

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

*Member of the Clara Barton District of the
Unitarian Universalist Association*



*January 2017
NEWSLETTER*



Unitarian Universalist Society: East is a welcoming, open-minded, spiritual community seeking truth and meaning in its many forms. We share responsibility for building a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world.

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Sunday Services Schedule

January 2017 Ministry Theme: **Evil**

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

January 1: "What a Year!"

One service at 11:00 only. Jim Adams, Beth Hudson-Hankins, and Sudha Sakon will speak on the theme **What I Learned this Year**. This has become a UUS:E year-end tradition and opportunity to be nurtured and inspired by hearing each other's stories.

Coordinator: Lynn Dove

January 8: to be announced

January 8: Congregational Meeting.

After each service, there will be a short congregational meeting to vote to formally agree to the Memorandum of Understanding that allows us to go forward with the **Solarize with Faith** program.

January 15: "Something My Grandfather Seemed to Know."

On this Sunday before the national Martin Luther King, Jr. observance, Rev. Josh recalls a lesson on race relations from his grandfather, and wonders how it might address the need for racial healing today.

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

January 22: "The Games We Play."

Multigenerational Worship. Join us for an exploration of the spirituality of games.

Coordinator: Mary Bopp, Gina Campellone, Rev. Josh Pawelek

January 29: "Long Night of the Soul: Reflections on Mental Illness."

Rev. Josh offers thoughts on the ongoing need for mental health ministry and the forms it ought to take. This service will be followed in the afternoon by a special presentation from the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

February 5: "I am from..."

In a sermon last year, Rev. Josh said the first step in loving our neighbors or strangers—or even enemies—is "loving ourselves fiercely." Love is our theme for February. How do we love ourselves fiercely? We begin by remembering where we are from!

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

2016-2017 Ministry Themes

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Truth	Vocation	Transformation	Suffering	Abundance	Joy	Evil	Love	Surrender	Reconciliation	Devotion	Journeys

Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for January 2016

As always, thank you for your generosity.

"We do not gather our gifts only for ourselves but to share with the larger community."

Continuing our practice of sharing our gifts with the community beyond our walls, the recipient of fifty percent of our Sunday plate collections for the month of December will be the **Manchester Community Refugee Resettlement Group (MCRRG)**. Working with the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services of New Haven (IRIS) and Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). This group, which includes a significant number of our UUS:E members, has welcomed a Syrian family and is continuing to work to help them acclimate to their new home.

Checks made out to UUS:E will be treated as follows: If the memo line:

- ✓ is blank or "pledge" is written, all will go toward your pledge.
- ✓ has "COM" or the name of the charity is on the memo line, all will go to the charity.
- ✓ has "1/2 pledge, 1/2 COM," it will be divided equally.

The goal set by IRIS is to have the family completely self-supporting within six months, but in order to provide financial assistance during these months, continued contributions are appreciated. You can follow our regular guidelines or write a check directly to MACC with "Refugee Resettlement" on the memo line and place it in the basket. MACC is a 503c organization and will acknowledge your gift.

The committee overseeing our community outreach efforts welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Please contact Louisa Graver at Graver30@att.net, David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at nancymadar@hotmail.com

Sunday Service Flowers

The signup sheet for flowers is in a binder in Annie's office. Please make sure you check off the box, indicating whether you want to take the flowers back home with you or have them donated. The contact person for delivering donated flowers is Cyndi Krupa, 860-986-1957, cyndikrupa@sbcglobal.net.



DVD / Audio CD Loan Services Available in Office



Many of the Sunday Services at UUS:E run on the three community access channels (Cox in Manchester, Community Voice Channel in Bolton, and Charter Communications in Windham). The **DVDs** are available at UUS:E, and you can sign out the programs you were unable to see. **Audio CDs** are available one week after each service, and as a download from Jane, our sexton, if you provide a flash drive (USB port).



The Minister's Column: Hallelujah

Dear Ones:

First, HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you've had a peaceful and restful holiday season. Winter is here. Cold, snow and ice are here. Snow-blowing, shoveling, sanding and salting are here. Freezing and shivering are here. Hats, mittens, gloves, heavy coats and boots are here. Frozen car batteries are here. The dark season continues, though we know longer daylight hours are slowly returning. I hope and pray that this winter treats you well. I hope and pray that 2017 will be a good year for you. And no matter what challenges you face in this new year, I hope and trust you will find at UUS:E a place to lay your burdens down—to let others hold them for a while, so that you may regain the energy and strength you need to move through life with integrity and grace.

