

Unitarian Universalist Society: East

Member of the Clara Barton District of the Unitarian Universalist Association



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

December Ministry Theme: Mystery

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

December 2: "Listening to Our Stories."

Join Susan Campbell, distinguished lecturer at the University of New Haven and long-time Connecticut journalist, talk about the importance of stories. We are nothing without our stories.

Coordinator: Linda Duncan

December 9: "Down Into the Depths."

This morning we begin exploring our December ministry theme, mystery. Taking a cue from late autumn's barren landscape, we search for spiritual value in emptiness, formlessness, and darkness. We also take a moment to welcome new members into our congregation.

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

December 16: "Up Into Beauty."

A second service on mystery. We modulate from the mysterious depths up into the beauty of the physical world. This morning we are joined by area UU folk band **Meeting House!**

Coordinator: Rev. Josh Pawelek

December 23: "Angels Shepherds, Kings and Stars."

Our annual holiday music service! All are welcome as we honor the holiday season with beautiful music and compelling reflections.

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

December 24, 6:00 and 8:00 PM: "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Join us for Christmas Eve worship. The 6:00 PM service is child-centered. The 8:00 PM service provides a soft, contemplative experience. All are welcome!

Coordinators: Gina Campellone, Mary Bopp, Marsha Howland and Rev. Josh Pawelek.

December 30: "TBA."

Coordinator:

2018-2019 Ministry Themes

July	Witness
August	Freedom
September	Vision
October	Sanctuary
November	Memory
December	Mystery
January	Possibility
February	Trust
March	Journey
April	Wholeness
May	Curiosity
June	Beauty

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

Recorded Services Available

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).

Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for December 2018

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, fifty percent of our Sunday plate collections for the month of December will go to three area shelters: McKinney Men's Shelter (Hartford), East Hartford Community Shelter, Cornerstone Shelter (Rockville).

Please contact Louisa Graver at lgraver163@gmail.com, David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at nancymadar@hotmail.com.

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.

2018-2019 COM Recipients

July	Three area food banks (Manchester, Vernon, East Hartford)
August	Kado Pet Foundation and STRIVE
September	KIDSAFE CT
October	Free at Last Players
November	Manchester Senior, Adult and Family Services
December	Three area shelters McKinney Men's Shelter (Hartford), East Hartford Community Shelter, Cornerstone Shelter (Rockville)
January	Moral Monday CT
February	Operation Fuel
March	Rebuilding Together (Manchester) and Communitas
April	CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence and Covenant to Care for Children
May	MARC and MARCH, Inc
June	Mary's Place and True Colors

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.

Stop & Shop

UUS:E sells Stop & Shop gift cards after services on the first and third Sundays of the month. If you do your weekly grocery shopping at Stop & Shop, buying these cards is a GREAT way to support the church without it costing you a cent. Cards for \$50, \$100, or \$250 can be purchased at face value, and, in return, Stop & Shop gives the church 5 percent of the sales. This simple fundraiser has raised nearly \$2,000 each year for UUS:E. It's likely a lot more folks from UUS:E are out there who can participate but just don't realize it. If you shop at Stop & Shop, please consider picking up one of these easy-to-use cards.

The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Star of wonder, star of light, star, with royal
beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us through this perfect night.

Our theme for December is mystery. My thoughts go immediately to the barren December landscape—the leafless trees, the empty fields, the brownish lawns, the slowly-freezing lakes and ponds, and, perhaps most significant, the long, dark nights. There's something utterly mysterious about a dark, pre-winter sky, dotted with star light and perhaps a silver sliver of moon. It's not surprising to me that the birth story of Jesus features a night sky and a shining star (though I'm mindful that we should not equate winter in ancient Israel with winter in 21st-century New England).

I love the long, dark nights at this time of year. To behold the late autumn night sky makes me feel infinitely small and impossibly large at the same time. It makes me feel completely insignificant and also informs me that my life matters. It makes me feel alone, apart, isolated and entirely related to the whole of life. These sets of dual feelings—these both/ands—are part of the mystery of this season. In response, all I can do is pause and wonder.

I choose that word 'wonder' very intentionally. Wonder is, I believe, the appropriate response to mystery. Wonder is the appropriate response to phenomena and experiences we cannot explain rationally. Wonder is the appropriate response to profound—and at times profoundly mixed—feelings in the presence of the inexplicable. Wonder is the appropriate response to beauty that takes our breath away. Wonder is the appropriate response to mythical stories that cannot possibly be true, yet which nevertheless contain truth.

