

The Quest

OCTOBER 2022
VOL. 58, NO. 2

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER

Sunday services are hybrid and start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) If you attend in person, including children, **MASKS ARE OPTIONAL**. (Note that this is our **NEW MASK POLICY**.) If you attend virtually, please do so the same way we've been doing all along. (The codes are the same every week.) Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs are: online at meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj or by phone at 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

Oct 2. White Blood. As a history major at Princeton, Sussex County native Nathaniel Hontz wrote a senior thesis entitled *White Blood: How 50 Years of Property Restrictions Kept Sussex County, NJ Caucasian*. **ONLINE** from Boston University, where he's now located, Nathaniel will present an overview of his work. Led by Nathaniel Hontz.

Oct 9. Spiritual Solution to Our Cultural Divide. Our country is divided. Even our faith communities are divided. What can we do? In this sermon, Karen Tibbals, who holds an MA in Religion from Earlham School of Religion, will talk about the spiritual lessons from the latest psychology research that can help us bridge our divide and change our hearts. Led by Karen Tibbals. (Karen's book—*Persuade, Don't Preach: Restoring Civility Across the Political Divide*—is a valuable resource on how to talk to others in a more civil, productive, and loving way.

Oct 16. Sermons by My Father. Raymond J. Pontier discusses Unitarian principles in a talk read by Sharon, his daughter. She will provide some history about Ray, who is both her father and her minister. Led by Sharon Pontier.

Oct 23. Iowan Gothic: The Life of Grant Wood. Hear a native Iowan speak about one of that state's most famous artists, Grant Wood. When you look beyond the two grim farm figures in his iconic *American Gothic*, you see that he was an artist who broke out of the bonds of regionalism and created works that are a stellar tribute to impressionism, and, surprisingly, contain some humor! Led by Marilyn Chapman.

Oct 30. My Spiritual Life as an Artist. Laura Dempsey says that being an artist has saved her soul. In this presentation, she will share her thoughts about her life as an artist, and explain that creating art isn't about selling and a price tag—it's about spiritual work within one's own life. Led by Laura Dempsey.



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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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: CELEBRATION AND CHALLENGES



Dear Members and Friends,

September was a month of celebration.

- We rejoiced in being back together as we started our new year of services.
- We shared our summer joys and travels with our Water Communion.
- We appreciated all the work done by members/friends over the summer that contributed to our Fellowship.

As we look forward, we must also recognize that UUFSC faces some challenges. Given how important our Fellowship is to all of us, I am confident that we can manage them, but it will require the commitment and involvement of us all.

- We are a small and aging congregation. We are hopeful we can attract new members, after the COVID hiatus, through our resumption of Religious Education classes and through our publicity in various media (newspapers, website, Facebook, etc.) But the reality is that all religious denominations, including the UUA, are experiencing a decline in membership. We may need to reevaluate what we do and how we do it in order to adjust to being a smaller congregation. *The Board is holding a retreat on November 6 to discuss this issue, and we would welcome any thoughts you have.*
- We need everyone to pitch in and help out, given our small size. We have a small group of very dedicated volunteers, but we need more to avoid burning these people out. *Please let me know if you would be interested in getting more involved!*
- The current economy has also affected UUFSC. Pledges and actual pledge payments are both less than what they were last year. Our current financial situation is okay, given that we didn't have salary expenses during the pandemic for the Director of Religious Education (DRE), and we currently don't have a minister. But now that we have a new DRE and are actively searching for a minister, our expenses will increase. *Please be as generous as your situation allows.* (See the message on page 5 from our Treasurer, Jerry Sattin, along with a copy of our pledge form.)

I don't raise these issues to be discouraging, simply realistic. I am confident we can face these challenges and remain a vibrant, active Fellowship. But it will require involvement and adjustments.

In fellowship,

Barbara Kelly

THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Dear Members and Friends,

We're so happy to see the children who have returned to the Fellowship! This first month has kept us busy as we become reacquainted, meet new faces, and settle into familiar routines.

Last month, we heard the story *We are All One* and tried to imagine what various living beings—human and non-human—might say to us if we could understand them. Together, we made a web and learned about the seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle, "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." This helped us understand that all living things depend on each other for their needs. We went on a nature walk to observe living things in their natural habitat. We took turns using a magnifying glass and imagining what each plant, animal or insect would say if it could speak our language. Using our observations as inspiration, we drew pictures and wrote how each creature would express what it feels, wants or needs if it could tell us.

