

# The Quest

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County

### PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR JANUARY

**Jan. 5 Happiness: An End or the Means?** Our Declaration of Independence says that all “are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Helen Keller would have worded that last phrase differently. Led by Mary Tiebout.

**Jan. 12 International Gender Equity** Bruce Knotts, the Director of the UU-United Nations Office, will discuss gender equity in the international environment and how the UU-UNO is working to influence the UN agenda on this topic. (Women’s Rights: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is one of the 5 core program areas of the UU-UNO.) He will illustrate his talk with descriptions of 6 women who have had a big impact on his life, including Mother Teresa. Program host: Barbara Kelly.

**Jan. 19 At the Movies in America** Eighty years since the release of “Gone With the Wind,” we acknowledge that perhaps some of that story is not entirely “gone.” Films have been, in a way, cultural currency, with the power to open, close or change our minds and the responsibility, even when telling a story, to tell the truth. Have films changed us? Which ones have taught us? Why do film scores stay with us for decades? Led by Mary Tiebout.

**Jan. 26 Love at First Sight** Wise men say only fools rush in... But Richard Goffman is going to lead us on a brief exploration of the mythic – or is it? – phenomenon called love at first sight. We’ll take a look at examples in literature, in music, in popular lore and in real life. Is there a scientific basis for this phenomenon? And if there were, what fun would that be? What’s your take?

*A LOOK AHEAD... Feb. 2. To vote Aye or Nay. To speak up or remain silent. Rev. Mary explores the choices we make that are driven not by legal definition, but rather by moral obligations. Feb. 16. Congregation President Jeff Wallis discusses Utopias: A Search for a Perfect Community.*



SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS  
AT 10:30 AM

1 West Nelson St.  
Newton, NJ 07860  
973-579-7210



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.*



THE QUEST is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC.  
For the most up-to-date information  
please visit our website  
[www.uunewtonnj.org](http://www.uunewtonnj.org)

© 2019 All Rights Reserved.

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Our next meeting will be on  
**Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020, 12:30pm**

#### **Casa Bellisima**

269 Newton Sparta Road, Andover Twp. (973-579-1177).  
Please let Barbara Kolb know by December 30th if you're coming: 973-579-5817-h/ 973-979-5805-c. Thank you and Happy New Year!

### **DISCUSSION GROUP**

Mark your calendar for the first meeting of the discussion group in the New Year – Friday, Jan. 17, 2020. We'll meet at 10 am at the Fellowship to take up the question: "What begets social status in today's society? Wealth? Occupation? Genetics? Education? Celebrity? Power?" In December, we discussed the interplay (and conflict) between personal privacy and the public need. Most of us came away concerned about the way computers have altered the way information about us is obtained, stored, manipulated and used. I look forward to seeing you next year.  
Mike

### **TIMEBANK**

<https://northwestnewjersey.timebanks.org>

(Postponed from last month.)

Ballroom Dancing Lessons and Potluck at "Ballroom Magic" Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, 5:30 – 8:00 pm, 4 Franklin Lane, Sussex (Vernon Twp).

Please join us for a fun, lively evening. Timebank members Katy & Russ Fischer will be providing free ballroom dance lessons as part of the potluck. Katy studied ballet and modern dance for 12 years. She started teaching ballroom dancing at Arthur Murray's over 40 years ago, and then opened her own studio, [ballroommagicnj.com](http://ballroommagicnj.com). Russ has been teaching with Katy for over 25 years. Bring a dish to share with others. Bring your family and friends. Get time credits for attending.

RSVP if you can and let us know what dish you will be bringing. Call Kim at 973-903-2895 or email her at [kimmlatham@gmail.com](mailto:kimmlatham@gmail.com).

### **MINDFULNESS MEDITATION**

The meditation group meets Mondays from 7:00 to 7:45 pm, upstairs at the Fellowship. Stu Feldstein is our guide at most meetings. All are welcome. No previous experience with meditation is needed, and it's free of charge. For more information, contact Sally Sattin at [smsattin@gmail.com](mailto:smsattin@gmail.com).

### **DUTY ROSTER**

#### **JANUARY 2020**

Flowers for Center Table: Volunteers needed for all Sundays.

Help with Coffee Hour: Volunteers needed for each week.

