



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

September 2016

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Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

Spiritually Speaking: In Praise of Hometowns: Staying Home in the Global Village by Mary Pipher

Once when I was in New York City, a woman asked me where I was from. When I answered, "Nebraska," she asked rather rudely, "Have you considered moving?"

I mumbled an inane answer, but I have been thinking of a better answer ever since. My answer now would be, "No. I am home, and home is not a saleable piece of real estate."

It's that simple and that complicated. Nebraska for most people is the state they drive through on the way to someplace else. Our state is six hours of Interstate 80. Of course, that's not the way to see any place.

In general, Nebraska is too stark to be pretty, but it is beautiful. Its beauty is its scope, its great table of horizon, its skies that dominate all earthly landscapes, and its great rivers: the Loup, the Dismal, the Niobrara, and the Platte. Nebraska contains the vast and quiet Sandhills where the population is less than one person per square mile. It shelters cranes, meadowlarks, and mourning doves. With our state, the trick is knowing how to find its beauty. Once when someone said Nebraska wasn't beautiful, my husband responded, "Come back with a better pair of eyes."

But Nebraska isn't my home because of its beauty. It is beautiful because it is my home. The curve of its hills and the songs of its cicadas have etched themselves into my mind. The landscape of my childhood is the Nebraska horizon. When I am away from here for more than a few days, I yearn for the sights and smells of Nebraska. Wherever I travel, I look for the geese overhead, the empty spaces, the cottonwood and Russian Olives that remind me of home.

As Eudora Welty said, "As soon as a man stopped wandering and stood still and looked around him, he found a god in that place." That's how I feel. Any place can be home, can be beautiful, if you stop and claim it, if you take the trouble to discover what is available to love.

LIFESTYLE

While identity once came from place, demographic clusters have replaced place as the great definers. People in those clusters share the same activities, opinions, and tastes whether they live in London, Milan, Hong Kong, or Lincoln. Everywhere is becoming everywhere else. Globalization, war, environmental catastrophes, and mass migration have led to an upending of cultures that affects all of us.

Our world is often referred to as a global village, but it could perhaps be more accurately described as a global strip mall. It's tawdry, impersonal, and dull. Globalization means we all live in one ugly company town. Many of us are trying to find a way back to a place called home.

In the past century the Midwest where I live has undergone enormous demographic changes. All over the prairie, the lights have gone out as farmers

have moved to the suburbs and little towns have dried up like tumbleweeds. Strip malls and sprawl have taken their toll on sense of place. Downtown cafes have closed, and the locals now drink coffee at the Arby's on the highway. As we travel the interstates, which Paul Gruchow called "tunnels without walls," we see the same stores, cafes, and hotels everywhere.



MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Second Sunday (Ingathering), Sunday, 11 Sep, 5 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Board of Trustees, Monday, 12 Sep, 7 PM, So-nan Room
- ◆ HUUB: ABCD Workshop, Saturday, 17 Sep, 8 AM to 5 PM, Parish Hall

Continued on Page 2

Second Sundays

Services will be in Parish Hall starting at 5 PM

DATE THEME

- 11 Sep Ingathering Presenter — Darcy Hall Musician - Bill Stafford
- 09 Oct TBA Presenter — Darcy Hall
- 13 Nov TBA Presenter — Darcy Hall
- 11 Dec TBA Presenter — Darcy Hall
- 08 Jan TBA Presenter — Darcy Hall
2017



Spiritually Speaking [cont.]

While a host of new inventions, gadgets, and technological tools have improved our lives, they too have eroded the fabric of family and community. For example, people with air-conditioning no longer sit on their front porches to cool down in the evenings; but without the supervision of neighbors, streets have become more dangerous. Automatic dishwashers have saved time for many women, but they have also eliminated time after dinner when family members worked together and talked.

All the technology of our times has its good uses, and any one invention probably wouldn't do that much damage; the problem is the whole pile. Cumulatively, all this equipment has changed daily family life. Quantity has replaced quality, and the integrity of our lives has been altered. Television-watching children have shorter attention spans and longer want lists, at the same time that they have poorer impulse control and fewer real skills. Not surprisingly, we have an epidemic of childhood depression.

Television and electronic media have created communities with entirely different rules and structures than the ones of the past. Families gather around the glow of the TV as the Lakota once gathered around the glow of a fire on the Great Plains. But our TV's do not keep us warm, safe, and together. Rapidly our technology is creating a new kind of human being, one who is plugged into machines instead of relationships, one who lives in a virtual reality rather than a family. And just as families have unraveled, so have communities.

