

The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR APRIL

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE HYBRID 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#.

Apr 3. The Mountaintop. The last speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, on the night of April 3, 1968, in Memphis, is often referred to as “the mountaintop speech.” It was prophetic and powerful. We’ll listen, remember, and reflect on what the image of the mountaintop awakens in us. Led by Mary Tiebout.

Apr 10. The Peabody Sisters. Hear a discussion of the insightful biography *The Peabody Sisters, Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*, by Megan Marshall. Elizabeth, Mary, and Sophia Peabody, along with Ralph Waldo Emerson, Horace Mann, and Nathaniel Hawthorne, had an extraordinary influence on the thought of their day. This narrative mirrors Unitarian and Transcendental thought in the period between the American Revolution and the Civil War. Led by Linda Watkins-Goffman.

Apr 17. Intergenerational Service: The Spirit Returns. A celebration of life, liberation, and the creative spirit at the time of Passover and Easter. We’ll have a presentation by participants in our RE program, as well as a homily and conversation. If weather permits, we’ll end our hybrid service outside, with the children hunting for eggs and all of us making a big, beautiful spirit house. Led by Mary Tiebout and Olivia Smith.

Apr 24. How NOT To Be a Good Father. Maybe you have tried to figure out how to bequeath your worldly possessions to your offspring, how to divide it all up fairly, and how to do it *before* you die so you can take pleasure in retirement seeing your kids enjoying their inheritance. King Lear is Shakespeare’s case study in what NOT to do. Led by Richard Goffman. This will be the First Annual Brian Doherty Program.

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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



Dear Friends,

Though not the one photographed above, an Eastern Bluebird appeared in our garden last week, a surprise, like seeing the first robin, but goodness, that beautiful blue in the winter-faded stems of flowers and grass! The cerulean blue of Ukraine.

In *The Waste Land*, T. S. Eliot claimed that “April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing Memory and desire, stirring Dull roots with spring rain.” In human history, April’s beauty has been shattered by the killings of Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King, and by the tragic collision of the speeding *RMS Titanic* with a North Atlantic iceberg. But each year, color, life, and beauty return.

The Canadian poet Bliss Carman (1861-1929) writes of this in his poem *The Soul of April*, which begins with these verses:

*Over the wintry threshold
Who comes with joy to-day,
So frail, yet so enduring,
To triumph o'er dismay?*

*Ah, quick her tears are springing,
And quickly they are dried,
For sorrow walks before her,
But gladness walks beside.*

And, yes, we have both in our world—sorrow and gladness—sorrow for the people of Ukraine, whose lives have been torn apart, and gladness as we witness their courage and the generosity of people of the world who have offered assistance. As a Fellowship, we will join in support of these humanitarian efforts by sharing the gifts of our offering in the coming weeks.

We have sorrow in these weeks following the passing of our dear Fellowship member and friend, Dennis Augustus. Yet, gladness walks beside us. Our gratitude for having known Dennis, and for having received such gifts from his mind and spirit, brighten our world and lighten our step.

We are happy to welcome children back to our RE program, delighted to have Olivia Smith leading the way, pleased to have visitors at our services and the chance to enjoy coffee hour conversations with visitors and long-time friends.

May the beauty of April fill our hearts, bringing meaning and joy to our lives.

Mary

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and Friends,

What a joy to see spring return, and to be able to return to in-person services at the Fellowship. Apart from the one March Sunday, when we had to return to a completely virtual service because of the predicted snowfall, we had strong attendance at our March services, both in person and virtually. It is so evident that everyone enjoys being together!

And it has also been a joy to resume our Religious Education (RE) classes on March 20, after the long COVID hiatus. On that day, we actually had three brand new RE students! We are very grateful to Olivia Smith for assuming the role of Interim Religious Education Director. Olivia will be managing the program until we recruit a permanent RE Director to replace Lauren Jones-Rabbitt. Lynn Sodora has graciously volunteered to help Olivia set up the curriculum, which is an incredibly generous act and shows Lynn's love of UUFSC!

With these joys, there is also a little sorrow. Close to home, we mourn the passing of Dennis Augustus. Dennis was such an engaged and eloquent member of our Fellowship. His insight, drawing on his incredible knowledge and his positive outlook, added such value to our conversations. We shall definitely miss him. A memorial service for him will be held at 11 am on Saturday, April 2, at the Unity Church, 25 Mudcut Road, Lafayette, NJ 07848, where his wife Sonja is a member. (It is a bigger building than UUFSC and, therefore, will be able to hold the large group of people who are expected to attend.)

On a more global scale, we all grieve to see the suffering in Ukraine. UUFSC will hold special shared offerings on March 27 and April 3, which will be split 50/50 between Americares and UUFSC. See the mention on page 4 for details. Please be generous.

Please also be generous and creative in planning Mini-Fling events, as Sue Weiner outlined in her email of March 21. Because of COVID, we once again were not able to have our usual Spring Fling this year, which is not only a festive evening of fellowship, but is also the main fundraiser of our year. Your Mini-Fling events will provide much-needed funds for UUFSC, but, equally important, will be fun opportunities for us to get together!

