

The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

OCTOBER 2021
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PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER 2021

Oct 3. Indigenous Peoples' Day. This holiday celebrates and honors Native American peoples, and commemorates their histories and cultures. It's celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October (this year, on Oct. 11), and is an official city and state holiday in various localities. It began as a counter-celebration of the federal holiday of Columbus Day. Led by visiting UU minister Rev. Petra Thombs. Program host is Chris Dunbar.

Oct 10. Becoming American. On the Sunday before Indigenous Peoples' Day, we reflect on the process required of individuals who wish to obtain US citizenship, the process of education and acculturation that children who are born in the US generally go through, and what we think "Becoming American" means or could mean. Led by Mary Tiebout.

Oct 17. The Nature of the Religious Experience. Ever since Friedrich Schleiermacher described religious experience as "the feeling of absolute dependence," in 1830, the Western academy has been trying to discern and articulate its essence. We'll review some of the major issues and accounts since that time, including that of William James, and close with a conversation about how our own religious experiences fit in, if at all. Led by Peter Dlugos. Program host is Jerry Sattin.

Oct 24. Saving Seeds. Ancient stories, beliefs and rituals, and generations of poets and scientists recognize seeds as life's source and sustenance. If you are a saver or sower of seeds, bring some to your table to show us and tell us about your relationship--real, imagined or metaphorical--with seeds. Led by Mary Tiebout.

Oct 31. Remember Me. The Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated in Mexico (and elsewhere) associated with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, usually November 1 and 2. The holiday involves family and friends gathering to remember loved friends and family members who have passed away. All UU members and friends are encouraged to bring one photo of a loved one to the service as we discuss the power of "remembering." Led by Estee Lopez.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.*
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.*
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE STILL
VIRTUAL,
on Google Meet,
every Sunday 10:30–11:15 am.

Join with GOOGLE MEET:
meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj

Or join by phone: 413-679-2794,
PIN 139 523 137#

The Quest is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For up-to-date information visit www.newtonnj.org. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the Discussion Group is scheduled for Friday, October 15, at 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic will be “Free Speech.”

Last month, we discussed “Democracy as a Tool of Governance.” We compared democracy to other forms of governance, we examined the challenges to democracy that have become apparent in recent years, and we looked back to consider just how universally good the “good old days” of democracy really were.

Please join us October 15, and bring a friend.

Except for the COVID hiatus, the Discussion Group has been meeting since March 30, 2015. To get a list of the topics discussed over the years, contact Mike Busche.

TIMEBANK

The TimeBank is planning some interesting outdoor events in October.

Sunday, October 3, 8:30 am: Meet at Sunrise Mountain pavilion to watch the eagles soar. Bring a snack. Andy Smith will lead.

Saturday, October 23, 10:00 am: Hampton Township Cleanup. Meet at municipal building. The specific area for cleanup will be announced later. This cleanup is in conjunction with the Paulinskill Awareness Campaign and is also a fundraiser for the TimeBank.

Go to northwestnewjersey.timebanks.org to help a neighbor or community group. Contact Sharon Pontier for further information on helping or joining. All are welcome.

UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference

The FaithAction Fall Issues Conference will be held on Saturday, October 16, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. If there are any members or friends interested in learning more about any of the following topics as they face NJ, this FREE conference is likely to help greatly:

- Criminal Justice Reform
- Environmental Justice
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Immigration Justice
- Reparations
- Reproductive Justice
- FAIR (Youth Caucus)

You can register by following the links at ufaithaction.org.

From the UUA

Excerpted from the UUA website:

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that all bodies are sacred. Every person has the right to determine what happens to their own body at all phases of life, including if, when, and how they want to have children. As people of faith, this commitment is part of our deepest religious values. Unitarian Universalism proclaims that all individuals and communities have the right to self-determination, safety, and the resources that are necessary for health and sustainability.

For more information, go to uua.org/reproductive/action.

ALONG THE PATH



Dear Friends,

During our beautiful President's Service that Barbara led on September 19, we were asked for our thoughts about Resilience and Reimagining. Recently, I've been thinking about this odd world that we're living in, in which we have seen some friends and family members more frequently during Zoom meetings than in person.

"This isn't our real world," we've maybe heard ourselves say. Wearing masks and being sensitive to how close someone is, standing in line at the store. If our discussion last week had not been so full of everyone else's thoughtful responses, I might have offered this one thought: when we are able to meet again in our Fellowship building, we will be faced with the reality that we have lost four Fellowship members in the last 18 months. Away from our regular Sunday gatherings, we may have allowed these losses to feel more like disappearances than like a final farewell.

It was at Thursday's service for Brian, with so many Fellowship members and friends, masked and vaccinated, in attendance, when I felt not only the emptiness without Brian there, welcoming people, tending to the sound system, adding his thoughts and questions to our conversations from the stage-left corner where he usually sat, and where I found myself sitting. Not only was Brian not in his spot, but Audrey was not in hers, nor Karen, nor Jeanine. What I feared about returning to our building after losing so many friends became real. We would not see them at the Fellowship after this COVID chapter is over.