In the response to mystery, we have choices. We can choose to downplay or deny the depth of our feelings. I could say, "It's just night-time. There's nothing else going on. If I'm feeling something profound, it's just some chemical reaction in my body making me feel that way." Or, we can offer supernatural explanations: "God wants me to feel this way." However, both of these responses, by providing explanations, undercut the power that comes with just letting the mystery be mysterious!

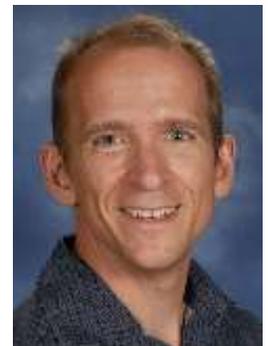
I prefer to wonder. What does it mean that I feel this way—big and small, significant and insignificant, alone and connected? How is it that I can contain all these feelings at once? What does the immense darkness mean to me? What do the stars mean to me? Isn't it beautiful? Isn't it awesome? What if there were a God (goddess, spirit, energy, source) that created all this? What kind of being would that be? What might they expect of me? Of us?

Moreover, when it comes to miraculous Christmas stories of virgin births, angels singing to shepherds and magi following stars, of course we can explain it all away as mythology. But what if explaining it away wasn't our first response? What if we simply let our hearts and minds wonder about the meaning of the stories?

When we respond to mystery with hard and fast explanations, we lose something. However, when we respond with wonder, we gain. Wonder creates space for questioning. Wonder allows the mind to traverse paths it may not otherwise traverse. Wonder allows for creative thinking. Wonder allows for an assessment of one's feelings.

As we enter into the holiday season, mysteries abound. Let us not explain them away too quickly. Let us meet them with wonder.

With best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,
—Rev. Josh



The Policy Board's Column

A Message from Rob Stolzman, President

Mortgage Reduction Effort

It's the end of the year. It's a time of warmth, joy and giving for our beloved community. It's also a time for rest, renewal and planning for the future. In that spirit, we are re-emphasizing the ongoing UUS:E mortgage reduction donation effort. In 2015, we decided to make a concerted effort to reduce our 25 year mortgage by raising funds to pay it down early. This accomplishes two things. First, it frees up money immediately as it reduces our monthly mortgage payments. This means more money for our wonderful programs such as Religious Education, Music and Adult Religious Education. Second, it lowers the amount of the balloon payment that is due at the end of the mortgage period. Believe it or not, that payment is due in 2030! So as you come up to the end of the year, please consider donating whatever amount you can to this worthwhile effort. Donations can be made by check payable to UUS:E and placed in the collection basket or mailed to UUS:E. Be sure to put "UUS:E Mortgage Donation" in the memo line. Thank you for your giving and your continued support of UUS:E!

Legacy Giving

Except for founding members, the Barlows, Roland Chirico, and Naomi Zima, we all have received a legacy. We came to this place which already had some organizational structure and a place to meet. But we were all new at church beginnings. There were no church elders in that first UUS:E society and rules and customs were devised to the best of everyone's ability and input. The place changed over time until we had a permanent home. We added a program room onto that structure and eventually found it necessary to gut the original building and increase the space available for our many programs. That took fifty years. Now we take a collective deep breath and look forward. What do we need now? Where should our next step be? What would make things easier for those to come after us? How can we assure ourselves that our values will live on and what is precious to us will not be lost over time.

Clearly the main focus of our principles and values needs to be passed down to our children, the ones we birthed, the ones we teach and mentor, the ones we love. Each of us came to UUS:E for a personal reason and we flourished in the atmosphere created by its congregation. Now we have an opportunity to keep that going for the next generations of UUS:E congregations. For that reason, we are renewing our commitment to our individual legacies through our endowment fund. This is a different kind of giving, a promise, really, not requiring immediate outlay of funds. A bequest. We have begun the process of legacy giving with member conversations on the endowment, allowing for shared reflection on our past, our future, our values, and the role that the UUS:E endowment fund can plan in realizing those dreams.