No, it's not a rumor. Some of you have begun to hear the news that I have a sabbatical coming up. It is true. In fact, I have two sabbaticals coming up. I have accrued quite a bit of sabbatical time (10 months at the end of this current congregational year). The UUS:E Policy Board has graciously agreed to let me begin catching up on this unused time and take a **one-month sabbatical in the current congregational year**. I will take that time from February 12 to March 12. **And the Policy Board has also granted my request to take a full (four month) sabbatical from October, 2017 to February, 2018.** During my sabbatical time, I am planning to return to the writing I was doing during my last sabbatical. Hopefully, I will come out of it with a completed novel!

Ministerial sabbaticals can be anxiety-producing for members and friends who rely on the minister's presence, especially on Sunday mornings. Please know that the Sunday Services Committee is working with me to plan compelling, life-affirming worship services during the month I am away in the current congregational year. We are also in the early stages of inviting local Unitarian Universalist ministers to preach during my full sabbatical next year. The Sunday Services Committee is a talented group of people, many of whom were on the committee during my last sabbatical. They know what to do! They will provide excellent services in my absence.

Ministerial sabbaticals can also be anxiety-producing for members and friends who rely on the minister for pastoral care. It is true that people who seek a regular level of pastoral care from me will not have access to that care during my sabbatical. However, for pastoral crises that require ministerial presence, we will have a list of local UU (and possibly other) clergy who are available. And in the event of a pending death or an actual death, I will certainly come away from my sabbatical to provide care and to conduct a memorial service. All the other regular caring activities performed by our Pastoral Friends Committee will continue without interruption during my sabbaticals.

If you have any questions or concerns about what happens at UUS:E when the minister is on sabbatical, please do not hesitate to contact me. I like to think we are taking care of every important detail, but you may have a question or concern we haven't yet thought of. And whether or not we've thought of everything, UUS:E has strong leaders and a strong staff who function wonderfully, whether I am present or not!

With love,
Rev. Josh



A Special Column from Rev. Josh

On Our Ministry Theme: **Evil**

I found this column I wrote from the last time (three years ago) when our theme for the month was **evil**. Since it still seems relevant, I offer it to you for your reflection.

Dear Ones,

Our ministry theme for January is **evil**. A number of you have already told me you're not clear on why we've chosen this theme. I've had to confess that I lobbied pretty hard to include it this year. Certainly evil is one of those haunting religious words that many liberal religious people find little value in discussing. "It's something religious conservatives talk about, but not us." I get that. But evil is used commonly in both religious and secular contexts, and it feels important to me that we name what we mean if and when we use it. So, here are a few of my preliminary thoughts about what evil is and isn't:

- Evil is not the result of the machinations of some divine entity or fallen angel. There is no so-called "prince of darkness."
- Natural disasters may cause much suffering, but they are not evil, nor do they originate from the wrath of a divine entity.
- Evil is not in any way inherent in the world, nature, or human beings, though human beings and human institutions certainly have the capacity to act in evil ways.
- In attempting to identify what evil is, I begin with human behavior and ask questions like these: What kinds of behaviors destroy the human spirit? What kinds of behaviors diminish human dignity? What kinds of behaviors prevent human freedom and agency? What kinds of behaviors cause physical and emotional damage among human beings?
- It is possible for good people to participate (wittingly and unwittingly) in the evil of human systems and institutions. For example, if we agree that the current fossil-fuel-based global energy system is destroying the planet, and if we agree that this destruction is a form of evil, then what are we to make of our own participation in this system? And, if we can identify racism operating in various systems and institutions in our country, and if we agree that racism is a form of evil, then what are we to make of our own participation in those systems and institutions?
- I don't expect agreement (anywhere) on a single definition of evil. I expect a wide variety of views and a large grey area. However, the absence of agreement should not lead to the absence of action. Whether we use the term evil or not, there are atrocities that require our faithful response.

Evil is not an easy or pleasant theme to explore. But I do think it behooves us to explore it with intention from time to time. That's my goal this month—an exploration. I hope you find this exploration meaningful.