But we might feel their presence, especially if we were to invite their spirits and their smiles, each with their uniquely seasoned sense of humor. And the next time we're in the room, the room won't feel so empty, because of the people who *were* there, friends, family members, and, most especially, Jeri and Brian's grandchildren, Simon and Naia. Before, during, and after the service, these two wonderful children, at ages 9 and 4, quietly brought life into the room, smiling with their eyes, and filling our empty spaces with light.

Meeting online and over the phone has been a gift, and I thank you for all you bring to our services each week. For members and friends who have not been with us on Sundays, you're with us. You're in our hearts. You're in our deepest and most grateful thoughts.

Great, great thanks and all Autumn blessings to you, dear Fellowship friends...

Mary

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we had our Water Communion on Sept. 12, the first service of this program year, I reflected on the joy of being together again in community and how our Chalice Lighting ritual commemorates that:

“We light this chalice to celebrate Unitarian Universalism. The fellowship of the open mind, the fellowship of the helping hand, and the fellowship of the loving heart. We take care of our earth and each other.”

These words inspire me, but they also define what I aspire to become. This kind of fellowship requires work.

“The fellowship of the open mind.” It is truly special to have a shared space where intellectual curiosity and diverse opinions are not only welcomed, but also encouraged, without being concerned about dogma. Our services introduce us to so many different ideas. Mike Busche’s monthly discussion group poses challenging questions about current issues. But I recognize that, for me, being with a group of like-minded people can sometimes make me less aware or less understanding of opinions held by people outside our Fellowship. I need to work harder at learning how other groups in our society view issues. Not only will this help me, but it also will enrich our discussions within our Fellowship.

“The fellowship of the helping hand.” I see so many examples of how the members and friends of the UUFSC extend a helping hand, both within our Fellowship and within the broader community. We volunteer for Fellowship projects (the Rummage Sale, Fling events). As a congregation, UUFSC has participated in community initiatives such as Family Promise and Manna House. And as individuals, many of us are involved in various non-profits at the local, state and national level. There are so many needs and opportunities to help. Chris Dunbar, as our Social Action Chair, keeps us informed of local initiatives, as well as the efforts of UU FaithAction NJ. The challenge, I find, is making the time.

“The fellowship of the loving heart.” For me, the Fellowship is like a family. We demonstrate our love in many ways--sometimes as simple as a telephone call to an ill or housebound member. That love extends beyond our congregation, as we try to make the world a better place through our personal participation and financial support of various causes.

“We take care of our earth and each other.” When you combine the three attributes above, you get a group of people who are engaged in issues, who do their best to take action individually and as a Fellowship to improve situations, and who do this because we recognize we are part of the interdependent web of all existence and, therefore, have responsibilities to protect it.

Personally, I am humbled by how we describe our Fellowship and wonder how I can embody these attributes more fully. But I am lifted up by the fact that we share these aspirations and, together, can make a difference.

Barbara

PLEDGE FORM...

Thanks to all who have submitted their pledge form and made pledge donations. If you haven't done so, please complete the form below and return it to Hal Cohen as soon as possible. Your ongoing support of our Fellowship is greatly appreciated!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UUA, UUCER and UU FAITH ACTION

For the new year, the Board will be paying about \$100 in dues per member to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), UU Central East Region (UUCER) and UU Faith Action NJ on your behalf. You will receive a copy of each edition of UU World Magazine and can access other programs and resources from each organization by going to: www.uua.org, www.uua.org/central-east and www.uufaithaction.org. Please consider reimbursing the Fellowship for these dues, if possible.

Please complete your Dues/Pledge Form and return it to Hal Cohen as soon as possible. You can elect to pay your pledge as a single, quarterly, monthly or weekly payment.

ANNUAL DUES/PLEDGE FORM

July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Please retain this portion for your records:

Total Dues/Pledged 21-22 * \$ _____

**includes \$100 UUA, UUCER and UU Faith Action dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for adult Member couple that will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: _____ Quarterly Payment: _____
Monthly Payment: _____ Weekly Payment: _____

Cut here

Please return this portion to: Hal Cohen, 912 E. End Road, Newton, NJ 07860-4553 or email this page to Hal.

UUFS Member Name(s): _____

Total Dues/Pledged 21-22 * \$ _____

**includes \$100 UUA, UUCER and UU Faith Action dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for adult Member couple that will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: _____ Quarterly Payment: _____
Monthly Payment: _____ Weekly Payment: _____



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY

Minister: Rev. Mary Tiebout

President: Barbara Kelly

Vice President: Marilyn Chapman

Treasurer: Hal Cohen

Secretary: Stevie Fava

Quest Editors: Richard Goffman, Susan Weiner



Don't forget our SHOPWITHSCRIP gift card program. UUFSC gets rebates of up to 13% on gift cards from more than 750 well-known merchants. If you have questions, please contact Sue Weiner, or Hal Cohen if Sue isn't available.

UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Please call or email Hal Cohen for your \$50 or \$100 supermarket gift cards each month. Help the Fellowship earn 5% of each card purchased directly from the store, at no cost to you. Thanks!

