

# 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

March Ministry Theme: Journey  
Services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

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### March 3: "Honoring Our Past; Building Our Future."

As we kick off our 2019 Annual Appeal—our largest fundraising effort of the congregational year—Rev. Josh reflects on the importance of a thriving liberal, religious community east of the Connecticut River.

**Coordinators:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### March 10: "And So Our Journey Began—The First Decade."

This service is an important part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. We will remember and honor members who laid the foundation for the establishment of Unitarian Universalist Society: East and became dedicated to ensuring the success of our liberal religious community east of the river. You will hear about our beginnings from 1969 to 1979. It will be a special opportunity you won't want to miss.

**Coordinator:** Nancy Madar

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### March 17: "Outward Journeys."

Our ministry theme for March is Journey. This morning's service is the first of a two-part sermon series. Rev. Josh explores the spiritual practice of pilgrimage.

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### March 24: "Mythical Journeys."

All Congregation Worship. So many religious traditions and mythologies feature a story about a journey. The person—or people—at the center of the story are not the same at journey's end compared to when they began. They have been transformed. How do our journeys transform us? We will also welcome new members into the congregation.

**Coordinators:** Gina Campellone, Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### March 31: "Inward Journeys."

At certain times in our lives it is important to journey inward, to take stock of who we are, what challenges we face, and how we might overcome them. This morning Rev. Josh reflects on the various ways was journey inward.

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

## 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](mailto: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 March 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 March will be split between Rebuilding Together – Manchester and Communitas.

**Rebuilding Together – Manchester** is part of a national non-profit organization called Rebuilding Together. Its goal is to bring communities together in efforts to assist those in need of general home repair and improvements. To be eligible to receive assistance from this volunteer organization a person must own and occupy their home in Manchester and be unable to do the work themselves. There are income guidelines as well. Priority is given to fixed, low-to moderate-income families, elderly or disabled individuals. The number of homeowners to be assisted each year depends upon available resources such as money for materials, volunteer labor and the ability to complete the work in one day.

**Communitas Inc** is a local non-profit organization that provides support for people with disabilities not available from a traditional service provider. It promotes the building of a positive, inclusive community locally—a community that welcomes all, finds the "gifts" in each member, and actively supports the expressions of each person's gift. Please contact Louisa Graver at [lgraver163@gmail.com](mailto:lgraver163@gmail.com), David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at [nancymadar@hotmail.com](mailto: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 and Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)
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

## 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. If you shop at Stop & Shop, please consider picking up one of these easy-to-use cards.

## 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.

## The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones:

March begins; and so does our UUS:E Annual Appeal. This is an important moment in the life of the congregation every year. Not only do members and friends make their annual financial pledge to the congregation, but each of us also has an opportunity to reflect on the meaning and value of UUS:E in our lives. You will be able to meet with other UUS:E members and friends in peoples' homes, break bread together, talk about what UUS:E means to you, and make your financial pledge for the coming fiscal year. Those of you who cannot participate in any of the 'pledging potlucks' will be able to meet with an Annual Appeal steward in a one-on-one meeting.

As is the case every year, operating costs continue to increase. However, this year the Policy Board has set some ambitious Annual Appeal goals in relation to our staff. You might say "Staffing for Growth" is our overarching goal. First, we have created a new staff position, the Membership Coordinator. After a number of years of discernment, we have identified this position as critical to helping us grow UUS:E in a variety of ways, including overall number of members, depth of connections within the congregation, and growth of participation in congregational programs. In the current year's budget we have funded the Membership Coordinator for half a year. Now we need to fund it for a full year.

Second, likewise after a number of years of discernment, we have made a commitment to expanding our music program at UUS:E, including a professionally administered concert series and an ongoing music salon. This program expansion will necessarily increase our Music Director's hours. We are proposing

minimally a two-hour increase in the coming year.

Finally, we have realized that we are under-paying our Sexton. For many years, we have used guidelines from the Unitarian Universalist Association based on compensation for a custodian. However, our Sexton is truly a building manager and we need to pay her accordingly. It is a matter of fairness.

