

The Quest

April 2023
VOL. 58, NO.8

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County

APRIL PROGRAM INFORMATION



Hybrid Sunday services start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) If you attend in person, **masks are optional**. Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs, which are the same every week, are online at meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj or by phone at 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

Apr 2. Father's Day. Fathers are celebrated with their special day in June, a month when UUFSC doesn't have services. This service will be devoted to looking at fatherhood from several perspectives, including a speech by Phillip Spooner, a Maine father of four sons. What does fatherhood mean to you? Do you have a story about your father? Do you have a story about being a father? Join us and come ready to share, if you wish, as we continue our exploration of family. Led by Jeff Wallis.

Apr 9. Easter and Jesus: What to Think? In the 7th century, Bede observed that the Druids' Spring Equinox festival "was once called after a goddess of theirs named Eostre, in whose honor feasts were celebrated in that month." Our discussion of Easter will reflect on the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the appropriation of Pagan "stuff" by early Christians, the man Jesus and his religious genesis, and the challenge of embracing life despite the specter of death. (At the beginning of the service, Rev. Doak will share a story with the children.) Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield.

Apr 16. The Depiction of Aging in Literature. Today's program will be about old age. No, I do not intend to tell you about my aches and pains, and how I've become a grumpy old man. Instead, with help from the Old Testament, Plato, Shakespeare, Tennyson, The Beatles, poetry written by some of our Fellowship members and friends, and maybe more, we will explore how old age is depicted in selected works of literature. Is an old person merely "a tattered coat upon a stick," as Yeats once wrote, or does old age bring wisdom or other attributes? Young people are welcome, for, if they're lucky, they too will get old. Led by Jerry Sattin.

Apr 23. We Are All Connected by Water. Since the Clean Water Act of 1972, there's been little improvement in water quality for NJ. Community engagement is most welcome in returning our watersheds to their former healthy state. In recognition and celebration of Earth Month, Chris will share her ideas and programs that can help us to reclaim the clean waterways we inherited from the Lenape. Led by Chris Dunbar.

Apr 30. "The God Talk." We'll explore thoughts on the person (idea) and place (role) of God in life. Jehovah, Allah, Father, The Force, Manitou...are some of its names. Does it signify in one's life? Led by Rev. Doak Mansfield.

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, go to our website, www.uunewtonnj.org. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS



April! Imagine that. Only here for four weeks, but have fallen in love with the area...and am working on a love affair with y'all. Going great. Settling in to my new home.

Please note that our first Saturday Seminar with Rev. Doak is planned for April 8 at 10:00. The topic is *The spiritual and religious climate, culture, situation post pandemic. The options? The needs?* I'd love to have you attend.

You're encouraged to bring flowers from your garden for Sunday meetings. A floral arrangement will beautify our time together and offer nice fragrance!

I'm pondering a distinctive moniker, "*The Protestant Rabbi.*" If rabbi is off-putting, I can substitute *The Protestant Friar.*" I loved Friar Tuck of Robin Hood fame, anyway. Gotta like his causal style and his fashion sense.

I'm making a trip southward beginning after the Easter service on April 9. It's about 1,000 miles to my hometown of Fayetteville, Tennessee. My sister Mary is there, and I'm going for some of my stuff. I serviced my Jeep "Midnight," as I call it (2014 Jeep Patriot, midnight navy), when I got here on March 3, so it's good to go. I drove it from Kennewick, WA, five years ago, and it's a great car. I plan on being back here on April 18 or 19. Looking forward to travel through emerging spring. (Allowing three days.)

From my first sermon/teaching of March 19. . .On June 1, 1557, the Diet of Torda (National Assembly of Transylvania) stated that "everybody should live in a belief that he or she wants if it is done without the distrust of another." Thought to be maybe the first governmental decree of religious tolerance. Ferenc David (Hungary/Romanian) founder of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church was first Unitarian Bishop and evangelist.... From our Universalist heritage, leaders John Murray (Christocentric) and Hosea Ballou (Unitarian) advanced the teaching of universal salvation. Thomas Starr King said, "Universalists believe that God is too good to damn people, and the Unitarians believe that people are too good to be damned by God." Motto on the front of Ohio Universalist church—Our God is not partial.

Our spiritual heritage is all about freedom and community.

Enjoy the glory of spring! See ya soon, I hope.

Love,

Rev. Doak

doakmansf@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

As we enter April, it really feels as if we're in spring, the season of new growth. And that is true of our Fellowship as well.