Margaret Mead defined the ideal culture as one in which there was a place for every human gift. I know of no better definition. It includes both respect for the individual and belief in the ability of communities to foster growth in their members. It is hard to realize the gifts of people whom we do not know; it is impossible to develop our own gifts without a web of human relationships. It is also harder to be kind. Because we don't know the people with whom we are interacting, we can't inquire about their problems or empathize with their troubles. We don't notice that they look stressed or tired. We can't congratulate them on their children's victories. If we see social interactions as the web that holds our lives in place, that web is torn and tattered by the effects of our technology.

HOME

Your web of community doesn't have to be where you were born or grew up. It doesn't have to be a small town; it can be a suburb, a city, or a remote corner of the country. But it does have to be a real place that you have committed to over time. It has to be a place where you have friends and know the names of many people you meet. You know who is kind and honest, who lies, betrays, or fools around. Home is where people care if you have a speeding ticket or a fever. It's where people ask about your grandbaby and your day lilies and know your favorite kind of pie. It's where when you sit down to talk you don't have to discuss Tom Hanks or Benecio del Toro. You have real people in common.

Bill McKibben defined a working community as one in which it would be difficult for outsiders to fit in. That's because the information in the community would be specific, related to that time and place, and grounded in the history of its inhabitants. Songwriter Greg Brown said, "Your hometown is where you know what the deal is. You may not like it, but you understand it. You know the rules and who is breaking them."

I know a family who moved back to New York City after September 11. The wife told me, "That is where our people are. We need to be with them." A gay couple I know have inspired many of their friends to move to the outskirts of Omaha. They come there not for Big Red football or the steaks, but for the camaraderie and mutual support of their long-term buddies. I know a couple whose son and daughter-in-law lived in California. When the daughter-in-law became pregnant, they wrote the couple a "letter of invitation." They didn't want to pressure their son and his wife to return to Nebraska but they wanted them to know how welcome they would be. They wanted to remind the young family about what was good in our state. In the letter, they mentioned the safety, the ease of travel, the low cost of living, the wide-open spaces, and the good educational system. They wrote about the love they would give a grandchild and the ways the family could help each other if they shared a community. Much to the joy of the parents, the children decided to come home.

Communities are real places, chosen as objects of love, with particular landscapes, sounds, and smells, and particular people who live there. Communities are about accountability, about what we can and should do for each other. People who live together have something that is fragile and easily destroyed by a lack of civility. Behavior matters. Protocol is important. Relationships are not disposable.

In Memoriam: Nina Barszcz



Long-time church member and former church Vice-President Nina Barszcz of West Orange NJ, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Friday, 1 July 2016. She and her husband, Frank Barszcz, joined the church on 16 April 2000.

Born on 18 August 1960 in Newark NJ, and raised in West Orange, NJ, Nina graduated from St. Elizabeth's High School, Convent Station, NJ, and received a B.A. in 1982, from Cook College, Rutgers University. Nina spent several years living in the Butterworth Farm community in Royalston, MA. She later moved back to New Jersey where she started as an administrative assistant at Young & Rubicam. Nina quickly moved into the area of human resources and worked for major corporations including Sony, American Express, ADP, and Dendrite. She spent the last three years of her career at Prudential Insurance in Newark as a vice president of human resources. Nina earned a certificate in historic preservation from Drew University. She was an active member of the South Orange Historic Society and served on the board of directors of the Friends of Thomas Edison National Historical Park. Nina was a wonderful cook and loved to entertain family and friends.

She was predeceased by her mother, Ramona Paszkiewicz, and her three beautiful cats, Lilly, Nellie, and Hazel. Nina is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Frank; her father, Alex Paszkiewicz; as well as her brother-in-law, James Barszcz; her sister-in-law, Jane Seiden, and her niece and nephew, Holly and Jake. Nina leaves behind many cousins, aunts, and an uncle, along with a multitude of friends both in West Orange, NJ, and in the North Quabbin area of Massachusetts, where she and Frank had a home.

Donations in Nina's name may be made to the Friends of Thomas Edison National Historical Park or the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

In Memoriam: Laura Rogers



Long-time church member and former church trustee Dr. Laura S Rogers of South Orange NJ, passed away on Thursday, 28 July 2016. She joined the church on 24 April 1982, and after a period of inactivity, rejoined on 21 March 2010.