Sustaining the Membership Coordinator position, expanding the Music Director position, and providing fair compensation to our Sexton. These are the goals driving the major increases in next year's budget. We hope you will be excited about these goals. Why? Because they are the signs of a thriving congregation, a growing congregation, a vibrant congregation, a congregation that is here to stay!

The Stewardship Committee's theme for this year's Annual Appeal is "Honoring our Past; Building Our Future." It is the right theme for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. What better way to honor our past than to make a significant pledge to help us meet goals that build a bright future for UUS:E! For your generosity, thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

With love,

—Rev. Josh



## Enter, rejoice, and come in!

A Religious Education message from Gina

Dear Friends,

In last month's newsletter I wrote about the importance of making time for both play and rest. This month, guest columnist and UUS:E member Jenn Ford will further explore the value of rest. What follows is an essay written by Jenn, previously published in a longer format on [CTWorkingMoms.com](http://CTWorkingMoms.com).

Rest is stopping one's work, whatever that work might be. Rest is freedom from harassment. It is the quiet after the storm. It is children fresh out of a bath with pruned fingers and the smell of baby shampoo, tucked under their blankets before bedtime. Rest is the sound of the night breeze rattling the palms as it comes off the Gulf. Rest is putting your head down on the pillow knowing that you can sleep in... Rest is reading and setting the book aside when your eyes get too heavy. Rest is the sound of the wind through the screen porch of the beach house. Rest is stopping. Rest is thinking about all the things that you could do on a Sunday afternoon and hearing a small, still voice tell you to just stop – and then taking a ... nap.

The excerpt above is from **24/6: A Prescription for a Healthier, Happier Life** by Matthew Sleeth and Eugene H. Peterson.

I can almost see myself in each of the situations and this passage made me feel so relaxed. It also got me thinking that so many of the scenes he so beautifully paints are restful moments that I have not been able to enjoy since having kids. So rather than harp on and on about how anti-restful children are and how I never get to rest now that I have kids, I thought I might try making a list of things that do mean rest for me at this point in my life.

Rest Is...

~ Both kids sleeping until 6:30 AM!

~ Sitting down at my desk at 8 AM after getting two kids out the door.

~ That feeling I get when crossing the final thing off my to do list.

~ Relaxing in bed with a good book.

~ Taking a hot shower.

~ Ordering take-out after a long day.

~ Washing my face and feet before bed – it's such a nice bedtime ritual.

~ Lying on the floor with my kids and my dog.

~ Finishing a book.

~ Choosing my next book.

~ Pulling the covers up to my chin and closing my eyes.

~ Being home alone.

I know you might feel far from rested at this point in your life, but please think about what makes you sigh happily and think now this is restful. And then do more of that.

Thank you, Jenn, for sharing your gift of writing and beautiful reminder about the importance of rest.

Be well & be loved,

Gina



## The Policy Board's Column

### Notes from the Policy Board from a Member at Large

How long have you found UUS:E to be your spiritual home? For our family, it has been since 1997. We were looking for an RE program that would be a positive experience for our children and found a socially aware, non-dogmatic, spiritual, and social community for our entire family. At this time of year, we should all reflect on what the UUS:E community means to us as we decide how to financially support this home.

When I attend services, I always feel at home and love seeing so many people that I know, as well as meeting newcomers and getting to know people better through various events. I sometimes reflect on the many things that go into being able to participate in these beloved services: the building; the heat; the lights; the many committees of volunteers such as Sunday services, music, building and grounds, and all others; our staff of Reverend Josh, Mary, Jane, Gina, Annie, Emmy, and now Jerry; and I could go on. Services don't just magically happen; much time and money goes into each service and other events. I am also frequently reminded of how grateful I am that our children were raised in this liberal religious tradition and are accepting of all groups of people and comfortable in their UUness.

