



MAKING THE  
CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

November 2011



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 2 From Darrell's Desk
- Page 3 Guests at Your Table
- Page 4 November at a Glance
- Page 5 Sermon Teasers
- Page 6 NJ PEACE ACTION

## MARK IT DOWN

- Nov 6 Sermon: "Jesus is for Losers Rivers to Cross"
- Nov 12 NJ Peace Action 54th Annual Soup Luncheon, 11:45, 160 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ
- Nov 13 "Honoring Your Inherent Worth and Dignity"
- Nov 16 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30, Sonen Room
- Nov 20 **Sermon: "Coming Home to Zucotti Park" - First UU Homecoming Celebration**
- Nov 27 "Why We Cry: Tears in the Fabric of Community"

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Angela Randall-West*

Now, where did I put my boots and gloves? Seriously. The weather historians say the last time our part of New Jersey had a snowstorm in October was over 100 years ago. Most of us can brag that we did not experience that event; thus we were the less ready for this storm. I must admit that not even my galoshes could have prepared me for the devastation in my neighborhood—and others I watched on TV from Maine to Maryland on Saturday, October 27.

Like the topic of Rev. Passantino's sermon *Why We Cry: Tears In The Fabric of Community* (see *Sermon Teasers*, p. 5) many neighborhoods and families continue to cry as they still have not recovered from the hurricane in August, now destruction from snow. It will take a while for communities to mend and find normalcy after the loss of homes, electric power, and decades-old oak and maple trees, which just weeks ago offered protection from the blazing summer sun. In the meantime, I am having a hard time wrapping my brain around the task of shoveling snow before raking leaves. How is your community healing? Share your stories; send your email to [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org).

## From Darrell's Desk

### The New King Memorial

I was amazed and sorry that the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial in Washington, DC on the National Mall did not make a bigger media splash. The dedication date was postponed due to Hurricane Irene, and the rescheduled event was smaller and perhaps anticlimactic.

When I consider that Dr. King's image will "for the ages" be close to the Lincoln Memorial, I remember the first time I visited there. I was ten years old and thought, "Wow, that's a really big statue and he's sitting in a really, really big chair." In fact, if the Lincoln statue were standing, it would be twenty-eight feet tall.

The memorial was dedicated in 1922, fifty-seven years after Lincoln's death. There was great controversy about the design, which was changed several times. The

original design was very large and grandiose, featuring horses and riders around the exterior. It was replaced by a log cabin memorial, which was rejected for the compromise design now standing. Even as it was dedicated, there was controversy that the memorial was too much this or not enough that. Lincoln said you could not fool all the people all the time. Apparently trying to build a memorial to a public figure proves that it is also impossible to please all the people all the time.

The King memorial proves this, also. It was created by a Chinese man, which in itself was controversial. That race and nationality should become an issue surrounding a King memorial is sadly ironic, yet I understand the feeling that an African American artist should have received the commission.

Some also say the figure does not look all that much like Dr.

King, and that he is shown in a stern, almost angry stance. This was not what King was about, critics say. His image should have been one of compassion and love.

I agree it doesn't look exactly like him. But it is close enough that people won't think it is a memorial to Malcolm X. The angry stance, I think, is a more salient issue. Yes, I cherish the memory of Dr. King because of his ability to maintain the principles of non-violence and compassion. I don't think anyone is going to forget King's association with these values.

My take on the memorial's countenance is a little different. This is the first statue of a Black man on the National Mall. It will be the way "the ages" will see the Black man in the United States' first two centuries. I think it is altogether fitting and proper that there be some anger in that face.

Minister's email  
[minister@essexuu.org](mailto:minister@essexuu.org)

### Homecoming is November 20th!

Come and enjoy with family and friends



Bring a Main Dish, Veggies, Salad, Dessert, or Drinks to share. Paper Goods also welcome.

**Please let Darcy Hall know what you will be bringing.**

You can contact her at 973-763-5552 or [darcyhall@aol.com](mailto:darcyhall@aol.com). You can also contact the church office at 973-674-0010 or [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org) and leave a message for Darcy.

It's time to  
welcome a guest at  
your table!

## Guest at Your Table

by Greg Giacobe



On November 20, 2011, we'll open our *Guest at Your Table* program with an intergenerational worship. When we bring home our *Guest at Your Table* boxes and place them prominently where we regularly gather, our families and friends have the chance to learn about real people who are succeeding in their struggles for justice with UUSC.

