

The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER



SUNDAY SERVICES ARE HYBRID, EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW. You may attend in person, following the COVID guidelines (proof of vaccination, masks). If you wish to attend virtually, you can do so the same way we've been doing all along. Go to meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj. Or join by phone, 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

Dec 5. Stories for Hanukkah. What makes the lamp oil last for eight days? Perhaps it's the stories that are told—in families, in fact or fiction. In one story, we'll learn about our gallery artist, Herbert B. Tobias. Stories of hope and survival, of Jewish culture and experience will help us celebrate the light that, miraculously, does not go out. Led by Mary Tiebout.*

Dec 12. A Polish-American Romance. My father used to tell me stories about his life as a boy in Poland. I should have asked him lots of questions, but never got around to it. With the help of some research, I was able to gain some understanding of the context of his stories and to marvel at the romance and good fortune that brought him to America, which I hope to share with you. Led by Jerry Sattin.*

Dec 19. Stories for the Long Winter. For generations and generations, especially during troubling times, people of the North have told stories in December's darkness to coax, lure, urge or even trick the light into returning, in order to bring new possibilities and new life. Stories from lands near and far will be told by Mary Tiebout.

Dec 23 (4:30 pm) Calling Back the Sun, a winter solstice celebration. IN-PERSON ONLY! An hour-long program of stories, reading, candle-lighting and music, followed by light refreshments. All are welcome! Led by Mary Tiebout. (Again, NO VIRTUAL SERVICE.)

Dec 26. A Treasured Gift. VIRTUAL ONLY! This program will highlight the music of J. S. Bach. In this time of gift-giving, we'll hear how Bach's music was given as a "gift" (twice) and how it remains an integral part of a music-listening life. After listening to some sublime music, we'll have an opportunity to share stories of a gift given to us that remains an important part of our life. Led by Jeff Wallis. (Again, NO IN-PERSON SERVICE.)

*Art reception to follow at noon. See page 4.

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.

ALONG THE PATH



Dear friends,

When my children were young, it was not unusual to see snow flurries on an October afternoon, and when we would guess the date of our first measurable snow, we would be thinking about the first week in December. So here, perhaps, we go, into the joys of winter, the magical hush of a world blanketed, patted down for sleep, until a sunny day comes and our silent snow-globe world gives way to the clanging and scraping necessary to get us where we need to go. May the scenes of winter's quiet beauty last long enough to bring us a few moments of peace.

Can we find peace even though many nations around our world are in upheaval or seem to be moving toward some kind of political or environmental disaster? We are reminded that in 1741, England was in turmoil while Handel composed the music for his masterpiece, *Messiah*, and Charles Jennens created the libretto, selecting passages from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures that proclaimed the coming of a new age, a new king, and peace. May the music of this season bring us strength, uplifted hearts, and peace.

Our work to make a better world continues. In January, we'll resume conversations related to our Fellowship's vote to affirm the intent and spirit of the UUA's 8th Principle. Fellowship members will continue to work with UU FaithAction NJ on issues that we want our legislators to support or oppose. We'll continue to make our voices heard and our values known in the community, and we'll hope that from our efforts, alongside our justice-seeking, environment-sustaining, compassionate, determined allies, we'll create bonds that are based on trust and that will restore a sense of peace.

My heart is full of gratitude for your kind words regarding my decision that family responsibilities make it necessary for me to end my work as minister at UUFSC at the end of June. Your generosity and understanding have warmed my heart and, despite the sadness of parting, have given me the gift of peace.

May our celebrations of love's light this season bring us great joy and a deep and abiding peace.

Mary T.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends,

This holiday season, from Thanksgiving through to the New Year, is the special time of year to be grateful.

We can certainly be grateful for our Fellowship.

Our new hybrid services are a source of joy—the joy of being together in person after almost 1-1/2 years of distanced virtual connection, the joy of live piano music. Attendance, both virtual and in-person, has been strong.

The services are really an indication of the deep underlying bond we have as members and friends of the Fellowship. This is evident in our Joys and Concerns, during which people frequently express their appreciation for the support they've felt whenever they or their family members have experienced difficulties.

Another indication of the bond we have as a Fellowship is the willingness of our members and friends to give their time and their donations to keep our Fellowship running. Pledges have been very strong this year, and many people have volunteered for projects and to serve on various committees. We are such a small congregation that this level of involvement is critical to our ongoing existence.

Reverend Mary's sermon on November 21 was an inspirational reflection on gratitude, especially seen through the eyes of the Native American cultures, which value nature and its blessings. It was a reminder to rejoice in our everyday experience, not just at holidays.

So, at this time of year, I would like to wish you and your families a very joyful holiday season and a new year filled with happiness and good health.

In fellowship,

Barbara Kelly

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!



DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the Discussion Group is scheduled for Friday, December 17, at 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic will be the *Status and Role of Journalism*, including our diminishing ability to find news relating to local matters.

November's discussion of wealth and income inequality resulted in an active interchange of ideas. Topics discussed included the fairness of our system of levying taxes, the extent that big business is overwhelming smaller, main-street enterprises, and the status of unions.

"The General answers his own phone. Must be a Unitarian."—Col. Sherman Potter, MASH 4077

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

UU members and friends attended Transgender Remembrance Day held on the Newton Green November 20th. This is a national day of remembrance honoring all victims of violence due to sexual nonconformity.

Chris Dunbar, Social Action Chair, asks that you notify her via email if you wish to be taken off of the email notification list for the Social Action Team. Members stay in touch with, and lend support to, the goals of UU FaithAction NJ task forces. And, at monthly meetings, the team discusses local and national matters of concern and events we can support together. If she doesn't hear from you, you'll be invited to participate in social action through petitions, writing, speaking, protesting, vigils, protests, etc.

ART RECEPTION FOR THE WORKS OF HERBERT BEAR TOBIAS

Special receptions will be held at the Fellowship for the artwork of Herbert Tobias (currently on display in our Art Gallery) on the first two Sundays in December, the 5th and the 12th. Each reception will start at noon, after the UUFSC service, and run until 2 pm. Proof of vaccination, unless you've already been checked by the Fellowship, and masks are required. Refreshments will be available downstairs.

This is a celebration of Herbert Tobias' art and a fundraiser for the UUFSC. The works include oil paintings, pencil drawings, charcoals, pastels, and monotypes. Herbert says, "My work speaks for me. I didn't aim for technical proficiency; I aimed to convey the reason for doing the work...the love behind the work that I did...to convey what I saw and the meaning of the subject."

The framed works hung in the Gallery, as well as some unframed works downstairs, are available through donations to the UUFSC (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County). There will be suggested amounts.

This is a beautiful and meaningful exhibit. Roger Cherney will be available to discuss the works and speak about his cousin, Herbert, who's still thriving at 96.



GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Last month we kicked off our annual **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE** collection to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work to advance human rights in the United States and around the globe. The campaign will continue throughout December. This year's theme is "**Now is the Time for Courageous Change.**"

UUSC works year-round in more than 20 countries, with more than 60 grassroots partners. Every year during the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program, we have the chance to learn about four people connected to UUSC partner organizations—the "guests" in Guest at Your Table. We learn about critical human rights issues around the world through stories of people who are deeply connected to the issues and the communities they impact.

You can read about this year's guests in the Stories of Hope booklet that will be available at the Fellowship throughout the month of December. If you'd like to meet these courageous change-makers and hear their voices on video, click <https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Introductions-to-Partner-Videos-GAYT-2021-22.pdf>.

Like last year, the UUSC has set up a special donation webpage specifically for our Fellowship. Just go to <https://donate.uusc.org/UUFSC2021> to donate online, using a credit or debit card, or PayPal. Click the DONATE button. (Don't choose Join a Team.) For those who prefer to contribute by check, please **hand** or **mail** your check by January 2 to our Guest at Your Table Coordinator, Jeri Doherty (see Member-Friends Contact List for her address). **Note:** Checks should be made out to **UUSC** (NOT UUFSC).

Contributions of any amount qualify for membership in UUSC. As a member, you join a community of over 40,000 supporters who share your principles and passion for justice. **Gifts of \$150 or more from a family or individual will be doubled through a matching grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.**

As UUs, we can all be extremely proud of this amazing international service organization, which is widely recognized around the globe. As members of this Fellowship, we can take particular pride in our history of outstanding support for UUSC. Last year was our most successful Guest at Your Table campaign ever, raising \$2510.00, not counting the matching grant funds. Thank you all for your generosity every year! (For more information about UUSC and resources you can explore at home, visit www.uusc.org/guest.)



EARLY TIMES AT UUFSC

... from Bill Bennett's recently-handwritten notes about activities at the Fellowship in which he and his wife, Mary, and their children, Bill and Mary Beth, participated. We're not sure of the year of this event. There will be more stories from Bill, and we welcome your memories and photos, too.



John Nagel and I painted the inside of the Fellowship. Can you imagine me showing on the Internet how to cut four sides of a window pane with a sash brush? We did it all together, and he did a meticulous job in cutting as though he was performing surgery. After the inside was done, I started on the high spots on the sides. We hired a young man to finish the front and rear.

All of us from the Fellowship got together and had a paint party on a Saturday to finish the lower portion of the sides, including windows. I went into Paramus to buy all the paint from Norton's Paints. I asked John Norton for the bill... He said, "Your Fellowship doesn't owe me anything," and he threw in a half-dozen high-quality brushes. He received a very nice thank you note from our President, Paul Callender!



UUFSC Paint Party

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.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

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