With love,

Rev. Josh



Enter, rejoice, and come in!

A Religious Education message from Gina

Dear Friends,

I suspect that 2016 will not go down in the record books as anyone's favorite year. However, as I look back over the year, I realize that there were actually many moments worthy of celebration. This is especially true of our Religious Education program. Some of the RE highlights of 2016 include:

- The wildly popular Cooking for Cause program
- Monthly multi-generational worship services
- Bingo Night
- Sixth Grade Social
- Creating a "Why I Love RE" video for RE Sunday
- OWL (Our Whole Lives) Graduation & Recognition Ceremony
- Three newly certified Spirit Play teachers
- Affirmation trip to Boston
- Well-attended and fun-for-all Trunk or Treat
- Visiting a mosque
- Attending a Junior Youth Con in Rockland, MA
- Implementation of new and innovative curricula, including one based on **The Twilight Zone**

I am proud of our Religious Education program, and I am passionate about building a community that supports our children in their growth as Unitarian Universalists, seekers of peace, protectors of the earth, and citizens of the world. When I am feeling short on hope and my faith in humanity is waning, I remind myself of the spirit of love that is very much alive in our Religious Education community, and my heart is full.

I look forward to the work we will do together in the name of love in 2017.

Be well and be loved,

Gina

Be well and be loved,
gina



“I Send You Forth”

These were Rev. Josh’s words in his November 13 sermon—his first after the election: “Friends, I don’t think I’ve ever quite understood this until this week: the church is not serving you fully if it is not sending you forth into the world to live your principles proudly, resolutely, urgently, lovingly. The church is not a source of spiritual abundance in your life if it is not sending you forth.”

Earlier in the same sermon, Josh says, “If it wasn’t clear before Tuesday, it should be abundantly clear now. None of us can rest. Your age, your race, your work, your immigration status, your sexual orientation, your gender identity, your economic class, your theology, your political party, even your health to some degree—none of it matters in the sense that none of us can afford to come to church on Sunday and not take to heart the message that we are sent forth into the world to meet cynicism and despair with hope, to meet violence with peace, to meet hatred with love... and to organize for a more just and fair society.”

What does being sent forth look like? How can we live our UU principles in the world? We’ve been engaged in refugee resettlement work, Black Lives Matter, Moral Monday CT, raising the minimum wage, protecting health care gains, advocating for domestic workers, supporting people of color organizing in Manchester, and many other individual advocacies.

But being sent forth may also have something to do with building relationships with people who think differently than we do about politics and society. Let’s face it: in our congregation, we’re a somewhat homogeneous bunch. But many of us know people who disagree with us. What kinds of conversations could we have with them? What would it take to work with them to develop a country where so many people are not hurting? How could we contribute to that in meaningful ways? How can we as individuals—out there—advocate for and support our values in the real world in coalition with people who think very differently than we do? This is a growing edge for Unitarian Universalists.

Josh ends: “From the sanctuary of my heart, I promise I will always meet you here, and this place will always be a sanctuary for you. And I promise I will also meet you—and I will ask you to meet me—out in the world where the principles and love we celebrate here are desperately needed, and will make a way. They will make a way. They will bless the world.”

Let’s get started!

Social Justice/Anti-Oppression Committee

Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome! We hope we had a chance to greet you when you first visited. Please stop by the welcome table inside the front door to speak with the person there or join in at the Newcomers Café during coffee hour. You can also contact membership co-chairs Edie Lacey at elacey1@cox.net or 860-481-1922 or Jennifer Klee at jenduv@sbcglobal.net or 860-875-1285.

Save the Date!

There are lots of opportunities to learn more about UUS:E or to pursue membership—

Meet the Church



Visitors are invited to meet Rev. Josh for a brief overview of UUS:E, followed by a tour of the building and grounds. Meet in his office after each service. No RSVP required, watch for announcements in the order of service.

Dates: 1/15, 3/26, and 6/4

Intro to UU



Rev. Josh and the Membership Committee present a lively and informative three-to-four-hour seminar about Unitarian Universalism and Unitarian Universalist Society: East. It's a great way to learn more, and is required if you choose to become a member. Please RSVP to Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office at 860-646-5151. Contact Jennifer Klee with any questions (jenduv@sbcglobal.net). Childcare is available upon request.