Born in 1935 to David and Nora Simmons in Glen Cove, NY, she received a BA in Music at Queens College before working for a number of educational institutions in New York and New Jersey, including Columbia University's Admissions Office and Essex Community College in Newark. She received a doctorate from Rutgers University in counseling psychology in 1982. She worked at AT&T as an industrial psychologist until her retirement in 1984. Throughout her career, Laura lectured on corporate management concerns, job stress and professional development issues concerning women and African-Americans. She served as a consultant for various corporations, government entities and educational institutions including the American Council on Education, the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Higher Education of the NJ Commission on the Status of Women, New Jersey Department of Education and the College of St. Elizabeth.

After completing her undergraduate degree, Laura embarked on a three month trip of Europe which sparked a lifelong passion for world travel. In 1959, she married William T. Rogers, Jr. and had a son, William T. Rogers, III in 1962. Laura and William eventually divorced.

Laura received numerous professional awards throughout her career including: Distinguished Service Award for Excellence from Essex County College; Bell Communications Research Award for Outstanding Contribution Toward Women's Achievement; Election to the National Honor Society in Education from KAPPA DELTA PI - Rutgers University; AT&T Recipient of the Outstanding Women Achievers Award of the YMCA of the City of New York; AT&T Recipient of the One Hundred Most Outstanding Black Women in Business & Industry Award from Dollars and Sense Magazine, Chicago, IL; AT&T Synergy Award for Outstanding Achievement; and AT&T NSD Salute Award.

In addition to co-founding a number of professional organizations, Laura was active in established professional organizations including: the American Psychological Association; American Association for Counseling and Career Development; American Personnel and Guidance Association; College Student Personnel Association; Association of Women Deans and Counselors; National Association of Foreign Student Affairs; Association of Black Psychologists; and, the New Jersey Academy of Psychology.

Laura's participation in the summer program of the Encampment for Citizenship in the 1960's inspired her to accept leadership roles in community service. Her service on trustee boards of community organizations was a constant even after retirement: she served as a Trustee and Member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Essex and West Hudson, the United Way, and the South Orange/ Maple-

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 SECOND SUNDAY: Ingathering, Parish Hall, 5 PM	12 Board of Trustees, Sonnen Room, 7 PM	13	14	15	16	17 HUUB ABCD Work- shop, Parish Hall, 8 AM-5 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	26	27	28	29	30	

HUUB NEWS FOR THE FALL

Charlie Wirene, the Managing Director of the HUUB, First UU's social outreach effort, has some news and updates from over the summer. This was received on 9 August 2016. You can reach Charlie at HUUB@gmail.com.

"Our biggest bit of news is that our grant application to the UU Fund for Social Responsibility was accepted and we were given a \$10,000 grant to support the HUUB and to start a Community Listening Team - an outreach and community building project built on Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) theory and practice. In addition to the \$10,000 grant, we were awarded a \$5,000 matching grant. This means if we raise another \$5,000 we will be awarded \$5,000 from the UU Funding Association, which is very exciting, indeed! I am starting to put together a fundraising campaign for the matching grant, so please keep your eyes open for our Faithify crowdfunding page. Any contribution you, your congregation, or your friends and network are willing to make would be deeply appreciated. I would be happy and excited to speak more about the Community Listening Team and ABCD with any of you if you have any questions or interest!

"On the topic of ABCD, as part of the above grant, the HUUB will be hosting a one day workshop on ABCD at First Church on September 17, 2016. Bob Francis from the ABCD Institute and Executive Director of Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) will be leading the workshop. While it is a training for the Community Listening Team and the work they will continue to do over the next year, we are

also excited to invite you all - area UUs, neighbor congregations, and friends - to participate as well. Space will be somewhat limited, so please let me know if you would like to attend! I will send another email to our partner organizations and local UU Congregations' social action committees with more information as I finalize the schedule, but wanted to give you all a heads up.

"The other big event we are planning is the celebration of the church's 125th anniversary on November 5, 2016, which will include a daytime conference followed by a dinner at the church. [NOTE: Instead of a dinner, there will be a luncheon when honored guests will be recognized. Cocktails will follow to conference. - Editor] 100 Year Old House: A Housing Justice Conference will look at the question of "How do we preserve the city for everyone?" We are living in aging, century old houses, that are falling apart next to the transit oriented development of luxury condos while facing increasing pressure of displacement due to rising costs. 100 Year Old House will provide a venue to hear and discuss these issues with our neighbors. Following the conference will be a dinner to celebrate the church's 125th anniversary, looking at the history and work that has happened here over the years. As for the workshop, we'll be sending out a more formal save the date soon but wanted to let you all know what we are up to."