Phase One has a goal of conversations with one third (68) of the pledging units of our congregation. So far, 36 conversations have been completed, resulting in 33 bequests with confidentiality protection built in. For those who include UUS:E in the wills, attorney Malcolm Barlow is writing their legal documents free of charge. Bless him! We expect to complete Phase One by spring of 2019. We will update you on the progress of this endeavor as it unfolds. Early results demonstrate the deep love our congregants have for our society, our minister, and what transpires within our spiritual home.



It's coming...

Once again (after a year's hiatus)

The Fifth Annual UUS:E CHOCOLATE AUCTION!!!

Special UUS:E 50th Anniversary Edition!

Sunday afternoon, February 17, 1:00 PM

More info to come...



Membership News

Greetings from the Membership Committee!



Are you interested in joining our busy (and fun) committee? We'd love to have you! Talk to Edie Lacey, chair, (edielacey1@gmail.com; elacey1@cox.net) or any committee member: Jennifer Klee, Gail Crook, Louisa Graver, Jackie Heintz, Betsy Nelson, Alexander Herpst, Susan Barlow, and Kathi Lee to learn more. You can always join us on the third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM in Room 2. No RSVP necessary!



We have many new visitors each and every month, and thank you for reaching out to new folks. From the comments we've received, your friendliness has made a big impact.

So many of you have volunteered faithfully to help with Coffee Hours on Sunday, as well as being at the Welcome Table, and being a Sunday Service Greeter. Heartfelt THANKS go to all of you. However, substitutes are still needed from time to time. If you'd like to occasionally help with Coffee Hour please Contact Jackie Heintz (jacqonstance@gmail.com). If you had some time to be at the Welcome Table, Jennifer Klee would love to know, so contact her at jenduv@sbcglobal.net. Louisa Graver schedules all of our Greeters, so please contact her at lgraver163@gmail.com.

And...Coming up on Sunday, December 9, 2018 is our next New Member Sunday!

Faith, Religion and Science in Charles Darwin's Life

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 1:00 PM

Publication of Charles Darwin's, *On the Origin of Species* in 1849 ignited a revolution in both scientific and religious thought. Religious faith was frequently on Charles Darwin's mind. Both he and his wife, Emma, were raised in free-thinking Unitarian families. Charles studied for a life as a clergyman. His Anglican faith, however, was challenged by his own developing ideas about natural selection and his difficulty accepting the idea of eternal damnation. His discoveries about evolution caused ferment in the established church at the time. Not long after his death, however, Anglicans reconciled their beliefs with his theories. This presentation will discuss Darwin's personal struggles with religious faith and the religious context in which his work developed. Join us for this illustrated exploration of Mr. Darwin's world.

Mr. Darwin is portrayed by Professor Kenneth Noll, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

All Are Welcome.

Fair Thanks

To the over 140 VOLUNTEERS who contributed in some way to the 2018 UUS:E Holiday Fair—THANK YOU SO MUCH! And to our wonderful staff whose support made this possible —THANK YOU!

However you helped - whether as a chairperson, with publicity, with decorating, with fair set up, putting up signs or flyers, as a floater or a greeter, with the luncheon, with Friday night desserts, baking, cooking, crafting, knitting, sewing, donating items, with a shift at a booth, collecting money, with break down and clean up, with the after party, hauling away leftovers, taking pictures, being Santa, with after fair sales or just attending—you made a difference, and you helped make the fair a success. We raised well over \$14,700 so far and we still have another day of after fair sales. Great job everyone!

Give a Gift of Justice

Donate to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee this Holiday Season

Our congregation will continue the tradition of collecting funds for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the Guest at Your Table collection this holiday season.

As always, UUSC focuses on people who are at risk of losing their human rights. Their support for immigrants and victims of political persecution, has always been part of their mission, since their beginning work of rescuing European refugees during World War Two.

The Unitarian Universalist Service committee boxes are back! Please take a "Guest at Your Table" box home and keep it at hand over the holidays. They will be distributed to the children in RE and also on a table in the foyer upstairs. As often as you can, insert coins or bills into the box.

Before returning the box to church in January 2019, convert the money you've collected into a check written to "UUSC" for convenient mailing.

Fill out the information area on the box. Consider giving a gift that makes you a member of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee or even doing the matching fund donation of \$125 or better, which can double your gift!

If you prefer to make a donation online, you can do that at the UUSC website. Please list our congregation if you do this.

If you are already a member of UUSC, thanks for your support and please note that membership must be renewed yearly.

