



MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County

Fall 2017

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Where every mind is free and every soul is welcome!

## Editorial: A Community Asset

by Charlie Wirene, HUUB Managing Director

Since its founding in November 2015, The HUUB has been committed to bringing the Unitarian Universalist principles to life through an asset-based ethos, which has been successful and rewarding. While we believed in the importance of our idea and its potential when we started, we could not have predicted The HUUB's true need in the community and the embrace we've received since opening our doors.

Our first HUUB Listening Fellows, Holly Barszcz, Khemani Gibson, and Patricia Rogers, developed three amazing projects that are actively building and strengthening our relationships with these communities: the Spring *Solidarity Potluck Series*; *Immigrant Dreams*; and *Amplifying Youth Voices*. Through these projects we are connecting to many different groups in Orange, from youth to elders, longtime city residents to newly arrived ones, educators to faith leaders, and everywhere in between.

The HUUB has become an active and familiar resource for people in Orange: we have organized events ourselves (including the *100-Year-Old House* conference and the Fellows' projects, co-hosted events and initiatives with partners (including the Foreclosure Forum and *Just & Safe Orange* series), and provided space for people from the city to hold their own events as well (including the Committee for an Elected Board of Education, and a funeral repast for Jordan Bryan, the young man killed in gun violence in April 2016). We have met our goals, our familiarity with city residents has deepened, and through these new relationships we have found new opportunities to provide support to the community.

It was from this position we were given an exciting opportunity to administer a micro-grant project and expand our asset-based work by providing financial resources to support project ideas in the city. The goal of the Neighborhood Project Grants initiative is to support resident-led initiatives in the Heart of Orange neighborhood that build community, cultivate neighborhood leadership, expand youth activities, promote wellness and health and celebrate the city's diversity. We are working on the micro-grants with HANDS, Orange's local community development corporation.

Through the end of 2018 the Neighborhood Project Grants initiative will open five grant rounds. During the first, from June to September 2017, we received 21 project proposals and awarded 14 Neighborhood Project Grants. The summer's round of applications were heavily focused on cultural identity, community safety, and school based initiatives: the Italian American and Latin American street fairs, back to school backpack giveaways at Rosa Parks

and Oakwood Avenue Schools, a community barbeque, and youth leadership and mentoring through art projects (murals and photovoice), club sports (basketball and football), and service groups (Orange High School's Navy Junior ROTC). We'll be uploading interviews and photos to our Facebook pages, so check them out! This fall and winter at The HUUB we will continue our Community Listening Project while offering some new programming as well. On Monday, 16 October, we are starting our monthly *Solidarity Potlucks* again, with Music City performances and an Asset-Based Com-



## MARK IT DOWN

- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 17 Sep, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ Board of Trustees, Tuesday, 26 Sep, 7:30 PM, 153 Valley St, South Orange NJ
- ◆ *Building Solidarity Potluck*, Monday, 16 Oct, 6 PM, Parish Hall
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 29 Oct, 5 PM, Sanctuary
- ◆ Monthly Sunday: FAITH+WORKS, Sunday, 12 Nov, 5 PM, Sanctuary

**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 Sep *Evolving Consciousness: Talk & Poetry Reading* Rachel E. Diken**  
**Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Musician - Doug Farrand, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - TBA**

*Rachel E. Diken is a poet and playwright whose work focuses on the intersection of the ancient and the modern, which she believes to be the location of the timeless. She writes a monthly theatre column at The Atticus Review and a daily haiku via Twitter @haikuavenue. Visit [www.rachelediken.com](http://www.rachelediken.com) for projects and events.*



**29 Oct *Michael Malbrough* Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - TBA, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove**

Michael read selections from his recently published children's book, "Marigold Bakes a Cake."

*Michael Malbrough is an author/illustrator and, before that, a freelance graphic designer, comic book artist, performer and teacher with a career spanning two decades. He is the director of ORNG Ink, an after-school studio for young artists, and has received several awards and honors for his work in the community with children and teens. Mike lives in Orange NJ with his wife, two adventurous kids, and a cat named Agnes that hates him.*

**12 Nov *Faith in an Urban Ministry* Charlie Wirene Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove**

Charlie is a builder, urban ecologist, and social justice advocate. His practice is focused on making communities more inclusive, responsible, and sustainable. To celebrate the second anniversary of The HUUB and his role as its founding Managing Director, Charlie will talk about his unexpected introduction to Unitarian Universalism, building a successful urban ministry, and how his work has been bringing the UU principles to life since before he had even heard of them.

