

The Quest

MARCH 2022
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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR MARCH

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS MARCH 13! Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour before bed on Saturday night, March 12, so you won't be late for the service on Sunday.

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE HYBRID STARTING MARCH 6 AT 10:30.

You may attend in person WITH NO PROOF OF VACCINATION necessary, but MASKS ARE REQUIRED. If you still 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#.

Mar 6. Forgive Us Our Debts, Trespasses, Inhumanity. In his book *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*, Simon Wiesenthal describes a situation that he found himself in as a prisoner during the Holocaust and asks what others would have done. One of the respondents was Moshe Bejski. It's in his honor that March 6 has, for 10 years, been recognized as the "European Day of the Righteous." Led by Mary Tiebout.

Mar 13. Creation and Sub-Creation: The Worlds of JRR Tolkien. The stories and characters of Tolkien's Middle Earth are some of the most famous in English literature. This presentation will examine the underlying ideas and philosophy that led to the creation of this complex milieu. Led by Jim Kasprzak. (RE and Daylight Savings begin!)

Mar 20. Religion and Our Laws. With increasing measures proposed by state legislatures and local school boards that refer to religious beliefs, comes the question, "What is a religion?" We'll explore how the Supreme Court has tried to define religion, and talk about the 1st Amendment and recent attempts to silence teachers and ban books. Led by Mary Tiebout.

Mar 27. Overlooked: Women in History. Women have made countless amazing contributions to society throughout history, yet their accomplishments have often been overlooked due to their gender, and/or they've been passed over by scholars and historians. This program will highlight the accomplishments of five women, shining a light on their contributions that changed history. Led by members and friends of UUSFC.



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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ALONG THE PATH



*Our Unitarian Universalist 6th Principle:
We affirm and promote the goal of world peace, with liberty and justice for all.*

Dear Friends,

This afternoon, I thought about the Peace Movement, the marches, rallies, protests, and actions that I've been involved in beginning with the war in Vietnam, later addressing the arms race, the military budget, and more wars. With all of the domestic issues that have demanded our peace- and justice-seeking attention during the last few years, our national conversation has not included much about international peace-making. The effort during the current administration to end our participation in a 20-year war was strongly criticized, because it was not a strategic success. But we are no longer at war in Afghanistan.

Tonight, I've just heard the terrible news that Russian forces have attacked several areas in Ukraine. If you were up late, watching the news, you heard the sounds of explosions near Kyiv and other cities. And the speech of the Ukrainian ambassador to the UN. You might have seen the group of 8 or 9 people huddled together on a plaza to pray. I added my prayer. It seems too late. It's frightening and heartbreaking to think of another large-scale war in Eastern Europe. But until there's anything else to do, we can pray for peace. For a different kind of world. For no more ego-driven world leaders with evil intentions.

The plan for our Fellowship to meet again in person comes at a time when many of us are feeling a need to be together. Our Cabin Fever Breakfast is on March 5, at which we'll talk about heroes and villains in films (perfect timing for that topic, Jeff!). And our first re-re-opening service is the next day. It will be good to light candles for peace, candles for our dearest friends, candles of hope and healing, candles for the new life that arrives with spring.

My deepest gratitude to you all for your great caring hearts. It will be good to see you in our sanctuary or to know that you're there with us by computer or phone.

With all hopes and all blessings of Love, Peace, and Spring,

Mary

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and Friends,

March is a month of milestones, as UUFSC resumes activities that we all value.

Hybrid services: Starting on Sunday, March 6, we will resume in-person services, while continuing our simultaneous virtual meeting. It was so good to see each other in person when we briefly held hybrid services late last year, before we had to suspend them again with the Omicron surge. Now, hopefully, we will be able to maintain hybrid services from this point forward. *Please note that proof of vaccination is no longer required; however, we will continue to require masks.*

Coffee hour: We will also resume Coffee Hour beginning on March 6. It will be lovely to catch up with each other in a relaxed setting, after these months of separation. *We need volunteers for Coffee Hour.* The responsibilities include setting up the coffee/hot water makers, putting out cups/plates and refreshments before the service, and cleaning up after people leave. *We would also welcome any donations of snacks/sweets for coffee hour.* Please contact me if you are willing to help. Thanks!

Religious Education: Olivia Smith has graciously agreed to serve as our interim RE Manager, and we will be ready to resume RE on March 13. We need to know in advance how many children plan to attend. *Please contact Olivia as soon as possible if your child/children will be attending. Proof of vaccination is NOT required, but masks ARE.*

Cabin Fever Breakfast: On March 5, Rev. Mary and Jeff Wallis will host a Cabin Fever Breakfast, from 9:30-11:30, which is always a delicious and stimulating get-together. Jeff has sent out emails announcing this. To register, please contact him.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in March!

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!



SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

UUFSC's Social Action Team will meet virtually at 2:00 Tuesday, March 8. Chris Dunbar will send a Zoom link to team members. The meeting will include discussion of the UU FaithAction NJ Spring Gala on April 9, as UUFSC having a table there is important.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will gather at Thai Na Khon on Friday, March 18, at 12:15. Thai Na Khon is located at 7 Woodside Avenue in Newton.

Please RSVP to Mary Tiebout by March 15 if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

NEWS FROM THE UUA

Excerpted from the UUA website (UUA.org).

The social witness process is the method by which the UUA comes to understand and act on the social issues of our times, finally bearing witness through statements adopted as UUA policy by delegates of a General Assembly. To participate in the Spring Social Witness Commission, register on uua.org through the Act for Justice tab.