Your donation to UUSC, is a gift of peace and justice. UUSC has been advancing human rights for over 75 years, with a mission grounded in our UU principles. To learn more about the UU Service Committee, go to <http://www.uusc.org> or talk with me!

Sarah Karstaedt, UU Service Committee Local Representative for UUS:E

Honoring the Past, Celebrating Today and Envisioning the Future

Did you know that our beloved spiritual home, Unitarian Universalist Society: East, turns 50 in 2019? And what's even better than a 50th celebration? A Golden Anniversary that lasts an entire year! That's right, we have 52 weeks to commemorate our 50 years of building a caring and inclusive spiritual home for seekers East of the River—and to clarify our commitment to carry the legacy forward.

Our anniversary year gives us a chance to recommit to our values, deepen connections in the wider community, attend to our legacy and build a sustaining endowment.

The kick-off is January 13 with multigenerational services featuring the dedication of our new 50th Anniversary chalice. You can look forward to special treats for the 9 AM coffee hour, and a soup and salad potluck lunch after second service, with a program featuring historical slide shows, great music and art projects for the kids. So save the date!!

The Auction & Chili Cook-off on January 26 will also honor our half-century of service to the community, with a goal of more than 50 donations worth at least \$50 per participant. Look for the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

As the year unfolds, we will be honoring our founding members and learning our origin story. Several members are collecting photos and archiving documents as they work on our UUS:E history. We will invite our "ministerial alumni" (members who go on to become clergy) to return to our pulpit. We are planning a spring fair and picnic, a fall gala and so much more.

The steering committee is small but extremely enthusiastic! Can you contribute time, memories, talents or other support? Please get in touch with Anne Carr, acarr06040@yahoo.com



Unitarian Universalist Society: East
Goods and Services Auction

SPICE UP WINTER

with Second Annual Chili Cook-Off
Great Food & Family Fun

UUS:E Goods & Services Auction + Chili Cook-Off

January 26

Enjoy a FREE dinner of chili, cornbread and dessert ~ vote on the best UUS:E chili ~ and bid on dozens of unique (and affordable) auction items like ...

- Meals, game nights and travelogues in members' homes
- Wine tasting, cooking lessons, theater excursions
- Hikes, boating, bike tours and other outdoor activities
- Practical help like weeding, dog sitting, airport rides, dump runs
- Pickles, breads, cookies, jams and other goodies
- And donations from hair salons, restaurants and theaters

Many items starting as low as \$20!!

HOW CAN YOU JOIN THE FUN??

- ✓ Plan your donation – could you teach, repair, entertain, bake? Share your talent in other ways? Sign up in the lobby or online at <http://uuse.org/events>
- ✓ Contact local merchants to ask for gift cards or merchandise!
- ✓ Compete for prizes in the chili cook-off!!
- ✓ AND SAVE THE DATE ... JANUARY 26 ... FOR A TERRIFIC EVENING OF FUN & SURPRISES!!

Once again, you'll get a \$5 credit on your total invoice if you RSVP before Jan. 15! Email Nancy Pappas at nanapap338@aol.com Tell us how many adults & children AND whether you're entering the cook-off! Last year's event was a sell-out ... every seat was filled ... so don't delay!

Any questions? Got suggestions? Please contact Stan McMillen, Nancy Pappas or Jennifer Klee

First Nancy J. Parker Award and Artist's Reception

On Sunday, October 28, 2018, 6:00 – 8 PM, an Artist's Reception, Talk Back, and Award Celebration was held in the UUS:E Meeting Room. The event was sponsored by the UUS:E Social Justice/Anti-Oppression Committee (SJ/AO), in conjunction with the Manchester Art Association. The twofold purpose of the event was to: showcase the work of Muslim Syrian Refugee Artist Adeebah Alnemer; and, to award of the First Nancy J. Parker Social Justice Award to freelance writer Jake Halpern for his Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times' graphic narrative, **Welcome to the New World** that chronicled Adeebah's family's arrival and struggles in adapting to life in the US.

Artist's Reception

The reception represented the culmination of a month-long show of Adeebah's evocative charcoal drawings, entitled, **Adeebah: My Life, My Story Continues**. Adeebah is the spouse and mother of the family of 7 that the Manchester Community Refugee Resettlement Group (MCRRG) co-sponsored two years ago. Adeebah also provided the food for the reception attended by nearly 100 guests from her new catering business, Adeebah's Middle Eastern Cuisine, specializing in foods from Syria.