Sunday, Jan. 29, 1-4 PM, 12:45 for lunch

Thursday, April 6, 6-9 PM, light refreshments

Sunday, April 23, 1-4 PM, 12:45 for lunch



New Member Sundays



We will have a ceremony to welcome new members twice a year. RSVP to Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office at 860-646-5151. Contact Jennifer Klee with any questions (jenduv@sbcglobal.net). The next one will be on **Sunday, May 7, 2017**. There will be a reception and dress rehearsal on the Thursday before, May 4, from 7-9 PM.

If you cannot attend one of these services but want to become an official member, you can "sign the book" at any time! Contact Rev. Josh to make arrangements.

Books, Classes and Discussions

brought to you by... The Adult Religious Education Committee
(Youth are welcome at all workshops. Childcare is available with one week's notice)



Yoga Classes

Come enjoy yoga at UUS:E!

Barring cancellations, the current yoga sessions end Tuesday, January 3 and Monday, January 23. The next eight week sessions run Tuesday, January 10 - February 28, 9:30-10:30 AM with Ruth Rempt, ruthrempt@cox.net, and Monday, January 30 - March 20, 5:45-6:45 PM with Jessica DeCarli, Jess.decarli@gmail.com.

In case of inclement weather or sickness, Ruth and Jessica will call or email registered participants, and, if the building is closed, yoga classes will be cancelled.

Cost: \$40 for an eight-week session or \$6 drop-in fee.

Come experience physical strengthening and emotional awakening with these two certified yoga instructors.

To read about their classes, visit UUSE.org.
<http://uuse.org/religious-ed/adult/yoga-classes/#.ViVPB-tCiX0>



UU Buddhists

The Buddhist Group will meet at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 3, in Room 2, for meditation, dharma, and discussion. The December ministry theme is "evil." Contact Nancy Thompson, nancythompson123@yahoo.com, with any questions.



Mindfulness and Movement Class.

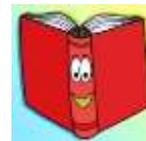
Katherine Grigg, RSMT is offering a Mindfulness and Movement class for six weeks, starting on Monday, January 9 and running through Monday, February 13. These classes are an invitation to slow down, connect inward, be in your body and move to music. Come explore meditation, qigong and creative expression through dance. Participants are welcome to attend all six classes or drop in to one or more. All are welcome. No previous experience required. Cost is \$10 at the door. Bring a yoga mat, meditation cushion or bench if you have one, and wear clothes you can move in freely. Contact Annie Gentile at uuse153@sbcglobal.net, or Kate Grigg at kate@kategrigg.com, to sign up. Walk-ins welcome.

Introduction to Somatic Therapy with Kate Grigg

The winter months are an ideal time to slow down and have an inward focus. In this free workshop, we will explore the innate wisdom of our bodies through mindfulness, gentle movement, and simple sketches. What does your body have to tell you? Open to all. Bring a journal, something to write with, and a yoga mat if you have one. Saturday, January 28, 9:30 to 11:30 AM. Contact Kate at kate@kategrigg.com, or Annie Gentile at uuse153@sbcglobal.net, to sign up. Check www.uuse.org in case of extreme weather.

Books, Classes and Discussions

brought to you by... The Adult Religious Education Committee
(Youth are welcome at all workshops. Childcare is available with one week's notice)



Book Lovers

The Book Lovers will be meeting on Tuesday, January 10 (as always, the second Tuesday of the month), from 3:30 - 5:00 PM, in the chapel area.

We will be discussing **The Round House**, by Louise Erdrich.

All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book!
For information: mheaney1932@frontier.net

Community Kirtan

Friday, January 13, 7:00 PM

An Evening of Music and Mantra

with

Ashley Flagg & Friends

\$15 donation requested.

No one will be turned away.

About Ashley Flagg & Friends:

You may recognize Ashley Flagg as the dynamic harmonium player and response singer for Shubalananda. This evening, Ashley will be leading kirtan in her own right. In addition to playing with Shubalananda since 2008, Ashley is a certified yoga teacher, artist, and handspinning instructor.

Trained as a singer since childhood, Ashley brings a powerful voice from the stage, along with lived experience and scholarship in a number of spiritual traditions, to create a special evening, lifting all voices in community in the meditative and heart-opening practice of kirtan. She will be joined by Kalidasa (wind, percussion) and other musicians for our first kirtan of 2017.