We have a new minister, Rev. Doak, who brings new energy and lots of interesting ideas.

We've had an increase of attendance at our Sunday services, both in person and virtually.

We've had our first salad and sandwich luncheon, and the potluck welcome dinner for Rev. Doak—things we haven't done since COVID!

And our first Spring Fling since 2019 will be held on Saturday, May 6. Please be creative and generous in offering auction items. Not only is it our major fundraiser of the year, it is also a fun social event.

We have come through some demanding times over the past few years, with COVID and the search for our new minister. So, let's take a deep breath of this fresh spring air and enjoy being part of this "beloved community."

In fellowship,

Barbara Kelly

***Mission Statement of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County***

**We seek to nourish the spirit;
to foster peace, justice, diversity and understanding
in our community and the world;
and to cherish and sustain the earth and the web of
life.**

THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION




Dear Friends,

Spring is here, a time to foster the spirit of renewal and awakening in our RE classes.

In March, the children finished their prayer bead necklaces. The beads are a simple reminder of the power of prayer—a bead for gratitude, a bead for remorse, a bead for loving prayers, and a bead for personal wishes.

In April, we'll add two more directions to our Moral Compass—empathy and forgiveness. On the second Sunday, the children will remain upstairs after lighting the chalice for a very special story time with Reverend Doak. Families are welcome to join us after the story for a special surprise outside!

With hearts in bloom,

Sharon and Pin 

Below is a preview of the RE calendar for the month of April.

Apr 2. In Another's Shoes. In this session, the children will continue learning the concepts of empathy, compassion, and understanding. They will listen to a story that sensitively deals with the topic of seal hunting. Afterward, the teachers and children will take turns imagining how they might feel if they were a seal that was hurt.

Apr 9. Easter Sunday. On this Sunday, we'll have an intergenerational service. Reverend Doak will ask the children to join him in the front of the sanctuary for a story. Afterward, we will head outside for an egg hunt!

Apr 16. In Another's Shoes (continued). This week, the children will learn about advocacy by writing letters and drawing pictures to send to Canadian officials who are considering outlawing seal products. If time remains, we'll practice being empathetic in an active listening activity with a partner.

April 23. Forgiveness. In this session, the children will hear a theatrical reading of a story, which takes place in Persia, about two friends and the power of forgiveness.

Apr 30. Forgiveness (continued). This week, the children will get to demonstrate how forgiveness can erase hurt by writing their own hurtful memories in sand and then quickly erasing them with their hand. Then, they'll get to etch a kind memory into clay, which will harden when it dries, to illustrate how the kindness of others stays in our hearts forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Discussion Group will be on April 21 at the Fellowship, at 10 am. We'll explore the similarities and differences between communism and socialism.

Saturday Seminars with Rev. Doak

A presentation and discussion of varied spiritual and religious traditions and ideas, Unitarian Universalist legacy, etc., led by the Rev. Dr. Doak Mansfield.

April 8, 10 am–noon: The spiritual and religious climate, culture, situation post-pandemic. The options? The needs?

April 29, 10 am–noon: Humanist manifesto revisited. (Research or Google it before meeting.) Watch for May topics (May 13 and May 27)!

UU Summer Camps

There is a vibrant network of Unitarian Universalist camps, retreat centers, and conferences, each of which identifies with Unitarian Universalist (UU) values and traditions. Rev. Doak has highlighted one in NC, MountainCamp, which can be accessed at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/mountaincamp>. The UUA website has information on many of them. Check it out at <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/get-involved/where/camps-retreats-and-conferences>.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Stewardship