Those who had the opportunity to view her drawings during the exhibit observed themes capturing the emotions inherent in the tragedy of war and displacement, beauty amidst turmoil, and a yearning for peace. They allow the viewer to reflect on the experience of being a spouse and parent having to flee one's homeland amid flyovers of military aircraft, bombings, the roar of tanks down neighborhood streets, and the interrogation, captivity and torture of a family member. Also included are themes of the angst of leaving extended family behind, adjusting in a foreign land when one doesn't know the language, and making sense of the accompanying emotions and experiences while simultaneously maintaining hope and reestablishing one's identity. During the Reception Talkback, Adeebah spoke about her work and her life's journey. With assistance from her 16 year old son, Naji, she told the stories behind the haunting drawings and described the role art has played in her life. She shared that when she sits

down to draw, it is from the feelings inside that the images emerge.

Adeebah was joined on the panel by award-winning author Jake Halpern who, in conjunction with illustrator Michael Sloan, created a graphic narrative chronicling the family's experiences of arriving in one country on Election Day of 2016, and beginning their lives the next morning in another. Published in The New York Times Sunday Review and entitled, *Welcome to the New World*, the series received a Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning and is currently being developed into a full-length book. During the Talkback, Jake spoke about the process of getting to know the family and gaining their trust; finding parallels between their story and his own as the grandson of Holocaust survivors; ways in which the process of telling this story changed him; and the importance of increasing awareness of the refugee crisis.

Nancy J. Parker Social Justice Award

As so many of his other professional writings have done, Jake's goal in telling this family's story was to ensure that the reader recognizes the humanity of every member while simultaneously doing justice to the narrative. He has told compellingly the stories of people who are marginalized, disenfranchised, victimized or just unseen. One previous story was about Vive House in Buffalo, NY, a place where migrants and asylum seekers find food, lodging, and legal advice while in transit. What Jake excels at is skillfully bringing to the foreground the realities of the lives of his subjects—their struggles, their fears, and their hopes—and does so with humor, compassion, and a deep sense of respect for their humanity.

Shortly after Nancy Parker's death, the UUS:E Social Justice /Anti Oppression Committee (SJ/AO) began discussing the creation of an Award in Nancy's honor. Nancy was an inspiration to so many. Rev. Alvin Johnson of the Bethel AME Church in Bloomfield first called Nancy a Social Justice Warrior, a label so befitting that many others have referred to her with similar words not knowing their origin. Her energy for social justice was untiring. She was committed to the congregation's social justice ministries, a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice (GHICEJ), and the Manchester Community Refugee Resettlement Group (MCRRG). see **Prize**, next page.

Prize (continued from previous page)

Through both her words and her actions, Nancy was a passionate advocate for universal health care, early childhood education, and immigration reform, while fighting hard against racism and urban violence.

The SJ/AO committee discussed criteria for the award, but it was always difficult to capture who Nancy was. Describing what she did and translating her actions into criteria always seemed to fall short. What does it really mean to say a person is a warrior for social justice, and importantly, how does one look for that in someone else. When Josh suggested that Jake Halpern could be the first recipient of the award for his NY Times series, **Welcome to the New World**, it was immediately clear that he was the perfect recipient.

Jake, like Nancy, approaches the people in his stories with great compassion. He uses his talents with words to shine light on their world, a world that is often invisible to others. His stories speak not only of people's stories, but also and most importantly, of their humanity. It is through his descriptions that the often forgotten and invisible may not only be seen, but be truly understood. Jake uses his gifts to help us see, so that we all may create a more socially just world. While the reception took place the day after the horrible reality of terror in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, as Jake said, we are all here together: a Muslim family, a Jewish writer, in a Unitarian church. It was an honor to award Jake Halpern the first Nancy J. Parker Social Justice Award. His work, like Nancy's, serves the goal stated in the Hebrew phrase, **Tikkun Olam** or to **repair the world**.

Congregational Survey Update

The members of the Growth Strategy Team would like to thank everyone who completed the Congregational Survey. We have 220 completed surveys, which will enable us to see a representation of many facets of our congregation. We truly appreciate your time and effort. What a testament to our congregation's commitment to our future! Results of the survey will be shared with the congregation in the first quarter of 2019. Thank you!

UUS:E Memorial Garden

For all the days to come...