Jan. 19: Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser Luncheon (\$5 donation suggested for adults and children, except those who contribute food) We need:

- > Soup for ten servings: Linda Hendrixson and three more volunteers needed.
- > Sandwiches for ten servings: Jeri Doherty and three more volunteers needed.
- > Donations of goodies and fruit are always welcome.

See Linda Hendrixson in the kitchen if you have questions.

### **ART GALLERY**

A Celebration of Black History is the theme of our display from early January to the third week in March. Contact Sharon by email: [sbp224@icloud.com](mailto:sbp224@icloud.com) or cell: 862-268-3858 if you can contribute to this in any way.

AT THE UUFSC, OUR SERVICES REFLECT the diversity of our members' interests and the spirit of the third and fourth principles of Unitarian Universalism listed in the affirmation on page one. We are prepared to hear opinions with which we do not agree. We are prepared to hear ideas based on spiritual intuition or supernatural faith. We are prepared to hear the theories and provisional truths of today's physical, psychological, social, and political sciences. We try to maintain an ecumenical balance in our Sunday morning services. Our aim is to represent, over time and through differing views, the sincere beliefs and aspirations of all members of our congregation.

We try to encourage the full participation of everyone, without regard to age, class, color, differences in physical or mental ability, gender, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious background or sexual orientation.

# ALONG THE PATH...

Dear Friends,

On December 19, after signing the bill that will allow New Jersey's undocumented immigrant residents to obtain driver's licenses, Gov. Phil Murphy, holding the signed bill in front of him, declared, "This is the law of the land!" Afterward, Johanna Calle, Director of NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, spoke of the decades that people have been working to get this measure passed, the opportunities for employment that will be



opened up to immigrants who become legal, insured drivers, and the dignity and respect for immigrants that has always been tied to this issue. Johanna is well-known to members of the Immigrant Task Force of UU FaithAction NJ, as an organizer, an ally, and as a speaker at task force meetings. For years, the issue of driver's licenses was a legislative priority that Johanna urged our task force to support. We're happy for everyone who will benefit from the passage of this bill.

A note of thanks to Sally and Stevie and to all who helped to make the Holiday Shoppe a success. Thank you to whoever donated the tin horn which I bought and tried to play while stopped at a light in Hackettstown. It sounded more like a kazoo than an English hunting horn, but I'm sure that with practice, my playing will improve.

There are thanks to go all around for the unusual kind of place our fellowship is and for what we offer to the community. It is our mission to provide opportunities for spiritual nourishment and to address issues that trouble the community and the larger world. Finding a balance between these parts of our lives, the inner and outer, and creating an environment where the results of our efforts in one aspect will feed the other in a continuing loop, is a difficult thing to achieve, but at times we do just that, individually and as a group. I'm grateful for the honesty, courtesy, intention and attention that combine to make that possible.

Great thanks, love and New Year's blessings to you all!

Mary

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** For Fellowship closings due to inclement weather, all members and friends will receive an email notifying them of the closing. All closings will also be posted on our web site ([www.uunewtonnj.org](http://www.uunewtonnj.org)) and on our Facebook page. **If you would like to receive a telephone call notifying you of every closing, please contact Susan Felsen, Board Secretary ([sfelsen2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sfelsen2001@yahoo.com)), or Jeff Wallis, Board President, ([wjwallis@aol.com](mailto:wjwallis@aol.com)), to be put on the call list.**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear UUFSC members and friends,

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) web site gives the following description of who we are as UUsers:

*We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and people of many beliefs. We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.*

So I ask myself, who wouldn't want to be a part of THAT? Well, a lot of people as it turns out. But why? That is one of the questions that we will tackle at our Community Retreat on membership on Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 10:30-1:30 at the Fellowship. All members and friends are invited to join us for an in-depth discussion and exploration of concrete steps that we can take to assure that our membership remains constant and/or expands. If you are attending, please sign up at the Fellowship (sign-up sheet on the side table on the first floor) or email me at [wjwallis@aol.com](mailto:wjwallis@aol.com). There is no need to respond again if you have already done so.