Stories of Hope will help children, youth, and adults learn more about how UUSC partners with human-rights leaders in the United States and around the world to advance our common goals for justice. The stories introduce youth and young-adult leaders such as Dalia Ziada, who started speaking out by winning

an essay contest and now helps others in Egypt find their voice and advocate for their rights. One story highlights Patrick Lafontant, who survived on his own in Haiti but then thrived when he found a purpose helping others through art therapy. His leadership grew with a new purpose after the earthquake and by working with UUSC partner the Association for the Promotion of Integral Family Healthcare.

Consider making it part of a weekly practice, perhaps while gathered at the dinner table, to read through one of the stories and discuss its meaning and how we each can help. When we share our blessings with our "guests," we ensure that UUSC and people like Dalia and Patrick can continue their important work.

A special thanks goes to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in

Manhasset, NY. Through their matching gifts program, gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, thus doubling the impact of your support!

If you miss picking up your *Guest at Your Table* donation box (like the one in the picture above) or envelope, and *Stories of Hope* book, you can do so at the church bookstore or by talking with me, Gregory Giacobe, our UUSC local representative, at [ggiacobe@optonline.net](mailto:ggiacobe@optonline.net) or 201-823-2459. You can learn more about UUSC's work or support UUSC directly at [www.uusc.org](http://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](http://www.uusc.org/guest_at_your_table).

## Social Hour and Altar Flower Volunteers Needed

Many of our church's activities are run and coordinated by volunteers—members and friends who give their time and talents to help make the church a pleasant experience. Would you like to help? We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as hosts for our Sunday Social Hours held after services, as well as to bring flowers for our altar table each Sunday before service. For Social Hour, please contact the coordinator listed in this month's newsletter, or call the church office at (973) 674-0010 or at [office@essexuu.org](mailto:office@essexuu.org). We will contact you to confirm your date. Thank you.

November

## November 2011 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Sermon: "Jesus is for Losers Rivers to Cross"	7	8	9	10	11	12 NJ Peace Action 54th Annual Soup Luncheon, 11:45, 160 Broad St., Bloomfield, NJ
13 "Honoring Your Inherent Worth and Dignity"	14	15	16 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30, Sonen Room	17	18	19
20 Sermon: "Coming Home to Zucotti Park" First UU Homecoming Celebration	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 "Why We Cry: Tears in the Fabric of Community"	28	29	30			

## Sermon Teasers

6 November

*Jesus is for Losers*

**Rev. Darrell Berger**

**Musician: TBA**

For years, we have seen athletes crossing themselves in the batter's box pointing to the sky while they trot around the bases, or kneeling on the sidelines in collective prayer before the kickoff. These rituals have been around for over a century, and used to be called "muscular Christianity." This Sunday we will take a look at this interesting and long-lasting phenomenon, and also examine what happens to one's faith when an all-powerful God chooses your team to lose.

A teen group from East Orange Planned Parenthood, our current Share-the-Plate partner, will present a brief sketch after worship in the Parish Hall, live on stage!

13 November

*Honoring Your Inherent Worth & Dignity*

**Melanie Davis, PhD, CSE**

**Musician: Bill Stafford**

The 1st UU principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all people, yet we may neglect to affirm our own. Melanie offers a spiritual framework for using affirmative self-talk that frees listeners to focus less on their flaws and more on serving others.

Melanie Davis, PhD belongs to the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, where she serves as vice president. Through her firm, Honest Exchange LLC, she provides professional development on sexuality topics for healthcare providers and educators. Through the New Jersey Center for Sexual Wellness, she consults with individuals and couples. Dr. Davis is the Unitarian Universalist Association's OWL Program Associate. In her capacity, she oversees the upcoming revision of the Grades 7-9 sexuality education curriculum. Dr. Davis holds a B.A. in mass communications and a Doctorate in Human Sexuality Education. She is the author of a workbook titled, "Sexuality Talking Points: A Guide toward thoughtful conversations between parents and children."

20 November

*Coming Home to Zucotti Park*

**Rev. Darrell Berger**

**Musician: TBA**

Is the next generation of progressive American activists coming of age in a small park near Wall Street? This is Homecoming Sunday for our congregation. Homecoming is by nature a nostalgic enterprise. Seeing young people in peaceful protest against corrupt power is a very nostalgic experience for many of us. Let us not, however, limit ourselves to nostalgia. Here is a homework assignment before this Sunday: get down to Zucotti Park and see what is happening! It is history, man.