Enjoy the sunshine, the spring flowers, and the robins!

In fellowship,

Barbara

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

There will be a meeting of the Discussion Group on Friday, April 15, at 10 am at the Fellowship. The topic (carried over from an earlier canceled session) is “Can participatory democracy meet the growing challenge of movement toward the acceptance of autocracy?” Masks are required.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will gather at Dominick’s Restaurant on Friday, April 29, at 12:15. Dominick’s is located at 10 East Clinton Street in Newton. RSVP to Mary Tiebout.

UU FAITHACTION GALA

All UUFSC members and friends are invited to attend the UU FaithAction Gala: Embracing Resiliency on Saturday, April 9. You may participate either in person or online. In person, the schedule is appetizers and drinks 6-7 pm, dinner and program 7-9 pm. Online, the program is 7:45-9 pm. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3s5kyve>.

FELLOWSHIP DOOR LOCKED

Please be sure to arrive on time for Sunday services if you’re attending in person. The Fellowship door will be locked at 10:45 am for security purposes (which was decided before COVID). Now that we’ve resumed Religious Education downstairs, this precaution is especially relevant. If you arrive later than 10:45, use your key. (If you don’t have a key, let Hal Cohen know so he can get you one and/or ring the doorbell.)

SHARED OFFERINGS FOR AID TO UKRAINE

As we’ve always done for shared offerings, all donations on March 27 and April 3 will be split 50/50 between the Fellowship and Americas. Americas has a very specific aid program for Ukraine and has received extremely high ratings by Charity Navigator, a third party that evaluates charities.

You can participate by making a cash or check (payable to UUFSC) donation at the Fellowship on those dates. You may also mail checks to Hal Cohen no later than April 1 or make an online donation (“offering”) through the donation portal on the UUFSC website.

If you have any questions, please call or email Hal.

MINI-FLINGS

Sue Weiner’s email of March 21 provides all the instructions you might need to offer a Mini-Fling event or service. If your question still isn’t answered, please call or email her.

Your offerings could include a lunch or dinner event, game-playing day, TV- or movie-watching day, group trip, offering your services to help others, requesting help you need, etc.

In the past, suggested donations for your offerings were outdoor events \$10, events with lunch \$20, events with dinner \$40, and services \$20/hour. However, you may increase these donations based on your estimate of the event’s or service’s value.

A form you can use to let Sue know about your Mini-Fling event/service appears on the next page. Sue will consolidate the calendar of proposed events, sort out scheduling conflicts with organizers, and send out information to everyone.



UUFS Mini-Fling 2022

DONOR
Name:
Address:
Preferred Phone No.:
Email Address:
SERVICE OR EVENT OFFERED/NEEDED
Title of Service/Event:
Donation Amount Requested*:
Date:
Time:
Rain Date:
Rain Date Time:
Max. Number of People:
DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE OR EVENT

*The donor will handle all communication with participants and will collect the donation(s) on the day of the event. Participants can pay with a check made out to UUFS, with cash, or by credit card via the website donation portal. The donor will then send individual checks, and a personal check for any cash donations, to the Treasurer.

This form should be submitted to Sue Weiner.

UUFSC HISTORY ACCORDING TO BILL BENNETT

Bill Bennett has sent some remembrances of various old-time UUFSC members. Here are some excerpts.

Lila Ryan, a long-time member of UUFSC, was an abstract painter and sculptor. Bill helped her arrange her barn's second floor for showings. Several of her large sculptures were displayed at the Kearney Municipal Building, from which she derived some income. She also had showings in Blairstown and even donated some of her works to our auctions (for bargain prices).

John Lydon stopped for a visit to our Fellowship one Sunday and met Joan Karp. As those of you who knew him know, he was outgoing and very funny. (After meeting Joan, he was on his way to Florida, but said to himself, "Why do I want to go to Florida?" and turned around.) They were going on their first outing together, and Joan had a flooded basement. When he came to pick her up and saw her basement, he went home to get boots, different clothes, and tools, came back, and resolved her problem. That was the beginning of their motorcycle and convertible days, and they went on to have a wonderful and fun relationship.

Mary and Bill Bennett knew Audrey and John Nagel from Central Unitarian Church in Paramus. Prior to joining the Fellowship, they had bought a home in Crystal Springs. They walked into an early pancake breakfast one Sunday, went on to join UUFSC, and became very active. John was President at one point, and he and Bill painted the inside of the Fellowship. He was also involved in the renovation of the kitchen and the installation of the lift. One day, they heard about pews that were offered by a Catholic Church in Pennsylvania. So, the two men rented a U-Haul, brought a few tools, and went off to collect them. They came in one long section, so Bill and John had to take them apart, bring them upstairs at the Fellowship, and reassemble them.

Rhoda Bell and her husband had been members in Paramus, and then she became active at UUFSC. She did RE programs, served on the Board, and took care of maintenance of the building. Rhoda created both the original religious flags at the front of the stage and the current UUFSC banner, which was likely created in the 1980s. After retiring, Rhoda moved to South Jersey and passed away about 15 years ago.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX
COUNTY**

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