



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

June 2015

Inside this issue:

June Sundays	2
June Interfaith Calendar	2
Happenings @ Montclair	3
In Memoriam: Mary Hildebrandt	3
June Calendar of Events	4

MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Board of Trustees, Tuesday, 2 June, 7 PM, Sonen Room
- ◆ Annual Meeting, Sunday, 14 June, 12:30 PM, Parish Hall

Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: Changes, Contradictions & Good-byes

By Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

June is a month full of contradictions: a joyous month known for weddings; our annual celebration of our Association at General Assembly; the warmth returning and the longest day of the year; and a time to lift up the GLBT community as we all rejoice and take pride in who we are. On the other side of the coin, we have graduations and the beginning of children leaving the nest, which can be met with sadness or jubilation, usually some version of both.

June is also the end of the congregational year. This too can be met with both jubilation (for the Board and committees!) and sadness (for me!) as I begin my long goodbye to your beloved community. It is with great trepidation that I write this. I am overjoyed that I was able to serve this congregation and all of you as your minister for 18 short, but meaningful, months. We have had a good bit of both, anticipation for our future here at AND sadness about the possibility that this venerable church may not go on. I, for one, will miss each and every one of you (my apostles) more than I can say.

When I came to FUUCE, I stepped into a very loving, committed community that had managed to sustain itself as a spiritual home to all who were blessed enough to step through its doors. I

leave it the very same way! You all have never been dependent on a minister to keep you going and I know you will continue to keep the (UU) faith.

With endings comes the opportunity for new beginnings, and I look forward to seeing what you all will create as our time together ends. Our congregational meeting will be a referendum on this place. Shall we stay, or shall we go? Will we create a new entity as in an Urban Ministry or will we place our resources in the hands of the UUA, Montclair, the District and hope another generation of progressive/liberal theologians will step forward with a vision and know how to recreate a new congregation for

Essex County?

My hope is that you continue to be a justice-seeking community and put your faith into action with social justice as a cornerstone of all you do. I also wish you all the best as you navigate the murky waters ahead that are sadly not unique to FUUCE, but to all smaller UU congregations in the UUA and beyond.

May you find strength and partnership with other congregations near to you both in distance and theology (think liberal Christians, reformed Jews, progressive Muslims). The UUA has many resources



June Sunday Services

Services start at 11 AM

07 Jun [FLOWER COMMUNION] *Our Faith Story* Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey Musician - Bill Stafford, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Cindy Long

Carl Jung once said "Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves." Come to FUUCE as we engage ourselves on the subject of what I like about my/our faith story. Come explore your own narrative together, and maybe even be prepared to share a flower or nugget from your deep discerning spirit.

 * Created by our former member, Rev. Norbert Capek, the Flower Communion symbolizes *
 * the connections among people and of the people to nature. We invite everyone who will *
 * be attending to bring a flower or two to share. *

14 Jun [NO SERVICE] ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at 12:30 PM.

There will be no service this Sunday. We encourage ALL Members to attend and make your voice heard for this very important meeting. Thank you.

This event marks the end of our formal 2014/15 church year. No services or events will be held until September 2015. Please visit our church web sites for updates. In the meantime, you are invited to attend the service at the UU congregation at Montclair, 67 Church St, Montclair, NJ. We wish you all a safe & healthy summer.



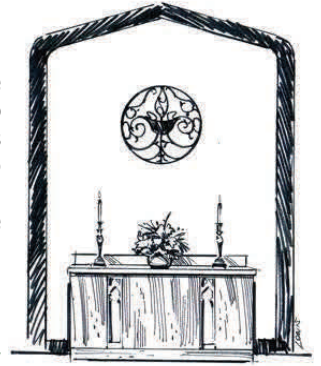
June 2015 INTERFAITH CALENDAR

- 1 Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam) (begins sundown on 31 May)
- 4 Corpus Christi (Roman Catholic)
- 7 All Saints (Orthodox Christian)
- 16 Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh)
- 18 Ramadan begins (Islam) (begins sundown on 17)
- 19 New Church Day (Swedenborgian Christian)
Sacred Heart of Jesus (Roman Catholic)
- 21 Summer Solstice/Litha [northern hemisphere]/Winter Solstice/ Yule [southern hemisphere] (Wicca/Pagan)
- 29 Saints Peter & Paul Feast Day (Christian)



Happenings @ Montclair

- **Solo UU's — Friday, 12 June, 7 PM (Peierls Room).** 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, 13 June, 8:30 AM (Alliance).** 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.
- **Senior Lunch Bunch — Wednesdays, 10 & 24 June, 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.



Spiritually Speaking con't

to support these efforts and I am just an email/ phone call away if you ever need an ear to lament to, or a voice of hope. For tomorrow isn't guaranteed, it is won with action.

As for where you will be calling when or if you do reach out (and I hope that you will), I will be the new settled minister at a small congregation in La Crescenta, California, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Verdugo Hills, (<http://www.uuverdugo.org>). It is in the foothills, near Glendale, not far from Pasadena. Lisa and I will be relocating as our youngest two boys head off to the colleges of their choice. We are very proud of our children. It makes me even more proud to know that I serve a great denomination and have been a part of this lovely community for these past several months.

I leave you with the knowledge that you will all be well. That we are able to step into our future with unabashed optimism.

I will be here through June and won't be out of the area until the end of July completely. Greg Giacobe will have our forwarding information as soon as we do, and I encourage those who feel so moved to please keep in touch.

With great love and appreciation,

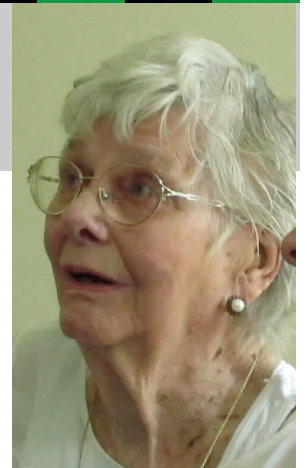
--Gordon

In Memoriam: Mary Ware Booth Hildebrandt

Former church member Mary Ware Booth Hildenrandt, of South Berwick, ME, passed away on Friday, 22 May 2015 at the age of 97. Born 1 March 1918 in East Orange, NJ, she graduated in 1938 from Wheaton College in Norton, MA with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She joined the First Unitarian Church of Essex County on 24 March 1940. She wed the late Charles Hixon in July 1941. Charles died of pneumonia while in the armed forces in Scotland in 1944.

In 1948, Mary met and married Robert C Hildebrandt of Lansing, MI and settled for a time in Montclair, NJ before moving to south Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, and finally to East Harpswell, ME in 1981. In 1982, she and Robert joined the UU Church of Brunswick, ME. Robert preceded her in death in 2009. They had four daughters, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was active in the League of Women Voters, Midcoast Hunger Prevention, and the Sebascodegan Garden Club.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, 14 June 2015 at 3 PM at the UU Church, 15 Pleasant St, Brunswick, ME. Mary asked that any memorial contributions be made to Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program, 84A Union St, Brunswick, ME 04011-2449, or the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, PO Box 129, Brunswick, ME 04011-0129.



June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Board of Trustees Sonnen Room 7 PM	3	4	5	6
7 SERVICE: [FLOWER COMMUNION] Our Faith Story 11AM	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 ANNUAL MEETING, Parish Hall, 12:30 PM	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

Mailing Address:
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Orange NJ 07050-2907

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Office Email: office@essexuu.org

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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**

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