If you are reading this, then I am sure that you love our Fellowship as much as I do. If we want to preserve it for future generations then we owe it to them, and ourselves, to make this effort. If any gain is going to be made, it will take the collective effort of everyone who loves UUFSC. Let me end with another quote from the UUA, *"Together, we create a force more powerful than one person..."* Let's use that power to preserve what we love. Hope to see you at the Community Retreat on January 11th.

In fellowship,

Jeff

All members and friends are invited to attend  
a **UUFSC COMMUNITY RETREAT** on membership  
**Saturday, January 11, 2020**  
**10:30-1:30**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
Sign-up sheet downstairs or email RSVP to [wjwallis@aol.com](mailto:wjwallis@aol.com).





## UU Faith Action NJ and Social Action Committee

**Next Meeting: January 26th, downstairs after service.**

**Topics:** We continue to learn what social action our UU members are up to. For this first meeting of the new year, we will discuss policy action recommended by UUFANJ for 2020. We will set some priorities and devise strategies to help win over legislators including our District 24 legislators on critical issues.

### **Recent activities:**

Nov. 29: **Global Strike for the Climate** in support of Greta Thunberg's message.

Dec. 6: We attended **North NJ Climate Coalition** strike in Morristown.

Dec. 8: We sent **holiday cards to District 24 legislators** attempting to build understanding and working relationships in 2020.

Dec. 14: **SCCC Climate "Panel"** at Newton Methodist Church was very well attended by members of our committee who spoke out against the organized ignorance.

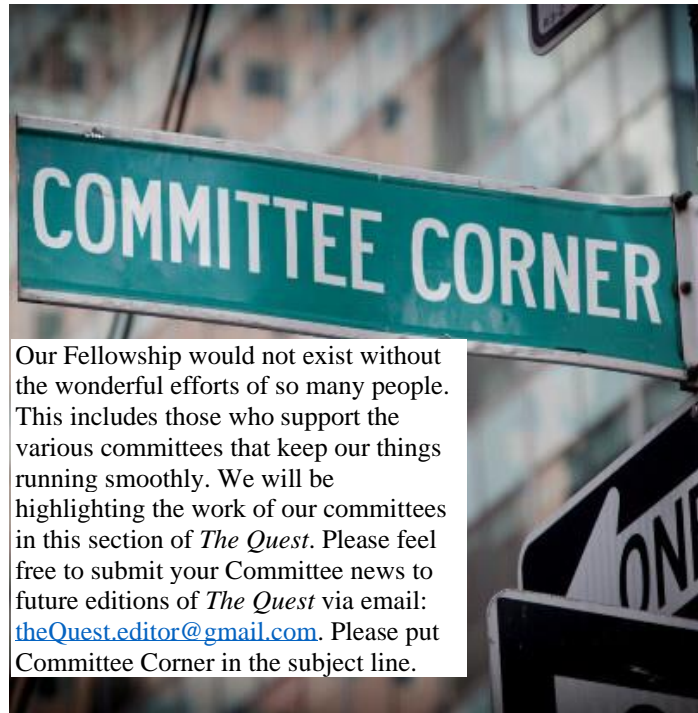
### **Upcoming in 2020. . .**

Remember our weekly **Newton Green Climate Strikes on Fridays, 11am – noon**. These will continue into 2020. Dress warm and join us as we change the world one honk at a time.

The first annual **UU Faith Action NJ EcoGala**, on Jan. 10, has sold out.

The excellent climate change panelist, Dr. Laurel Kearns, Professor of Ecology, Society, and Religion at [Drew Theological School](#) will be our speaker at service this Feb. 9th when we will have an opportunity to continue the climate discussion.

Acting Chairperson: Christine Dunbar.



Our Fellowship would not exist without the wonderful efforts of so many people. This includes those who support the various committees that keep our things running smoothly. We will be highlighting the work of our committees in this section of *The Quest*. Please feel free to submit your Committee news to future editions of *The Quest* via email: [theQuest.editor@gmail.com](mailto:theQuest.editor@gmail.com). Please put Committee Corner in the subject line.

## **SAVE THE DATE!!! Saturday, January 18 2-4 PM MAJOR CONCERT EVENT**



Come to a world music concert by **Chuck Wood and Friends** at our Fellowship— and bring your friends!