Like Us! [facebook.com/CTkirtan](https://www.facebook.com/CTkirtan)

Join Us! [meetup.com/Nondual-Collective](https://www.meetup.com/Nondual-Collective)



Community Drum Circle

Tuesday, January 17, 7:00-8:30 PM
(Third Tuesdays in the Sanctuary)

Open to all levels of ability and experience. Facilitator Mary Ertel provides djembe drums and other hand instruments, and you may bring your own.

Drum with Intentionality, Send Good Vibes Out into the World!!

Contact Paul Cocuzzo at pcocuzzo@gmail.com or 978-270-2056 with questions or to reserve a drum.

Women's Sacred Singing Circle

Every Thursday from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, we will be singing in the sanctuary. All women and girls eight years and older are welcome to join our circle regardless of musical training or ability. Come when you are able, stay as long as you wish.

Sing, laugh, and be in community.

For more information, contact Jane Osborn: janeosb3@gmail.com



UUS:E Calendar of Events for January

For details, please go to <http://uuse.org/events/calendar-2/#.VB9etWd0y71>

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

Today

January 2017

Print Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11am One Service Only	OFFICE IS CLOSED 12pm AA Group, MR/K 5:45pm Yoga, MR 7pm Building & Ground 7pm RE Committee, R	9am Jane/Supervision 9:30am Yoga, MR 10am Annie/Supervision 12pm Piano Rehearsal, 7pm RE Committee, R	8am Fire Inspection, A 2pm Al Anon Group, R 7pm Choir Rehearsal, I	5:45pm Sisters in Harm 7pm Manchester Women	9am Sacred Dance, MR 6pm CoffeeHouse Setu 7pm CoffeeHouse, MR/	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Coffee Sales After Ea 9am Mentor Meeting, R 9am Sunday Service 10am Congregational M 11am Sunday Service 12pm Congregational M 12:15pm Music Commit	9am Mindfulness and M 12pm AA Group, MR/K 5:45pm Yoga, MR 7pm Communications/ 7pm Stewardship, Rm3 7pm Sustainable Living 7pm Finance Committe	9:30am Yoga, MR 12pm Piano Rehearsal, 6:30pm Young Adult Co 7pm Choir Rehearsal, I 3:30pm Book Lovers, C 6pm Growth Strategy 7pm Sunday Services, 7pm Sustainable Living 7pm Finance Committe	2pm Al Anon Group, R 5:45pm Sisters in Harm 7pm Manchester Women	7pm Community Kirtan 2pm Vegan Presentatic		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Meet the Church (fm 9am Sunday Service 11am Sunday Service 1:30pm ISIS and Islam 6pm Affirmation Class,	9am Mindfulness and M 12pm AA Group, MR/K 5:45pm Yoga, MR 7pm Membership Comi 7pm Drum Circle, MR	9:30am Yoga, MR 12pm Piano Rehearsal, 7pm Membership Comi 7pm Piano Rehearsal, 7pm NLDLC, Rm3 7pm Drum Circle, MR	2pm Al Anon Group, R 3:30pm Politics & Public 5:45pm Sisters in Harm 6:30pm Policy Board, C 7pm Manchester Women	9am Sacred Dance, MR 6pm SLC Potluck Dine 7pm SLC--Video--"Bef		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9am Sunday Service 11am Sunday Service 1pm Anti-Racism 101,	9am Mindfulness and M 12pm AA Group, MR/K 6:30pm Navigators, Ch	9:30am Yoga, MR 12pm Piano Rehearsal, 4:30pm God Talk: An C 7pm Sacred Dance, Ch 7pm Denominational A 7pm Pastoral Friends, .	2pm Al Anon Group, R 5:45pm Sisters in Harm 7pm Citizens Climate L 7pm Manchester Women 7pm Program Council,	10am Emergency Man 6pm Movie: 13th, MR		
29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
9am Sunday Service 11am Sunday Service 1pm Intro to UUS:E, C 1pm Our Own Voice, M	9am Mindfulness and M 12pm AA Group, MR/K	9:30am Yoga, MR 12pm Piano Rehearsal, 7pm Choir Rehearsal, I	2pm Al Anon Group, R 5:45pm Sisters in Harm 7pm Manchester Women	10am Emergency Man 9am Sacred Dance, MR 6pm CoffeeHouse Setu 7pm CoffeeHouse, MR/		