The HUUB Report for this past year is available on the Members pages of the First UU web site, essexuu.org.



Spiritually Speaking [cont.]

People are careful what they say in real communities because they will live with their words until they die of old age.

Connections have a way of making us morally accountable. At a most basic level we behave better with people and places we will see again and again. Some of the worst behaviors in America occur in airports and on interstates, places where we move among strangers.

Responsibility is directly related to scale. The smaller the group, the stronger each member's sense of duty. Morality is learned by children from real people who are with them every day. They learn that their actions affect other people, and they learn that their own lives will go better if they behave well. It is a simple thing, to be in a place where good behavior is rewarded and bad is punished. In that sense all morality, like all politics, is local. This is why faith communities are so important: they are local communities that teach and practice morality; they help us live responsibly with each other. But the further we are from home, from our people, the less likely we are to see a strong connection between our own behavior and its consequences. There is no accountability in a global village except a ledger sheet. And money is not morality.

Strong communities also treasure and maintain the special names, stories, and history that define particular places. Bill Holm wrote, "We stand on the shoulders of our ancestors no matter how many machines we invent. Only our memory and our metaphors carry us forward, not our money, our gadgets,

or our opinions." Names, stories, and history are intertwined. We cannot love what we cannot name. One of the best ways to instill community is to teach names — of local people, birds, plants, rivers, and sacred sites. Communities are much enriched by local history books. Older people, who are in a sense living history books, greatly benefit a community by telling stories to its children. Yellow Springs, Ohio, had an environmental mentor program in which an older person was paired with a young person. The pair walked around town and talked about the town's stories and how the place used to be.

We owe a great deal to people who came before us and to what Paul Tillich called "the structure of grace in history." Communities need ways of sharing stories. This is one of the most primal experiences of humans, to be together telling stories of the day. To be a member of a community is to have a voice and a face in that community. One must be a part of the legends, the colorful characters and the heroes who help define place.

Community occurs where there are public spaces — sidewalks, bike trails, parks, outdoor markets, and churches. Ray Oldenberg writes in *The Great Good Place* that there are three essential places: where we live, where we work, and where we gather together for conviviality. Those communal places are needed now more than ever.

Diversity in community is as healthy as diversity in any ecosystem. Without diversity in age, ethnicity, and ideas, we don't have communities; we have lifestyle enclaves. Community does not mean

First UU Joins NJPTV Campaign

First UU is proud to announce that it has joined the New Jersey Prepared To Vote Campaign (NJPTV), a partnership of the New Jersey NAACP, the Garden State Bar Association, NJ Black Issues Convention, NJ Institute for Social Justice, and the Latino Action Network. Although primarily aimed at registering voters in districts with historical low voter turnout - and getting them to the polls on election day - the campaign encourages all to be sure they are registered, and to exercise their right to vote. First UU is putting out this call to its Members, Friends, and Partners as well as to our tenants, and surrounding UU congregations in joined this effort. We feel dedicated to taking the lead and have volunteered to coordinate any organizing and instructional activities. Greg Giacobbe will serve as "church captain". If you are interested, please contact him at info@essexuu.org.



In grounding this work, we see it as important to living out the Fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism - "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large" - especially in this pivotal election year. Will you help us in this work? Thank you.

Spiritually Speaking [cont.]

"free of conflict." It's inevitable and even healthy to have great differences. Even conflict can lead to closeness. As Dennis Schmitz wrote, "Humans wrestle with each other, and sometimes that wrestling turns into embracing."

A strong community will include people of different ages, ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic status, and interests. Community, communication, and communion all come from the same word, meaning "together" and "next to." Embedded in the word is the concept of shared place.

The more one travels and has contact with the world, the more one needs a home. The more we live in a global shopping mall, the more important it is to look at the stars

and visit with our neighbors. The cure to the cultural colonialism of global shopping malls is loving our hometown. "Provincial" and "parochial" have traditionally had negative connotations, but they can also mean the sacredness of one's town. As Terry Tempest Williams has written, "It just may be that the most radical act we can commit is to stay home."

Mary Pipher, is an author and psychologist in Lincoln NB, and a member of the Unitarian Church of Lincoln. This essay is excerpted from her anthology published by Beacon Press, Sustainable Planet: Solutions for the Twenty-First Century; © 2002 by The Center for a New American Dream, reprinted by permission. This essay appeared in the March/April 2003 edition of the UU World.