This concert is to benefit UUFSC – so come enjoy some great music and contribute to UUFSC at the same time! \$20 donation/\$10 students.

Groove to Chuck's original compositions which have a heavy Latin and African influence. He and his band members use a wide variety of international instruments, many of which you may never have seen or heard before: African djembe and down down drums, berimbau of Brazil, plus the more familiar electric guitar, Latin American conga drums, harmonica and saxophone. It promises to be a fascinating and enjoyable concert! Saturday, January 18, 2-4 PM at UUFSC.

For more info on Chuck Woods and his music, visit [www.chuckwoodmusic.com](http://www.chuckwoodmusic.com).

The flier is on the next page. Please print it in color, if you are able, and post it in your community.

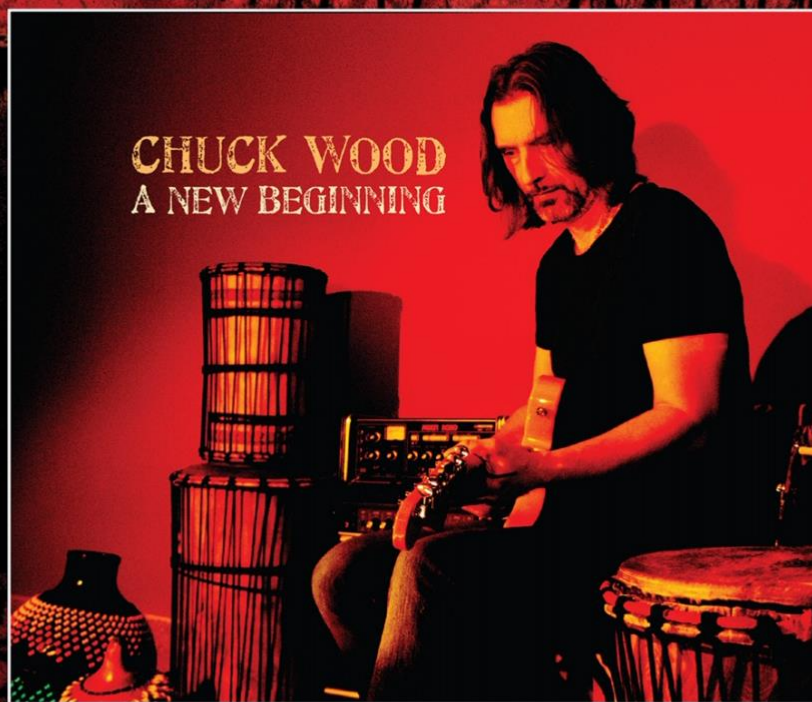


# *World Music Concert*

*with*

# Chuck Wood & Friends

*Benefit Concert for UUFSC*



*January 18. 2-4pm \$20 donation/Students \$10*

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County  
1 West Nelson Street, Newton, NJ

Enjoy a variety of original compositions using instruments such as the African djembe and doun doun drums, Latin American conga drums, berimbau of Brazil, electric guitar, harmonica and saxophone.

[www.chuckwoodmusic.com](http://www.chuckwoodmusic.com)



# THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Happy New Year from RE,

Here's our Schedule (but please keep connected via our closed Facebook page for any changes):

January 5: Bigs will meet for Buddhism 1: Waking Up.

January 12: Bigs will meet for Buddhism 2: Right Living.

January 19: Littles will meet for a lesson on Dreams and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Also Board Game Cafe for the Bigs. (Please bring in a snack if you haven't taken a turn.)

January 26: Littles will meet for a lesson on imagination.

Thank you to all who made donations to our Mitten Tree and Toy Drive!!!

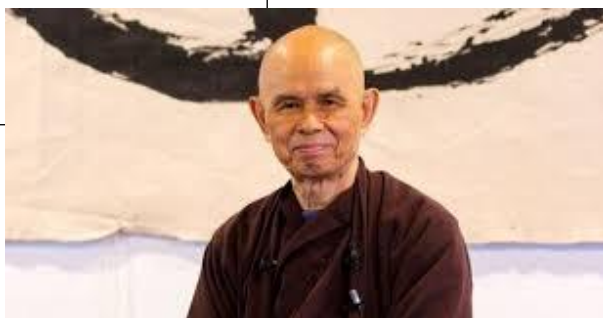
Our Hanukkah Celebration with Temple B'nai Shalom in Newton (left) was a great success! So happy that we are building real bridges with our neighbors of differing faiths.

