



MAKING THE
CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

January 2012

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MARK IT DOWN

- Jan 8 Book Discussion, 12pm
- Jan 11 Celebrations & Music @ 7:30pm
- Jan 15 Congregational Poll Ends
- Jan 18 Bd of Trustees Mtg @ 7:30,
Sonnen Room



FROM THE EDITOR Angela Randall-West

I usually do not have time to watch a movie; however, the winter break from school provided me with a few opportunities to do so. The Adjustment Bureau had a profound meaning as I ushered in the new year. In the movie the main character, David Norris (Matt Damon of The Bourne trilogy) encounters fate, is revealed his future, chooses to exercise free will rather than divine intervention, and fight for his destiny. For some folks it takes a long time to believe in self-efficacy—that we have control over our destiny. Resolutions can be the start of taking control.

We have been programmed, or brainwashed if you will, and give too much power to the higher power. Some of us get conditioned to putting things off, procrastinating, leaving things to chance, or choosing to just stay in the box. Overprotective parents, religion, and culture keep us in our comfort zone. Transitioning to 2012 provides an opportunity to pledge to dissolve one of the walls of your box. Control your destiny. Now, there's a resolution for the new year!

From Darrell's Desk

A Community

In 1919 the Rev. John Haynes Holmes led his Manhattan congregation in changing its name from The Church of the Messiah to The Community Church, as it remains today on 35th Street between Madison and Park Avenues.

Over the years, the Rev. Holmes introduced Gandhi to America, and became a founding member of both the NAACP and the ACLU. He is considered a central figure not only in the history of Unitarianism in the twentieth century, but of the civil rights, free speech and peace movements.

The idea behind the name change was to recognize the broader mission that the church had untaken. It was not to be dedicated only to the individual worshipper's edification and spiritual development, but to become the spiritual center of the community's struggle for peace and justice. It remained part of the American Unitarian Association, but wore its denominational trappings loosely, as few other congregations embraced such progressive values.

I was reminded of this great ministry at the 25th Anniversary of H.A.N.D.S. (Housing and Neighborhood

Development) last November at Luna Stage. The organization traces its origins to the effort to desegregate the Orange school system, led by, among others, Ernie and Maggie Thompson. A few years ago our Parish Hall celebrated the 50th anniversary of this effort, at which time a new vision of the just and beautiful city was born, based on the work of Dr. Mindy Fullilove, Ernie's and Maggie's daughter. There is a photo of Mindy as a girl in the Sonen Room, looking proudly at an R.E. project, along with several other children.

Our congregation has become a community church true to Rev. Holmes' vision. We minister to our members' individual needs, certainly, but that is only the beginning of why we are in Orange. Our larger and deeper vision is of the just and beautiful city. Thus we remember our past while cultivating a brighter future by encouraging and partnering with other organization with similar goals. These include the many congregations and organizations that share our space, the collective known as Valley Arts and, more recently, the Planned Parenthood location in East Orange. In January, I will be speaking to Rotary clubs in

Maplewood and South Orange in my new capacity as a Board member of Valley Arts.

Our role is central and important. A movement needs a spiritual center, a place where various diverse interests can come together in common cause. Other congregations may be dedicated to saving souls, as they should. Ours is to save cities, communities. We are a congregation of individuals gathered for work that is greater than ourselves. This is a blessing. We give thanks to the growing numbers of people and organizations that share our vision and are working with us in ever more concrete, here-and-now ways, to make that vision a reality.

Minister's email
minister@essexuu.org

January 2012 at a Glance

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sermon "The Wheels of Ezekiel" • Book Discussion, 12pm 	9	10	11 Celebrations & Music, 7:30 Sonen Room	12	13	14
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sermon "The Civil Right Struggle in 2012" • Congregational Poll Ends 	16	17	18 Board of Trustees Mtg, 7:30 Sonen Room	19	20	21
22 Sermon "Crossing Beale Street"	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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. We will contact you to confirm your date. Thank you.

Help Wanted!

The Church is looking for someone who can help with maintenance and routine security chores in exchange for room and board. A list of duties is available upon request. Please contact either Rev. Berger at minister@essexuu.org or contact the church office at office@essexuu.org or (973) 674-0010



Guests at Your Table Collection



Starting January 8, 2012, we ask that you return your Guest at Your Table boxes and envelopes. All boxes and envelopes should be submitted by January 22. If you still wish to make a donation before the donation period for Guests at Your Table, please speak to Greg Giacobe, UUSC Local Representative, after service during coffee hour.

For those of you who took a *Guest* collection box please do not hand in loose change or bills. Instead, count the money you have collected and write a check for that amount payable to "UUSC". Write "Guest at Your Table 2011" on the memo line. Also, do not forget to fill out the donation form located on the bottom of your collection box, disconnect it, and hand it in with your check.

For those of you who took donation envelopes, simply place

your check in the envelopes, fill out the form on the flap, and seal it.

If your donation is close to or above one of the membership levels, please consider joining UUSC. **General** membership is \$40. Dual **Adult** membership is \$75; **Youth/Student** member is \$10, and Senior if \$20. All unrestricted donations (those not designated for any specific UUSC program or activity) of \$100 or more are matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY.

You can also give online. Go to www.uusc.org/givetoguest. Please be sure to list the First UU Church of Essex County as your congregation. Additionally, after making your donation take a moment to notify us of the amount and if you decided to become a UUSC member.

Notice: Please collect holiday cards addressed to you by Sunday, January 15, 2012. Uncollected cards will be discarded. The box will be available in the Bladgett Room (formerly the church office).

Meetings & Events:

Book Discussion: The Death of Josseline continues, Sunday, January 8, 12 Noon, Parish Hall

Celebrations & Music, Wednesday, January 11, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

2012 Congregational Poll Ends, January 15 (See notice on website)

Board of Trustees, Wednesday, January 18, 7:30 PM, Sonen Room

	<i>Senior Ushers</i>	<i>Musicians</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
January 8	Paul Axel-Lute	Bill Stafford	Anne & Ross Miller
January 15	Greg Giacobe	Dave Braham	TBA
January 22	Ann E Lang	Dave Braham	TBA
January 29	Anne Miller	Dave Braham	TBA

Coffee Hour Coordinator for January: Darcy Hall

Note: A new church directory is available on the Members Download page at <http://essexuu.org/members/downloads.html> in either plain text or in booklet layout. A few hardcopies will be available for those without email access and for new members.

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 1834.

Darrell E. Berger, Minister
Flore Dorcely, President
Greg Giacobe, Church Administrator
Angela Randall-West, Newsletter Editor

We are on the web!
www.essexuu.org

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of Essex County
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