Winter Wonderland Concert

January 22, 2017 at 2:00 PM
Center Congregational Church in Manchester

Proceeds to benefit the Manchester Area Conference of Churches and Center Congregational Church

Concert pianist and vocalist Jason Castonguay is the first Connecticut Idol for FOX –TVs **American Idol**, former Special Guest Star Performer for the Hartford Symphony and New Britain Symphony Orchestras, and current co-host and editor of a national ACB (American Council of the Blind) Radio program. Jason performs concerts all over the country. A resident of Manchester and blind since birth, he has provided Friday night entertainment at Cavey's on East Center Street for over ten years.

No advance tickets will be sold. Instead, donations will be taken at the door, with \$12 for adults and \$8 for students. The church will also be accepting non-perishable food items at this event.

New England Regional Assembly: Awaken!

April 21-22, 2017



If you've never gotten to a UU General Assembly, here's a chance to get a taste of what it's like!

Come together this spring in Woburn, Massachusetts with Unitarian Universalists across New England to celebrate in our faith. Come for inspired worship, engaged learning, community singing, UUA Presidential Candidates Forum, regional workshops, fellowship and fun. Awaken your spirit!

Friday, April 21, 2017

- UUA Presidential Candidates Forum with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Rev. Alison Miller, Rev. Jeanne Pupke. Moderated by Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti. Reception to follow.

Saturday, April 22, 2017

- Morning Worship led by Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and Rev. Robin Bartlett. Regional Workshops:
 - Congregational Relevance with Hilary Allen
 - Justice Ministry Matters with Meck Groot
 - Creating & Leading Dynamic Lay-Led Worship with Rev. Sue Phillips
- Community Sing with Dr. Ysave Barnwell
- District Annual Meetings:
 - Ballou Channing District
 - Northern New England District

Early bird registration (by Feb. 28) is \$115 (includes all programming, refreshments, and Saturday lunch. It does NOT include accommodations for Friday night which must be booked separately. The Friday night UUA Presidential Candidates forum is free but they are still asking us to register. When you click on the link below, click on the green **Register** button to see this info.

For more details and registration info go to: <https://www.uua.org/new-england/awaken>

Watch this space for more info on carpooling, and other details. For more info, contact Carrie Kocher at ckocherct@charter.net or 860-477-0817.

Antiracism 101

Sunday, January 22, 1:00 to 4:00 PM
(Rescheduled after an October cancellation)



This three-hour class will provide an overview of the analysis of racism presented in the Unitarian Universalist Association's antiracism training programs. Participants will discuss reasons why racism persists in the United States, especially in institutional and cultural forms. We will also reflect on ways we—as individuals and collectively—can be instrumental in dismantling racism. Facilitator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

Sponsored by Social Justice/Anti-Oppression Committee

Sign up by calling the church office, 860-646-5151 or by email at uuse153@sbcglobal.net. Please include your name, course name and date. Childcare is available for those who request it!

It's coming.....
Once again.....

The Fourth Annual UUS:E Chocolate Auction!!!



Special Pre-Valentine's Day Edition!
Sunday afternoon, February 5, 1:00 PM

What: The Fourth Annual UUS:E Chocolate Auction!

When: Sunday afternoon, Feb. 5th, 1:00 PM

Where: UUS:E Main Meeting Room

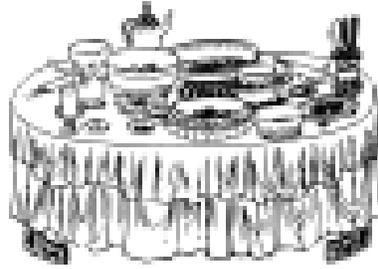
Why: Because chocolate is awesome, and a chocolate auction is a great way to raise \$\$\$\$ for UUS:E!

We need BAKERS and BIDDERS (and a few volunteers to help out).

All UUS:E members and friends are invited to create chocolate confections (cookies, brownies, cakes, cupcakes, and any other kind of chocolate dessert you can imagine). Bring your creations to the meeting house on the 14th (include your name and a list of ingredients). Please let Rev. Josh know you are bringing something for the auction at revpawelek@sbcglobal.net.