Looking forward to these first weeks of autumn with you!

Sharon and Pin

Below is our RE calendar for October.

Oct 2. Litter Clean-Up Day. We will participate in a community clean-up event on and around the grounds of our beloved Fellowship building. Our efforts will also serve as a fundraiser for our congregation. Wear some old clothes, and dress for the weather!

Oct 9. Conscience—Hearing the Inner Voice. In this session, children will be introduced to their own conscience that can guide them to make choices that effect goodness and justice. We will sign our covenant of behavior, hear a Buddhist story about listening to your inner voice, and begin using a moral compass that we will make together.

Oct 16. Conscience—Hearing the Inner Voice (continued). As a continuation of the previous session, we will engage in role-play, use a movement activity to reveal the choices we make, go on a treasure hunt, and begin the Gems of Goodness project.

Oct 23. Faith, Hope, and Prayer. In this session, children hear a story about how a Jewish man's faith is tested and how he uses prayer to overcome his dilemmas. We will begin to put our Gems of Goodness project into action and make prayer bead necklaces.

Oct 30. Faith, Hope and Prayer (continued) To understand the ways in which the major world religions use prayer as a spiritual practice, we will enact prayers for the world. We will also role-play as characters of the story and perform an exercise sharing expressions of faith.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting will be held Friday, October 21, 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic is, "Education: What roles, if any, should parents, educators, and government play in the education of our children?"

FROM THE UUA

Excerpted from the UUA website (uua.org).

As we hear and see news of immigrants flown to Martha's Vineyard or bused to cities in the Northeast, we realize this is an issue that impacts all of us here in the United States. The UUA affirms immigration as a moral issue and has a long-standing commitment to the support of immigrant justice, including organizing and advocating for immigration reform, and an end to detentions and deportations.

If immigration is an issue that interests you, there's extensive information on the UUA website, UUA.org.

FOOD PANTRIES

UUFSC will support the Sparta Community Food Pantry this fall with two food drives. Please leave your donations below the coat rack downstairs.

In October, we'll be collecting dog and cat food. Desired donations are dry or canned (shelf-stable) food in smaller sizes (e.g., 15-20-pound bags), although 50-pound bags will also be accepted.

In November, we will be collecting non-perishable food in advance of Thanksgiving.

ART GALLERY

The photos in our Art Gallery were taken, developed, and printed by Andy Smith.

We welcome this wonderful exhibit, and we hope that everyone will take the time to stop in and view these excellent works. If anyone is interested in purchasing one, please contact Sharon Pontier, who will put you in touch with the artist.

TIMEBANK

The next TimeBank potluck is Sunday, October 16, 4-7 pm, featuring songs with Sharleen Leahey. Bring a dish to share with others. Friends and family are invited.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Pontier.

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!



PLEDGE FORM

Thanks to all who have submitted their 2022-2023 pledge forms and made pledge donations. Jerry Sattin, asks those of you who have not yet pledged to do so as soon as reasonably possible. Your support allows us to continue our Sunday services, maintain our building and grounds, and pay the bills. For your convenience, a pledge form appears below. Please send it to Jerry at 52 Westgate Drive, Sparta NJ 07871, or bring it to him at one of our Fellowship services in October. Thank you on behalf of our Fellowship.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UUA, UUCER, AND UU FAITHACTION

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 FaithAction 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.

You can elect to pay your pledge as a single, quarterly, monthly or weekly payment. Donations can be made by mail, brought to the Fellowship, or paid online at www.uunewtonnj.org.

ANNUAL DUES/PLEDGE FORM

July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Please retain this portion for your records:

Total Dues/Pledged (2022-23) * \$ _____

**includes \$100 UUA, UUCER and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult member or \$200 for an adult member couple, which 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: Jerry Sattin, 52 Westgate Drive, Sparta, NJ 07871
or mail, email or deliver this form to Jerry.

UUFSC Member Name(s): _____

Total Dues/Pledged (2022-23) * \$ _____

**includes \$100 UUA, UUCER and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult member or \$200 for an adult member couple, which will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

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



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

ShopWithScrip is now called RaiseRight and 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 that you purchase from among more than 750 well-known merchants. You can buy gift cards by going to www.raiserright.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**