27 November

*Why We Cry: Tears in the Fabric of Community*

**Rev. Phil Passantino**

**Musician: TBA**

Why do we cry? There are scientific explanations and spiritual explanations. Both point to the same idea: tears are healthy for people and their communities. Rev. Phil Passantino is an ordained minister who has spoken in UU Fellowships from the Poconos to Ireland. He officiates unique and meaningful weddings, baptisms, and funerals for people of all faith backgrounds. Rev. Passantino is also a singer who writes UU hymns. His website is [www.AmazingCeremonies.com](http://www.AmazingCeremonies.com)

## Meetings & Events

### Meetings & Events:

Board of Trustees Meeting, Wednesday, 16 November 2011, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

Homecoming Potluck, Sunday, 20 November, 12 Noon, Parish Hall (see announcement)

	<u>Senior Ushers</u>	<u>Musicians</u>
06 November	Anne Miller	Bill Stafford
13 November	Greg Giacobe	Bill Stafford
20 November	Anne Miller	Bill Stafford
27 November	Ann E Lang	TBA

*Coffee Hour Coordinator(s) for November:*  
**Cindy Long**



## NJ Peace Action 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup Luncheon

*Move the Money – Stop the War Machine*

**Location:** Bloomfield High School  
160 Broad Street  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

**Date:** Saturday, 12 November 2011  
**Social Hour & Silent Auction: 11:45AM**  
**Lunch – 12:45PM Event Ends at 4:00PM**

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

You can make reservations for our 54th Annual Soup Luncheon at [www.njpeaceaction.org](http://www.njpeaceaction.org) or contact the First UU Church of Essex County at [info@essexuu.org](mailto:info@essexuu.org) or 973-674-0010 and say you're interested.



**Phyllis  
Bennis**

"As is recognized by the 60% of people in the U.S. who understand that the war in Afghanistan is 'not worth fighting,' this is a war we cannot win and cannot afford. There is no military solution – we've heard that for years now, from the very leaders orchestrating the war, in the Pentagon, in Congress, in the White House. And yet, the military battle goes on, despite its inevitable failure."

Phyllis Bennis is a Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington DC, where she directs the New Internationalism Project. She is also a fellow of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam. She works on U.S. foreign policy issues, particularly regarding Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Palestine, as well as United Nations issues, especially regarding democratization of the UN and the challenge of U.S. domination of the UN. She serves as an informal adviser to several top UN officials on Palestine and UN empowerment issues. Phyllis Bennis has been interviewed on C-SPAN's Book TV, Democracy Now! and NPR. Her most recent book is *ENDING THE US WAR IN AFGHANISTAN: A PRIMER* (with David Wildman).



**Judith  
LeBlanc**

"We are trying to take the movement that rose in majority opposition to the war in Iraq into a new national dialogue about the impact of the war and the occupation of Afghanistan. We are operating in a new political space in which we may have great success in helping people understand that you cannot solve issues around national security with war. That the mere presence of the US military in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan gives rise to insurgency."

Judith LeBlanc, Field Director of Peace Action, coordinates efforts on campaigns to cut military spending, nuclear abolition and to oppose the war in Afghanistan. She works closely with Peace Action's affiliates on grassroots organizing efforts. She helps coordinate the efforts of the New Priorities Network, a national network supporting grassroots organizing to "move the money from wars and weapons to fund human needs." From 2003- 2009, she worked with United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) coordinating national outreach efforts and served two terms as UFPJ National Co-Chair. She is a member of the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma and lives in Harlem, NY.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**NJ Peace Action**  
email: [director@njpeaceaction.org](mailto:director@njpeaceaction.org)  
phone: 973-744-3263  
web: <http://www.njpeaceaction.org>

**First UU Church of Essex County**  
[info@essexuu.org](mailto:info@essexuu.org)  
973-674-0010  
<http://essexuu.org>

**WHERE EVERY MIND IS FREE AND EVERY SOUL IS WELCOME!**

**MAKING THE  
CONNECTIONS**

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF ESSEX COUNTY**

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 998  
Orange NJ 07051-0998

Meeting Address: 35 Cleveland St.  
Orange, NJ 07050

Church Phone: (973) 674-0010  
Minister's Email: minister@essexuu.org

Office Email: office@essexuu.org



**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 1892-93. 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 1934.

**The Rev. Darrell E. Berger**  
**Flore Dorcely: President**  
**Greg Giacobe: Church Administrator**  
**Angela Randall-West: Newsletter Editor**

*We are on the web!*  
[www.essexuu.org](http://www.essexuu.org)

**First Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Essex County  
P. O. Box 998  
Orange, NJ 07051-0998**

