, date and time to be announced. Any church member is eligible to stand for the above offices as long as they fulfill the requirements set forth in the Bylaws (Art. V, Sec. 2) and have ten members of the church who are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting nominate that person. Notification of the intention to run, as well as a list of members supporting the nomination, must be given the Board Secretary in writing no later than 15 April 2019. The Secretary will then make a list of all nominees for church offices available to church members no later than ten days before the Annual Meeting.

Annual Church Seder  
Monday, 22 April,  
6:00 PM



Come join us for our Annual Church Seder and Potluck on Monday, 22 April at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Good company, good food, and music are all part of the festivities as we come together to observe the Jewish Holiday of Passover, and the freedom for all peoples that it celebrates. Bring friends. Families and children especially welcome. We will be keeping kosher. So, if you wish to bring a dish, please make sure it meets this need. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Kaufman at [molly.rose.kaufman@gmail.com](mailto:molly.rose.kaufman@gmail.com) or 917-664-6335. This will be a FAITH+WORKS service.



# March 2019

- 17 FAITH+WORKS: *Becoming Social Artists in Uncertain Times*, Angel Acosta, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- 18 Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM

# April 2019

- 22 Church Seder, Parish Hall, 6 PM

# May 2019

- 13 Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM
- 19 Flower Communion, Parish Hall & Front Lawn, 1 PM

## ABOUT THE CHURCH

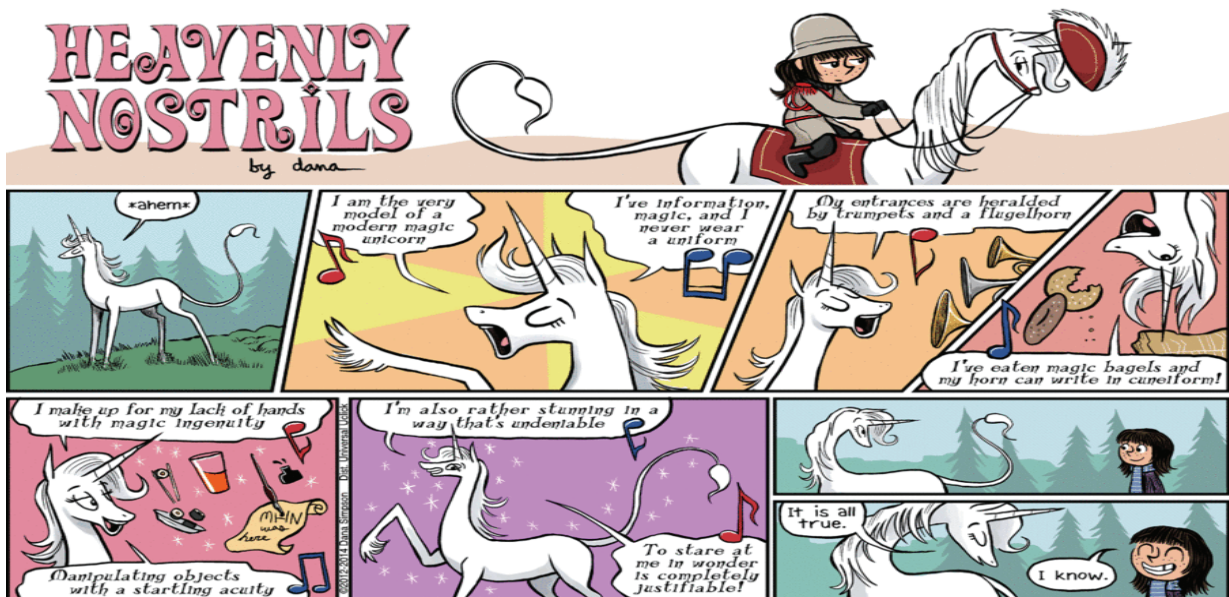
ABOUT THE CHURCH highlights important events in the lives of our Members. If you have a joy or concern you would like to share with the church membership, please contact the Church Office at [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org) or 973-674-0010. We have updates below:

- Happy Birthday to members MOLLY ROSE KAUFMAN (14 March), CAROL BERNARD (21 March), WAYNE EASTMAN (29 March) and MARY JO GUY (5 May).
- Belated birthday wishes to member FRANK BARSZCZ (18 February).

## 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	Mid September	End of August
Winter	1 December	23 November
Spring	1 March	23 February
Summer	1 June	23 May





# Plenary 2019

**April 13th**

**11am to 4:30pm**

**Keynote Speaker : Chuck Collins**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair  
67 Church Street, Montclair, NJ 07042**

Register at [www.uufaithaction.org](http://www.uufaithaction.org)



A PERSON OF MORAL COURAGE

**CHUCK COLLINS**

**BORN ON THIRD BASE**

Growing Up Advantaged in a  
Time of Extreme Inequality

ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

# Voices of Women

OVER 400 YEARS OF INEQUALITY

With voices from women throughout history, a talk by Mindy Thompson Fullilove, and songs from multi-instrumentalist Maritri, participants reflect on the long trials we have endured and overcome.