**10 Dec *Protagonists of Hope* Robert Sember Leader - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, Usher - Gregory Giacobe, Social Hour Host - Mindy Thompson Fullilove**

Editorial [cont.]

munity Development (ABCD) refresher. On 27 October, *Don't Drop The Mic* will be back, a showcase of local musical talent we've hosted a few times already.

We are working with the University of Orange on two other important and exciting projects. The first is a Collective Recovery curriculum responding to the violence the community has experienced over the last two years. The second is a long-distance learning collaboration with folks from Niagara Falls to develop a series of Resident Leader Trainings on community organizing and critical urbanism.

People are also interested in hearing about what we're doing! I'll be visiting a handful of UU congregations over the next month to talk about our Urban Ministry and what we've learned over the last year. On Sunday, 15 October, I will be speaking at The Unitarian Society in East Brunswick. On Saturday, 21 October, Greg Giacobbe and I will be in Albany NY, leading a workshop at the New York State Convention of Universalists' annual meeting.

Our asset-based ethos is bringing the UU principles to life in new and exciting ways: supporting the skills and worth that every person has; building community focused on peace, liberty, and justice; finding our direction through compassion and empathy; setting justice and equity as goals in everything we do. It's an exciting time and we'd love to see you at The HUUB during any of the events and programs we have going on. Don't hesitate to contact me at [orangehuub@gmail.com](mailto:orangehuub@gmail.com) if you have any ideas or questions!

Onwards, in service,

—Charlie

Monthly Sundays [cont.]

On 6 June 1976, school students in Soweto refused to participate in a system that was educating them to be oppressed. This uprising set in motion the forces that would eventually topple the Apartheid system. That year, our presenter, Robert Sember, was 13 years old - the same age as many of the students who led the struggle. What he witnessed that year taught him that while we might not have chosen the histories into which we are born, we can be protagonists of the future. Robert will discuss what he has learned from his experiences in South Africa and the US about what it means to be a protagonist of hope.

*Robert Sember is Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts at The New School's Eugene Lang College and a Senior Associate at the Center for Social Innovation where he focuses on how changes to the U.S. health care system affect the lives of people with mental health and addiction needs. Born in 1963 in South Africa and raised under Apartheid system, he was active in the war resistance and gay rights movements. After arriving in*

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, option 9. We have updates below:

- A belated happy anniversary to members SHIRLEEN & TOM DORMAN who celebrated their 42<sup>nd</sup> on 24 August 2017. May your lives together be enriching!
- Belated birthday wishes to our former minister, REV. YIELBONZIE CHARLES JOHNSON who celebrated his 65th on 26 August.
- Also belated birthday wishes to friends and former members MELANIE AXEL-LUTE on 26 June, BEN ROSENBERG on 29 June, and GEORGIANA HART on 10 September.
- Happy birthday to friend and former member PATRICK LLOYD on 27 September.
- Upcoming birthdays include our former minister REV. DARRELL BERGER on 19 October.
- Trustee DARCY HALL has moved and now resides at 153 Valley St #227 in South Orange NJ.
- The Church Office would still like to hear from HAROLD MILLS. If any reader has seen or spoken to him in the last 12 to 18 months, please contact the Church Office above. Thank you.



*the United States in 1989, he joined social movements here, and contributed to public health interventions and research concerned with the HIV/AIDS crisis. Robert has taught at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, where he also served on the Center for Evaluation and Technical Assistance and the Secretariat for the International Working Group on Sexuality and Social Policy. He is also currently on the faculty of the University of Amsterdam's Summer Institute*

## September 2017

- 17 FAITH+WORKS: *Evolving Consciousness*, Rachel E. Diken, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- 26 Board of Trustees, Hall Residence, 7:30 PM

## October 2017

- 16 Solidarity Potluck, Parish Hall, 6 PM
- 29 FAITH+WORKS: Michael Malbrough, Sanctuary, 5 PM