Although our children are grown and we don't come to services as much as we'd like to, I wanted to be more involved when I joined the policy board, and I always appreciate having this great spiritual home. I hope you will join me in understanding how important it is to support this home in giving of our time and money. Although we're now retired and living on less income than in past years, we always try to increase our pledge to help with all of the programs we appreciate here at UUS:E. To those of you I know, thank you for the connections you have helped me to make here and for your friendship; for those I don't know well, I hope we can get to know each other soon.

—Laurie Mazich Semprebon

### Community Conversation

We invite you to the first Policy Board Community Conversation on March 14, 2019.

The Policy Board hopes you will attend a special community conversation event. We aspire to provide a forum for the congregation and the Board to engage in relaxed and open dialogue about topics important to UUS:E. We have scheduled two sessions in which Board members will be available to engage in community conversation with our members. These sessions will be on Thursday, March 14, at either 2 PM or 7 PM in the Sanctuary. The topics on our agenda include:

1. Revising our Covenant—We recently reviewed and revised our Vision statement. Now, a group of volunteers has stepped forward to review our Covenant to see if, after years of serving us well, it still provides a deep and meaningful understanding and practice of how we come together and unite, particularly in these turbulent times. Please join us to share your thoughts on our Covenant and if or how it can be improved. Our covenant can be found on the UUS:E website at <http://uuse.org/?s=mission#.XGgE9c9Kh0s>
  2. The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee will discuss our upcoming elections in May and open positions which need candidates. Please consider coming and learning about how you may be able to help out as we continue to build a strong spiritual and soulful community.
  3. To colon or not to colon: That is the question? We are looking for more information on the history of our colon in "UUS:E." We are also interested in your thoughts on whether or not we should continue to use it. It's grammatical. It's important—or maybe not so important in today's age of text and email. It's interesting...but do we need it in our name? Please come and share your knowledge of the history of our ":" and your thoughts on whether we should continue to use it in practice.
- We hope to see you there!

## Greetings from the Membership Committee!



### **We Warmly Welcome Jerry Arcari, our new UUS:E Membership Coordinator**

Jerry is a long time resident of Manchester who has been very active with a number of agencies in the area, including Manchester Area Council of Churches. You will see him on Sunday mornings welcoming and getting to know our members, friends, and new visitors. Please check out our UUS:E website for more information about the wealth of experience Jerry brings with him to share with our community...and don't be shy about introducing yourselves!

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](mailto: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](mailto:jenduv@sbcglobal.net). Louisa Graver schedules all of our Greeters, so please contact her at [lgraver163@gmail.com](mailto:lgraver163@gmail.com).

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

Our next INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM is on  
March 3, 2019.

Come and learn more about us!

RSVP to Annie Gentile, 860-646-5151 if you can join us. There will be LUNCH!

## Annual Appeal

# “Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future”

## The 2019 Annual Appeal March 3 to April 7

Join in—this is an all-inclusive congregation-wide event!

Be sure to read the Annual Appeal materials that were mailed to you.

Attend a Pledging Pot Luck—March 8, 9, 10 and March 15, 16, 17—sign up in the foyer Sundays beginning February 17 or contact Adam Bender, [adambender@hotmail.com](mailto:adambender@hotmail.com)

Especially for RE families—Saturday morning RE brunch with entertainment for the kids—March 9 or 30, 10-12. Sign up with Adam at the Garden Level.

Welcome your steward’s visit.

Together we can “Honor the Past and Build Our Future.”

Give as generously as you can!

This message is from your Stewardship Committee—

Adam Bender, Louisa Graver, Larry Lunden,  
Stan McMillen, Phil Sawyer, Debbie Starkel

## Green Sanctuary News

### Friday, March 15, 7 – 9 PM (Meeting Room): Movie, Dessert, and Green Discussion

The Sustainable Living Committee will host a showing of the movie “Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution” and guide a discussion of the federal Carbon Dividend bills and the “Green New Deal” at the federal and state levels, and the March 15 international youth strike for action on climate change. Representatives for Trinity Solar will be there to describe how UUS:E members can get no cost solar for their homes that reduces their electric bills.