Warmly,

Lauren



"You carry Mother Earth within you. She is not outside of you. Mother Earth is not just your environment. In that insight of inter-being, it is possible to have real communication with the Earth, which is the highest form of prayer." – Thich Nhat Hanh



TOP: Students strike for climate.  
BOTTOM: Climate strikers Sharon, Frédérique, Jules (the dog), and Christine.

---

## Cabin Fever Breakfasts



**Beat the winter doldrums with stimulating conversation and a warm breakfast.**

RSVP to Jeff Wallis at [wjwallis@aol.com](mailto:wjwallis@aol.com)

**Saturday, February 1 and March 14  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
UUFSC Fellowship Hall**

### **Saturday, February 1--Poetry Fest IV: Poetry and Pancakes**

W. Somerset Maugham said, "The crown of literature is poetry." If you love, admire, or just want to learn more about poetry, join us on this winter morning for our fourth Cabin Fever Breakfast Poetry Fest and be warmed by words poetic and pancakes. Bring a favorite poem or two to read and discuss—maybe a poem from your childhood, a humorous poem, or a poem that moves you. The poems may be from others or ones you have written yourself. Spend a couple of hours exploring the world of poetry through readings, discussions, and conversation. Celebrate that which is the royalty of literature—poetry.

### **Saturday, March 14 – UUA Common Read**

The 2019-2020 UUA Common Read book, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, challenges readers to learn US history through a narrative that centers the story on the experiences and the perspectives of Indigenous peoples. Written by indigenous scholar and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, the book asks readers to reconsider the origin story of the United States taught to every US school child. The book may be bought from the UU bookstore and/or on-line. Led by Rev. Mary Tiebout



# A UU Christmas Story

by Linda Hendrixson

On Sunday, December 15, 2019, Dianna Morrison from NORWESCAP presented an interesting program about the wide variety of services which her organization provides to poor and disadvantaged residents of Northwest New Jersey, including Sussex County. NORWESCAP, a non-profit organization which began in 1965, offers many vital services to these families throughout our area.

After coffee hour was over that day and everyone had left the building, I was finishing my work in the kitchen when I heard a knock on the outside door. I looked out to see a woman's face in the door's window. I called for her to come in.

She was a young woman in her 30s wearing a light winter jacket and no hat, despite the cold wind outside. She asked if the large artificial tree in the parking lot (which was left over from our Holiday Sale in a box marked "Free") was available.

"Yes," I said.

"May I take it?" she asked.

Again, I said, "Yes, please do."

She told me that she had three children, was pregnant with her fourth child, and that she wanted to have the Christmas tree for them. "By all means, please help yourself, and Merry Christmas to you," I said.

"Merry Christmas," she replied as she left, "and God bless you."

"God bless you, too," I said.

I watched through the window as she opened the trunk of her car and loaded the large tree to take home. I thought of Dianna Morrison and what we had just learned about the needs of so many poor people in our county. I was glad that our fellowship was able to make a Merry Christmas for at least three local children this year.

**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

amazon.com will donate 0.5% of all of your eligible purchases to the Fellowship, and there will be no cost to you. Thanks, and happy shopping!!

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** When you shop online, please remember to go to **Smile.Amazon.com**. Once you have registered and selected the Fellowship as your designated charity,



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

**Minister: Rev. Mary Tiebout**  
schoolhouse@pil.net

**Dir. of Religious Education: Lauren Jones-Rabbitt**  
lauren.jonesrabbitt@gmail.com

**President: Jeff Wallis**  
wjwallis@aol.com

**Vice-President: Chris Dunbar**  
chrisdunbar458@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Kelly Moore-Finley**  
kmoorefinley@gmail.com

**Secretary: Susan Felsen**  
sfelsen2001@gmail.com

**QUEST Editor: Richard Goffman**  
theQUEST.editor@gmail.com

**QUEST Editorita: Susan Weiner**  
theQUEST.editor@gmail.com

**Webmaster: Gary Albaugh**  
gary.l.albaugh@gmail.com