Dear Members and Friends:

Most of you are familiar with our Memorial Garden, located on the grounds in back of the meetinghouse. This wooded area provides a cultivated expanse of beauty and dignity for the burial of ashes of society members, their significant others, and friends of UUS:E. Originally planned and planted in 1992, the garden was installed with over 113 shrubs, trees and perennials. Enhancements over the years have included new steps and considerable arbor work. In 2008, following the construction of the new building, a new patio, sitting wall, and small retaining wall were installed.

We are about to begin the celebration of our 50th year as a congregation. In keeping with our goal of maintaining and enhancing this special area of repose, the Memorial Garden Trustees, with the approval of the Policy Board, are initiating a project that will improve walkability, reduce erosion, and facilitate the ease of upkeep. Plans include the widening of paths and the installation of pavers and additional steps and handrails. New bulbs, perennials, and fresh mulch will also be added.

In addition to drawing on available funds from the Memorial Garden account, we will encourage members to pre-purchase garden plots and to donate toward this ambitious, but timely, project.

We appreciate the donations we have received so far, and appreciate any future donations. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the office with "Memorial Garden" in the memo.

David Garnes, for the Memorial Garden Trustees (Jeanne Pitney, Eric Vogel, Sharon Gresk, Gene Sestero, and David Garnes)

Thanksgiving Potluck

Thanks to all who contributed and/or attended our Thanksgiving potluck. There were 60 of us and an argument turned into a gigantic food fight. No, actually there were 6 of us and we had a very pleasant meal and conversation.



Sanctuary Guest Update

Sleepover People needed

With help from the staff and Sanctuary Team, Rocky appears to have settled into his life at UUS:E. He is meeting with his attorney frequently and they have begun working on his asylum case. To maintain his safety and to comply with the UUS:E rule that no person be left alone in the building, we will continue to have a person sleeping over every night for the duration of Rocky's stay. This means that we need your help! Currently we only have about 6 people on the Sleepover team, and they would like to spend a bit more time in their own beds. With just a couple dozen more people, folks would only need to spend one night a month sleeping at the church. If you are able to spend a night (9:00 PM to 7:00 or 8:00 AM) sleeping on the futon in the Affirmation room, please let Judi Durham (judi.durham@gmail.com) or Rhona Cohen (rhoatwork@gmail.com) know. We will make sure that you get oriented to the routine (such as checking doors, locking up) before your stay.

Monthly Potlucks

So that more people may get to know Rocky, we are organizing monthly potluck dinners with 6-10 people. Even if you have met him, but would just like to join in the fun, please do. The dinners will take place in the Chapel and classroom #1 space on a variable day and time schedule to accommodate different needs. We may even do a potluck lunch sometime as well. These meals have a couple secondary benefits. First, it gives Rocky the opportunity to taste some of our favorite foods, and second, it fills Rocky's frig with leftovers. There are many foods beyond what Rocky chooses at the grocery store that he enjoys, like fish, especially salmon, that he doesn't cook. But he is skilled at reheating in the microwave! If you are interested in

joining one of these potlucks, please contact Lynn Dove (lynndove@gmail.com) or Judi Durham (judi.durham@gmail.com).

Pocket Money for Rocky

Need your leaves raked? Christmas decorations hauled out of your attic? Help cleaning out your garage? Need snow shoveled? Ask Rocky!

As an asylum seeker, Rocky is not allowed to seek any employment in this country until his asylum is granted. But he is able to accept odd, domestic jobs for which folks might give him a small amount of cash. Having pocket money means he could go to the movies, go out with friends, take the bus somewhere, in essence, be more independent. If you have a task you'd like help with, please contact him directly, or if you need help contacting him, please let Judi Durham (judi.durham@gmail.com) or Rhona Cohen (rhoatwork@gmail.com) know and we'll help you out.

Donations Greatly Appreciated

Rocky's needs are few, but we are buying him food, paying for his cell phone, and have purchased a few basic clothing items to help him begin to manage winter. (He is looking forward to seeing snow!) We also may need to purchase a new futon or mattress for folks sleeping over. Not sure what other needs may come up, but he will probably be with us for at least 6 months.

To make a charitable donation:

By Check—Please write 'Sanctuary' in the memo line and send check to:

UUS:E

153 Vernon St. West

Manchester, CT 06040

By Credit Card or PayPal—go to our GoFundMe Account:

<http://www.gofundme.com/help-a-sanctuary-family-in-crisis>

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.)