In Memoriam: Laura Rogers

wood Adult School. Years after her retirement from employment and volunteer community activity people whose lives she touched continued to express their appreciation of her help.

Laura enjoyed a decades-long affiliation with First UU where she served as a trustee and committee member. Laura's green thumb seemed to be innate; without effort she could make any plant grow. She enjoyed travel, the study of history, and cooking but will always be remembered for her intense interest and active support of all things artistic including classical music, ballet, plays and art museums.

She is survived by her son William, her sister Gwendolyn Faulkner, and nephews David Faulkner, Mark Faulkner, Lionel Banister and Craig Banister. A funeral service was held for Laura at the UU Congregation at Montclair on 11 August 2016.

The Forrest Church Award for Humanitarian Service

Honoring the Founders of

#Black Lives Matter

Patrisse Cullors
Alicia Garza
& Opal Tometi

Thursday, September 15, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
All Souls Church
1157 Lexington Ave. New York, NY, @ 80th St.

Seating is limited, doors open at 5:45 p.m.
VIP Reception to follow

For more information, please contact Eileen Macholl at Eileen@allsoulsnyc.org
www.AllSoulsNYC.org Facebook.com/AllSoulsNYC

Illustration by Camellia Jahanshahi

ALL SOULS
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Heart & Soul
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

United Nations Office



COMRADERY and GOOD HEALTH...
THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

VETERANS COMMUNITY FAIR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Family Connections Clinic
395 South Centers Street
Orange, NJ 07050

Free Health/Behavioral Health Services and Networking For
Veterans

All Veterans and their Families Welcome

No Appointments Required

Light Refreshments Served

For more Information call us at

866-838-7654



NJ CITIZEN ACTION
HAS A MESSAGE FOR WOMEN OF NEW JERSEY:
Home Ownership Is Within Your Reach!



Come to New Jersey Citizen Action's
A HOME OF HER OWN:
WOMEN'S HOUSING INITIATIVE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
150 BLEEKER STREET
CAMPUS CENTER - 2ND FLOOR
NEWARK, NJ 07102

Men welcome too!

To register, call New Jersey Citizen Action, 973-643-8800 ext. 218
or fill out and mail or fax attached form to HOME, NJCA,
744 Broad Street, Ste. 2080, Newark, NJ 07102, fax 973-643-8100
Or email your registration to: michelle@njcitizenaction.org
Childcare available for children ages 4-10 with pre-registration.

This event is co-sponsored by: New Jersey Citizen Action Education Fund, Bank of America, BB&T, Capital One, Citi, HSBC Bank, JP Morgan Chase, M&T Bank, RSI Bank, Santander Bank, Sterling National Bank, TD Bank, Victoria Foundation, Wells Fargo and is funded with the support of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Please register me for the Women's Housing Event in Newark on September 10, 2016.

Name _____

Childcare needed for _____ Children, ages _____

Street Address _____ Apt./Box# _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Phone # (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____



New York State Convention of Universalists

190th Annual Meeting

October 21-22, 2016



Keynote Speaker:

Philip P. Arnold

Phil Arnold is Associate Professor of Religion and Native American Studies at Syracuse University. He is Director of the Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center. Phil is a member of **Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON)**. He established the **Doctrine of Discovery Study Group** and the **Indigenous Values Initiative**, a non-profit organization to support the work of the Skä·noñh—Great Law of Peace Center.

His books are *Eating Landscape*; *Sacred Landscapes and Cultural Politics: Planting a Tree*; *The Gift of Sports: Indigenous Ceremonial Dimensions of the Games We Love* and *Urgency of Indigenous Religions*.

“The Doctrine of Discovery: The Real Story”

Co-hosts: UU Church of Utica (Friday)

UU Church of Barneveld (Saturday)

10 Higby Road, Utica and 4 Park Avenue, Barneveld

All Unitarian Universalists are warmly invited to attend

[Registration information will be posted at nyscu.org](http://nyscu.org)

We are on the web: essexuu.org

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

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Vice President Pro Temp: Frank Barszcz

Treasurer: Bill Slezak

Secretary: Greg Giacobe

Administrator: Greg Giacobe

Sexton: Tony A Jones

HUUB Director: Charlie Wirene



**First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Essex County**

PO Box 998.

Orange NJ 07051-0998

Making the connections



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.