Then, come to the auction at 1:00 and bid on whatever looks best to you! Bring your checkbook or cash, and pay when you collect your confection. It's that simple!!!

We need 5-6 volunteers to help out on the 5th. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Josh!



Looking for hosts for Pledging Potlucks!

This spring, the Stewardship Committee will again offer Pledging Potlucks during two weekends: **March 10 - 12** and **March 17 - 19**. We are looking for people who will host a potluck during those weekends. The potlucks are often dinners, but could be a brunch or lunch—especially on a Sunday. We need some events that are family-friendly. A steward may attend to facilitate the conversation about pledging, if you choose. We need to gather a **list of hosts with dates and times by February 5, 2017**. These potlucks are a way to come together in community, enjoy good food and have a deeper conversation about our connection to UUS:E. We hope you will consider being a host!

Please contact Phil Sawyer at 860-633-8655 or psawyer215@gmail.com to volunteer.

Stewarding Opportunity!

The Stewardship Committee is planning our 2017 Annual Appeal for this spring. We are looking for stewards who meet briefly with members about their annual pledges. This is an opportunity to get to know new people, share your passion and commitment for UUS:E, and help make our Annual Appeal a success. The time commitment is relatively short, with one training session and a few weeks to steward a pledging potluck and/or visit with a maximum of **four** members or friends. The stewardship conversations are a time of fellowship and sharing our dreams and aspirations. Talking about financial commitment is a **small** part of a much larger conversation about generosity and community. So please consider volunteering to be a steward this year.

We will provide training on Tuesday evening, **March 7**, from 6 - 8 PM (pizza & salad provided), and Saturday morning, **March 4**, 2017 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM (light refreshments). Please email Phil Sawyer at psawyer215@gmail.com or call 860-633-8655 if you are willing to help or have any questions.

Our Annual Appeal will occur during March 5 – April 9, 2017.

Need care?



The Pastoral Friends Committee is here for you in times of need and crisis. This includes providing rides, meals and/or companionship for any number of situations.

Please contact Patricia Wildes, chairperson, for further information.

Thanks to the Aesthetics Committee

BIG Thank You to the members of the Aesthetics Committee for decking the hall this holiday season. Thanks go out to Gail Crook, Kristen Dockendorff, Christine Joyner, Sharon Gresk, and our special holiday greens helper Ken Krupa for climbing up the ladder!

The job would not be complete without an awesome tree—so thank you, Jim Adams!!!

If anyone is interested in helping out during the year, please contact Cyndi Krupa. We'd love to have you join us on any occasion.

Green Sanctuary News

Upcoming events of interest. More information may be found elsewhere in the newsletter:

- Sunday, Jan. 8: Please vote at the congregational meeting after either service to approve UUS:E's participation in the "Solarize with Faith" program, which helps protect the environment by providing high quality solar panels at a discount price!
- Saturday, Jan. 14 2:00 PM: Mary Lawrence of "Well on Wheels" will offer a free informative presentation. Are you ready to try more plant-based meals? This will inspire you. Vegan snacks will be provided.
- Saturday, Jan. 21: Come to UUS:E at 6:00 for a sustainable potluck supper with tasty vegan, vegetarian and other foods, followed by a 7:00 PM showing of the documentary film **Before the Flood** with Leo DiCaprio. More info at <https://www.beforetheflood.com/>. Co-sponsored by the Sustainable Living Committee and the Manchester chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Upcoming meetings you are welcome and encouraged to attend:

- Sustainable Living Committee/Climate Action Team meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 12th, Room 2 on the garden level.
- Citizens' Climate Lobby Manchester chapter meets at 7 PM on Thursday, Jan 26, Children's Chapel on the garden level.

Two ways to save our climate and save money: Energy Conservation and Clean Energy development! If you or anyone you know is interested in getting solar panels on your home, the "Solarize with Faith" program may be the way to go. Already have solar panels on your roof? Let us know by placing your name on the map in the lobby and help us promote this program. If you can't put solar panels on your roof, you CAN sign up for a Home Energy Solutions assessment for your home and have work done on the spot to save you energy and money, and learn what else you can do. Information you need is here: <http://www.energizect.com/your-home/solutions-list/home-energy-solutions-core-services>.