## November 2017

- 12 FAITH+WORKS: *HUUB 2nd Anniversary*, Charlie Wirene, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- ?? Joint Meeting of Church & HUUB Boards, TBA
- 23 [THANKSGIVING]

## December 2017

- 10 FAITH+WORKS: *Protagonists of Hope*, Robert Sember, Sanctuary, 5 PM
- 25 [CHRISTMAS]



OCTOBER 14  
2017  
NOON - 6PM

FALL ISSUES  
CONFERENCE



UU Congregation of  
Monmouth County  
1475 West Front Street  
Lincroft, NJ

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

### Newsletter Schedule & Submission Deadlines

The First UU Newsletter is on a quarterly schedule. Newsletters will be 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
Fall	1 October	23 September
Winter	1 December	23 November
Spring	1 March	23 February
Summer	1 June	23 May

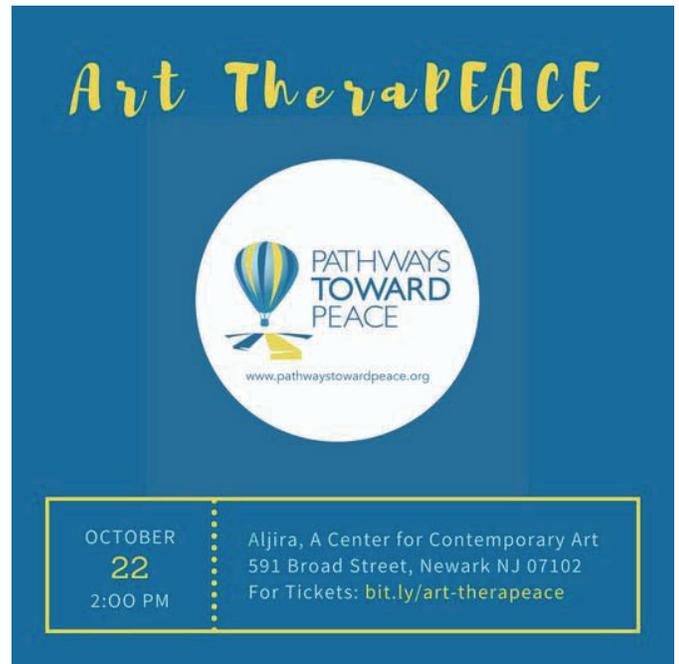
Happy Thanksgiving



**Following Ads Are Hyperlinked:**



**Remembering Rosa: A Concert for Peace**  
**Thursday December 1st, 6pm**  
**at Rosa Parks Community School**



**Art TheraPEACE**

PATHWAYS TOWARD PEACE  
 www.pathwaystowardpeace.org

OCTOBER 22  
 2:00 PM

Aljira, A Center for Contemporary Art  
 591 Broad Street, Newark NJ 07102  
 For Tickets: [bit.ly/art-therapeace](http://bit.ly/art-therapeace)

**Monthly Sundays [cont.]**

on Sexuality, Culture, and Society and is a member of the international art collective, Ultra-red, founded in 1992 in Los Angeles by AIDS activists, sound artists, and musicians. As a member of Ultra-red, he has worked with museums, art and educational institutes, and community organizations across the world.




**On the Brink:  
 Reclaiming Our Past for a Better  
 Future**

October 21-22  
 Lanoka Harbor, NJ

**NOW HEAR THIS...**

- Mindy Fullilove will be speaking on "Faith + Works" at the Essex County Ethical Culture Society, 516 Prospect Ave, Maplewood NJ, on Sunday, 8 October 2017 at 11 AM.
- Charlie Wirene will be speaking on "The HUUB: Building an Urban Ministry" at The Unitarian Society, A UU Community, 176 Tices Ln, East Brunswick NJ, on Sunday, 15 October 2017 at 10:30 AM.
- Charlie Wirene & Gregory Giacobe will leading a workshop, "FAITH+WORKS: Finding and embracing our role in the heart of the community" at the New York State Convention of Universalists Annual Meeting, held at the 1st UU Society of Albany NY, 405 Washington Ave, Albany NY, on Saturday, 21 October 2017 at 2 PM.

**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, Wednesdays  
& 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

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