Community Drum Circle

Third Tuesdays and Fourth Mondays
in the Sanctuary
7:00 – 8:30 PM

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.



Book Lovers

We meet every second Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:00, downstairs in the chapel area. Everyone is welcome—including friends from outside UUS:E. Even if you haven't finished the book, you are invited to the discussion. Books are selected by participants, and we try to choose books that are old enough to be available in paperback, or at least in public libraries.

- December 11: **Being Mortal—Medicine and What Matters in the End**, by Atul Gawande
- January 8: **Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood**, by Trevor Noah
- February 12: **Small Great Things**, by Jodi Picoult
- March 12: **The Age of Innocence**, by Edith Wharton

For information: marlar@wordshard.com



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

Increase Your Emotional Intelligence Through Self Awareness

Join us for this unique and powerful seminar led by longtime friend of UUS:E, Skip Gating. This seminar will help you increase your happiness and success by learning to reduce self-defeating negative emotional reactions. We ask for a one-time materials donation of \$5 (no one will be turned away). Two Sundays, January 6 and 13, 1:00-3:00 PM. Please contact Annie Gentile at 860-646-5151 or uuseoffice@uuse.org to sign up.



UU Buddhists

First Tuesdays, Room 2

The Buddhist Group meets at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month, for meditation, dharma, and discussion. The December ministry theme is "mystery." Contact Nancy Thompson nancythompson123@yahoo.com with questions.

Books, Classes and Discussions

continued



Yoga News

Come enjoy yoga at UUS:E!

The current yoga session with Susan Barlow is November 28 – January 16, 11 AM – 12 noon. The current yoga session with Jessica De Carli is November 5 – January 14, 5:45 – 6:45 PM, no class, December 24, and December 31.

Come enjoy physical strengthening and the opportunity to quiet the mind. Bring a yoga mat or towel and wear comfortable clothes. All welcome, including beginners!

\$40 for the eight-week session or \$6 drop-in fee.

You can register with, and direct questions to:

- Jessica at jess.decarli@gmail.com
- Susan at SBarlow627@aol.com, or
- Annie at uuse153@sbcglobal.net

To read about their classes, visit UUSE.org.

<http://uuse.org/religious-ed/adult/yoga-classes>

New Monthly Discussion Group: Science and Religion

How does science inform our beliefs? Where do science and religion meet? Where are they in opposition? Members of this ongoing group will select and discuss readings covering myriad topics such as evolutionary biology, artificial intelligence, climate change, the brain, genetics...and the way we look at the Big Questions. Fourth Thursday of each month, 2:30 - 4:00. Please sign up in advance, by contacting Annie Gentile at uuseoffice@uuse.org or 860-646-5151 or Linda Duncan at lindakduncan@gmail.com. Those who sign up will receive information about the first meeting's topic and questions. First meeting: Thursday, January 24, 2:30 - 4:00.

The Final Event in Our Fall Concert Series!



Truly Troubadours

Saturday, December 8, at 7 PM

Lara Herscovitch, songwriter-poet-performer and former Connecticut State Troubadour, brings her contemporary folk with blues, pop and jazz influences to UUS:E. Music that's "good for your ears AND your soul," says Sound Waves Magazine. Joining Lara is MARMO—Three Connecticut singer-songwriters with a folk/Americana feel, performing thoughtful, witty, soulful songs about life, love, and beverages. MARMO features Bill Ludwig (Current Troubadour of Manchester CT), Dan Thompson (Troubadour Emeritus), and Christian Loftus (Vocalist/Instrumentalist).

\$20 adult; \$18 senior; \$10 student, under age 10: free

UUS:E History Memorabilia Search

Next year will be our 50th Anniversary as a society. We are looking for any materials you may have saved over the years, such as photos, slides, documents, videos, that we can use during our celebration of this milestone. Please search your attics and garages or any place where you might have these items.

Please contact Joe Madar if you have anything to contribute. The intent is to create a digital history of our society, by having items scanned and returned to you if you wish. Items that can't be digitized will be archived as well.

Thanks for your help.

Joe Madar 860-647-8559

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: uuseoffice@uuse.org

Minister: Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, revpawelek@gmail.com

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

President: Rob Stolzman, 907-268-1871, robandtammylee@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education:

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, redirectorr@uuse.org

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>

January Newsletter Deadline:
December 20

Unitarian Universalist Society: East
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