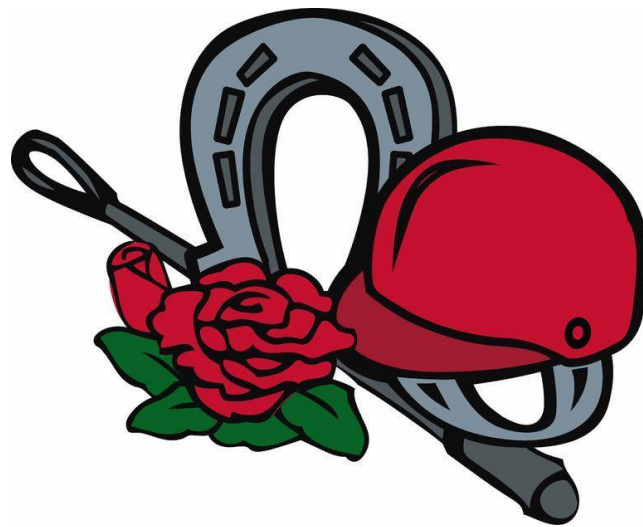
The 2023 Fling May 6, is co-chaired by Hal Cohen and Sue Weiner. Others serving on the Fling Committee are Marilyn Chapman (Coordinator: Hat Contest), Laura Dempsey (Coordinator: Food and Drink, in consultation with Linda Hendrixson), Jeri Doherty (Cashier), Stevie Fava (Coordinator: Services–Help Wanted/Needed), Linda Hendrixson (Coordinator: Kitchen), Sonya Hulbert, Barbara Kelly (Cashier), Phil Schaming, Marcia Smith (Coordinator: Signup and Go), Jeff Wallis (Coordinator: Artwork), Phil Weiner (Coordinator: Shared Prosperity, or 50/50). And last, but certainly not least, our auctioneer extraordinaire, Richard Goffman! (There's more Fling information throughout this issue.)

We've also scheduled dates for our Rummage Sale, June 23 and 24, which will be chaired by Stevie Fava. Stevie assures us we already have plenty of "stuff." Stay tuned for more details.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE 2023 RUMMAGE SALE. . . Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24

UUFSC Spring Fling 2023

Kentucky Lucky Derby



Race to the Spring Fling

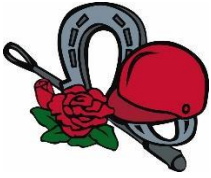
Saturday, May 6th

12:00 PM



Wear a derby day hat!





KENTUCKY LUCKY DERBY – AUCTION DONATION FORM

Donor(s)		
Name:		
Address:		
Phone:	Email:	
Service/event being offered		
Service/Event Title:		
Date:	Time:	Rain Date:
Max. People:	Min. Bid:	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Category (check one):		
• Education	• Entertainment	• Excursions
• Meals and More	• Miscellaneous	• Services
• Signup and Go	• Want Ads	• Vacation/Lodging
Description of service/event		

This form should be submitted to Sue Weiner by April 20. Please email it to her at susanweiner01@gmail.com or snail mail it to her at 3310 Gates Court, Morris Plains, NJ 07950.



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Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you plan your wardrobe for our May 6 Kentucky Lucky Derby, be sure to include a HAT!

Prizes will be awarded for:

Most Sophisticated
Most Irresistible
Silliest
Most Unusual

SPRING FLING...What's It All About?

The Spring Fling is our service auction fund-raiser, the biggest fund-raiser UUFSC has to date. At this luncheon party we bid on events, dinners, trips, and some precious items that have been donated by members and friends. At the same time, we enjoy a delicious meal and entertainment. Sharing in the social events and the services offered enrich our community by bringing us together in fun and interesting ways, especially during the summer when we don't have services.

This year, the Fling theme is Kentucky Lucky Derby. Make sure to wear your best Derby hats! (See Hat Contest ad above.) The date is May 6, the starting time is noon, and the admission donation is \$20.

Before you do anything else, complete the Auction Donation Form (page 7) describing the service, event, or item you're offering. Submit the form to Susan Weiner by April 20. Examples of auction items are:

- Seminars/discussions
- Lessons
- Photographic tour of a country, state, area, etc.
- Parties (New Year's, Holiday, card party)
- Brunch, lunch, dinner, barbecue. . . either at your home or out
- Offers of help
- Requests for help

The Silent Auction donations are usually artwork, utensils, appliances, any large items, jewelry, etc.

The Signup and Go donations, which are events with a set price that you simply sign up for, are generally visits to museums, gardens, etc., or video/book reviews with discussion, or large group gatherings somewhere.

UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Please call or email Hal Cohen for your \$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!



Formerly ShopWithScrip

RaiseRight, formerly ShopWithScrip, continues to offer the Fellowship a wonderful way to raise needed funds as you shop. UUFSC gets rebates of up to 13% on gift cards you purchase from among more than 750 well-known merchants. You can buy gift cards by going to www.raiseright.com. Please contact Sue Weiner or Hal Cohen if you have any questions about this program.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY

President: Barbara Kelly
Vice-President: Hal Cohen
Treasurer: Jerry Sattin
Secretary: Stevie Fava

Quest Editors: Susan Weiner, Richard Goffman