**Dr. Mindy  
Thompson  
Fullilove**

International  
Advisor on  
Women, Poverty  
and Race

**Maritri**

Vocalist,  
Composer,  
Performed with  
Grady Tate  
and  
Geri Allen



**Sunday, March 24, 2019**

12:30 pm Luncheon • 1-2:30 p.m. Program

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair  
Undoing Racism Committee

67 Church Street, Montclair, NJ

RSVP: [https://uucm\\_urc2019women.eventbrite.com](https://uucm_urc2019women.eventbrite.com)

Donations Accepted

**MUSIC AND WORDS TO INSPIRE ACTION FOR A JUST FUTURE**

Co-sponsor: UUCM Men's Group



Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation at Montclair



**Making the Invisible, Visible:  
A Multi-medial Exploration of Race and Racism  
in the U.S. through a Buddhist Lens”**

**April 25 - 28, 2019  
at Garrison Institute,  
in Garrison, NY**

featuring Dr. Jan Willis Professor Emerita of Religious Studies  
at Wesleyan University, CT and author of several books on  
Tibetan Buddhism including *“Dreaming Me: Black, Baptist,  
and Buddhist - One Woman’s Spiritual Journey”*



For more information and registration visit the  
**UU Buddhist Fellowship at:**  
[www.uubf.org](http://www.uubf.org) or  
<https://www.facebook.com/uubf.org/>



## Universalist Convocation 2019

Hope . . . not Hell

Registration Open

The Board of Trustees of the Universalist Convocations extends an invitation to your congregation to attend the upcoming annual Universalist Convocation.

Since 1990, Universalists have been holding an annual convocation to hold fast the spiritual roots of American Universalism. Join us for the Universalist Convocation 2019.

**When:** May 17 – 19, 2019

**Where:** Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey

### Discover Our Universalist roots!

Attending this Universalist Convocation is a perfect opportunity to learn the rich history of the other U in our UU faith tradition.

In addition, a performance of *Love Notes* will be presented. *Love Notes* is a timeless love story told through selected readings of love letters between John Murray and his American bride Judith Sargent with musical accompaniment.

### Registration

Registration opens on February 4, 2019. Space is limited, so please register early and take advantage of the Early Bird Special (Feb 4 – 28). You can register on our new website [UniversalistConvocation.org](http://UniversalistConvocation.org). Registration closes on April 30, 2019. If you have questions, use the website Contact Us page.

### Dynamic Speakers



**Rev. John A. Buehrens**, former president of the UUA (1993 – 2001), is currently the senior minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, California. He is the co-author with Forrest Church of *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* and many other books. Rev. Buehrens will present: *John Murray and his Impact on American Universalism*.



**Rev. Richard Trudeau** was for 17 years the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Weymouth, MA. He has been actively involved with the Universalist Convocation for 28 years and served as its President for 4 years. He is the author of *Universalism 101* and the more recent *Bible Stories for Skeptics*. Rev. Trudeau will present: *Hosea Ballou and his Impact on American Universalism*.



**Rev. Liz Strong**. The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong is a third generation Universalist, a retired Unitarian Universalist Minister of Religious Education and Minister Emerita of the First Parish UU Church in Ashby, MA. She received the Angus MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education and the Meadville Lombard Board Alumni Service Award. Rev. Strong will present: *Early Voices of Universalism*.

### Kick Off for 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Universalist Convocation 2019 is also the kick off for the 250th anniversary of Rev. John Murray preaching his first Universalist sermon in Thomas Potter's chapel in Murray Grove, New Jersey in 1770. The convocation's Sunday service will be held in Potter's Chapel.

Also, don't miss all the news between now and the Convocation! Become a subscriber to the *Universalist Herald*, the oldest continuously published liberal religious periodical in North America. Visit <http://universalist-herald.org>.



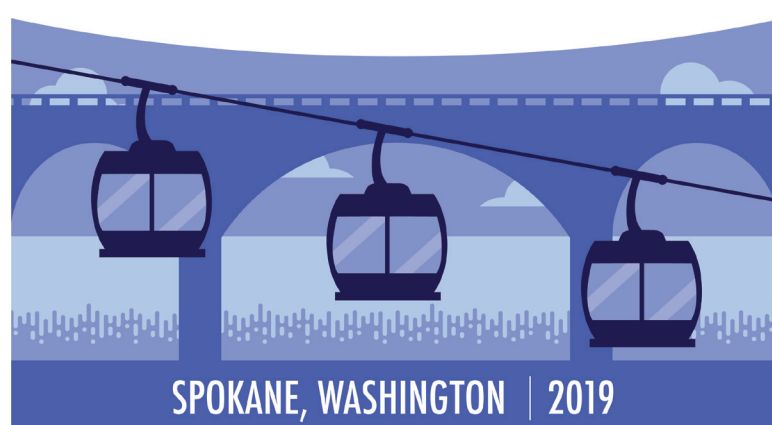


# THE POWER OF WE

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UU's to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity.

**Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.**



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Visit [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga) for

- Programming Information
- Registration and Housing
- Financial Aid Information
- Volunteer Opportunities



**Ware Lecturer Richard Blanco**

Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role.



**Robin DiAngelo**

Author of *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo speaks dynamically on what it means to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless, yet is deeply divided by race.



**Rev. Lindi Ramsden**

Rev. Lindi Ramsden, Director of Partnerships and Emerging Programs at Starr King School for the Ministry, will deliver the sermon at the Service of the Living Tradition.



**Rev. Marta I. Valentín**

Rev. Marta I. Valentín, minister with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, MA, will deliver the sermon at the Sunday Morning Worship.

# UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON | JUNE 19–23, 2019

**We are on the web: [essexuu.org](http://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](mailto:office@essexuu.org)

Web: [essexuu.org](http://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