Spring Social Witness Convening of the Commission on Social Witness

Learn, share, collaborate, and act on these recent statements:



• "Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action"



• "Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities"



• "Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and Multiracial Democracy"

• "The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice. Healing. Courage."

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

7 pm to 9:30 pm ET | 4 pm to 6:30 pm PT

→ bit.ly/SpringConvening2022

PHOTOS/ARTICLES ABOUT UUFSC NEEDED

Bill Bennett has volunteered to compile albums of UUFSC photos and articles to give all of us a sense of our Fellowship's history.

If you have any photos, old or recent, of UUFSC events or any clippings of old articles (e.g., articles that might have appeared in local newspapers), *please mail them to Bill*. (*Bill does not have email!*)

Bill Bennett
Barn Hill Care Center, Room 5151
249 High Street
Newton, NJ 07860

If you have any questions, give Bill a call.

And, when you are at the Fellowship, take some time to look through the photo albums on the downstairs side table that Bill has already assembled for a trip down memory lane. (*If you recognize any of the people in the photos who are not identified, please jot their names next to the photos.*)



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.

FROM WINTER FLING 2000 TO MINI FLING 2022

The “Fling” has been a very important part of the Fellowship’s fundraising efforts and the genesis of many wonderful additions to the social calendars of our members and friends for the past 22 years.

THE HISTORY OF THE SPRING FLING AT UUFSC

The first Fling (called the “Winter Fling”) was held at UUFSC on February 26, 2000, and raised approximately \$2,400 for the Fellowship. The idea for this event came from Bill and Mary Bennett, who joined the Fellowship in 1997 after being members of Central Unitarian Church in Paramus for 30 years. The Fling idea in Paramus started out as a bake sale put on by the Woman’s Alliance and grew from there. Bill and Mary thought that having the Fling at UUFSC would be a great way for people to get together for a night out with food and drinks, and for people to be able to bid on items offered by other members. It would thus provide the Fellowship with a very important fundraising event. Bill and Mary ran the Fling for several years at UUFSC before it was turned over to a Fling Committee.



THE MINI-FLING FOR 2022

Due to the challenges created by COVID, we have not been able to come together for a regular Spring Fling dinner event since April 6, 2019. While 2020 and 2021 were extremely challenging, our members and friends have creatively come together to offer and attend numerous “Mini- Fling” events, which have enabled us to safely gather in smaller groups, several of which were held outdoors, and raise about \$5,200 for the Fellowship (from July 1, 2020 through February 28, 2022). We believe that this approach will need to be maintained for the balance of this year. Mini-Fling offerings and donations remain a very important part of balancing our Fellowship budget.

Suggested donations for Mini-Fling events are:

- Outdoor events \$10
- Online services \$20/hour
- Outdoor events with lunch \$20
- Outdoor events with dinner \$40

Your offerings could include:

- A lunch or dinner event in your home or another location.
- A game-playing day.
- A TV- or movie-watching event.
- Arranging a group trip to an event (exhibit, show, concert, etc.)
- Offering your services to help others (technology help, gardening work, repairs, rides, running errands, etc.)
- Requesting help you need for something you want done or want to learn about.

Please send your Mini-Fling offerings to Sue Weiner, following instructions specified on the next page.

MINI-FLING INSTRUCTIONS

Anyone willing to organize an event will send Sue Weiner an email or snail-mail providing the following information:

- Description of event(s).
- Location of event(s).
- Date and time of event(s).
- Rain date and time of event(s).
- Maximum number of people.
- Donation to be charged (and if there are any admission fees participants must pay).

Sue will consolidate the calendar of proposed events, sort out any scheduling conflicts with the organizers, and send out information on upcoming events to everyone.

The organizer will handle coordination with participants and will collect the donations on the day of the event. Participants can pay with a check made out to UUFSC, with cash, or by credit card via the website donation portal. The organizer will then send individual checks, and a personal check for any cash donations, to the Treasurer.

Cabin Fever Breakfast



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

Saturday, March 5, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., UUFSC Fellowship Hall

Heroes and Villains

What is a hero? A villain? Who is your favorite hero? Can one have a favorite villain? These are some of the questions we'll explore in this interactive discussion of the world of heroes and villains. Using the American Film Institutes (AFI) list of top 100 heroes and villains in the movies (both real and fictional), we'll explore the worlds of good and evil, while enjoying a warm breakfast and the company of some great people. Dressing as your favorite hero or villain is optional!

Note: Because of the nature of the event, wearing masks will not be required when seated—like restaurant protocol. Exact social distancing will not be able to be maintained.

RSVP by March 1st to Jeff Wallis.

EMAIL ADDRESSES IN QUEST

Note that we no longer publish our friends' and members' email addresses in *The Quest* due to previous hacking problems. Please refer to our contact list.

Reparations: From Advocacy to Action

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 | 7-8PM

SPEAKERS:



LORETTA WEINBERG
Retired State Senator, New Jersey State Legislature



JEAN-PIERRE BRUTUS
Senior Counsel, NJ Institute for Social Justice



DIONNE FORD
Moderator, Author and Scholar

The Undoing Racism Team of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair is hosting a discussion regarding New Jersey State Legislature's Bill S386/A938. Passage of this Bill will authorize the state to establish a commission to address reparations. Join this virtual education event designed to help define and explore the need for reparations, the impact of reparations on the citizens of New Jersey, and why it is important to pass the bill now.

VISIT:

tinyurl.com/URT2022



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: Susan Weiner, Richard Goffman