Recycling at UUS:E – UPDATE: In addition to ink jet cartridges, cell phones & accessories, we also accept calculators, GPS & radar detectors, and iPods/MP3 players in the collection box in the lobby. As long as these items can fit through the slot on the box, our dedicated recycler, Duffy Schade, will send them to Planet Green, and UUS:E will get refunded for reusable items. Please place leaky cartridges in a plastic bag. If you have larger items, check your home town's electronic collection site. If the collection box is not in the lobby, it may be found in the Recycling Room.



Get Connected! with UUS:E on the Web

UUS:E WEBSITE is located at <http://uuse.org>
Here you can find the latest news about our community and upcoming events, basic information about group and committee activities, Rev. Josh's sermons, and much more.

DIALOGUE FROM HOME is our ongoing virtual **talkback series** that continues online after each of Rev. Josh's sermons. Whether you want to read along, post your thoughts, and/or engage in dialogue about the topic, you are welcome to join this group. Request a password from Annie, the office administrator, to get access to the discussion. Email uuse153@sbcglobal.net.

FACEBOOK! UUS:E has two Facebook pages where members and friends can share all things UUS:E. Our main site is www.facebook.com/UUSEast. You can find out what's going on at UUS:E here. And please share our events to your own page to help spread the word about all of the great things we do!

We also have a second site, UUS:E Happenings, designed specifically to share ideas and events with others in the UUS:E community. Anyone can post here. Is your child going to be in a play? Are you performing a concert? Looking for people to hike with? Post it here! This is a closed group, request to join here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/587066578028806/>

MEETUP: We have started a Meetup page! Join our group! Find events, RSVP and more at: <http://www.meetup.com/Unitarian-Universalist-Society-East/>. If you'd like to add an event to the Meetup site, contact Carol Marion at cmarion333@gmail.com.

Rev. Josh has his own website located at <http://revjoshpawelek.org>

Catch up on his latest writings, community work, and more. You can also follow Rev. Josh on **Twitter @revjoshpawelek**, or connect with him at **LinkedIn** and **Facebook**.

Weekly e-blast – Contact Annie at uuse153@sbcglobal.net to be added to this weekly email of what's happening at UUS:E. Send submissions to SBarlow627@aol.com

Stop and Shop Fundraiser

Please consider buying these cards—the more sales we do, the more it helps UUS:E to fund its programs. It is also a very good way to volunteer your time to sell them. Easy to do and not a lot of time is required. Please call Gail Crook at 860-649-9508 or via email at e.gail.crook@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer or have questions.



Equal Exchange

Fair-trade, sustainably-grown, **organic coffee, tea, chocolate and now olive oil** are available for purchase in the lobby after each service on the **second Sunday of every month**. These products are good for the growers, good for the Earth, and offered at a very good price. And did you know that the coffee served on Sunday mornings and at other UUS:E events is also *Equal Exchange* brand?

Sponsored by your Sustainable Living Committee



UUS:E Recycles – Update

In addition to ink jet cartridges, cell phones & accessories, we can now also accept calculators, GPS & radar detectors, and iPods/MP3 players in the collection box in the lobby. As long as these items can fit through the slot on the box we will send them to Planet Green, and UUS:E will get refunded for reusable items. Please place leaky cartridges in a plastic bag. For larger items, check your home town's electronic collection site. If the collection box is not in the lobby, it may be found in the Recycling Room.



UUS:E GENERAL INFORMATION

UUS:E Office Schedule: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Meetinghouse Office: 860-646-5151

Office Administrator: Annie Gentile email: uuse153@sbcglobal.net

Minister: Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, revpawelek@sbcglobal.net

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 10 AM to 7 PM and Thursday 10 AM to 4 PM

President: Alan Ayers, 860-633-6125, ADAyers@BUILDINNOVATION.com

Director of Religious Education:

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, UUSE.REdir@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor: Paul Cocuzzo, (978) 270-2056, uuse.nletter@sbcglobal.net

Website Coordinator: Carol Marion 860-643-8765, uuseweb@gmail.com

World Wide Web address: <http://uuse.org>

February Newsletter Deadline:
January 20

Unitarian Universalist Society: East
153 West Vernon Street
Manchester, CT 06042