### Sunday, March 24, 1:00 – 2:30 (downstairs Chapel): Garden Planning Meeting

Interested in gardening with us? Last year the Sustainable Living Committee launched UUS:E’s “Peas & Love Community Garden,” where we grew organic vegetables from spring through fall. Produce was shared with volunteers, church members, and the Universalist Church of West Hartford’s Food Ministry. This is our first organizational meeting of the year and we need volunteers to help out. Bring your skills, energy, and positive spirit and join us as we plan the upcoming season. Contact Mary Lawrence, [welonwheels@hotmail.com](mailto:welonwheels@hotmail.com), or 860-985-1645, for more information.

Honoring the Past, Envisioning the Future



## And So Our Journey Began – The First Decade

### March 10 Service

In March of 1969 our founders dedicated our first home, after two frenetic months of cleaning, repairing and furnishing a former church/karate school. That first service attracted an overflow crowd of more than 150! A week later the first Religious Education classes began, with an enrollment of 50 children. It was an auspicious beginning indeed.

Our worship theme for February was **Possibilities**, and the theme for March is **Journeys**. At our March 10 service, we will honor members who saw the possibility of a loving and inclusive home for liberal religion in Manchester, and who started us on this journey. That first decade saw a literal journey through four locations—from the Main Street church to a childcare center, the Community “Y” and finally out to West Vernon Street.

How did those early years shape who we are today? What legacy did our founders leave us, and how are we handling that responsibility today? Come to the March 10 service to consider this and much more!

#### March Milestones ~ This Month in UUS:E History:

- **March 1969**, we dedicate our first home at 466 Main St., and begin weekly services and RE.
- **March 1973**, after several rent increases, the congregation says good bye to Main Street and “parades” to the Singer Center, a preschool on Spring Street, where we hold Sunday services and RE. In the summer of 1975, we move again, to the Community “Y”.
- **March 1977**, the congregation purchases a 4-acre wooded lot on West Vernon St., Manchester for \$25,000 from Barbara and Alan Cox. We’re on our way to having a fulltime home of our own!!

#### Looking forward to other 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, including:

- ✓ Rev. Drew Moeller, who discovered his ministerial calling while at UUSE, returns to preach on June 2
- ✓ All-generations carnival on June 8 (rain date June 15)
- ✓ WUUdstock concert on July 27
- ✓ Celebration Gala on September 28
- ✓ Looking back on our legacy, a worship service on November 3

**Questions? Ideas? Want to help? Contact Anne Carr at [acarr06040@yahoo.com](mailto:acarr06040@yahoo.com)**



## We raised money! We raised the heat! And we raised the roof! At the Auction + Chili Cook-Off on January 26

- 🌶️ More than 130 guests came to eat, bid and have a great time with friends!
- 🌶️ 123 different items were donated by 99 members/friends and 34 community groups!
- 🌶️ 13 wonderful chilis were prepared by our contestants, from mild-and-silky to roof's-on-fire!
- 🌶️ 37 volunteers made the event a success including the Affirmation Class, who provided kids' activities!
- 🌶️ **AND the 2019 Goods & Services Auction netted more than \$11,000!!!**



←Our talented chefs included (back) Rhona Cohen, Sharon Gresk, Mike York, Dawn Ballantyne-Wild, Dexter Beltster. (Front) Anne Vaughn, Gail Crook, Liz Garmise, Joel Devonshire, Penny Field (winner, vegetarian) and Ann Stowe (winner, meat). Sue Barlow not pictured.

Start thinking NOW about 2020! What do you wish for? What skill or event can you share? And how can you help with soliciting donations? See you next year ... Your Auction Team: Sue and Stan Mcmillen, Nancy Pappas, Jennifer Klee, Chris Larson and Ctaci Beltster.

Photos courtesy of Cressy Goodwin

## **Got Race? An Introduction to Racial Identity Development**

Sunday March 17, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

In the UUS:E sanctuary

New UUS:E member Azucena Minaya Llantoy and Rev. Josh Pawelek will lead this two-hour workshop on the concept of “racial identity development.” Even though race is a biological falsehood, it is a very powerful social reality. How do people become aware of the fact that they have a racial identity? How do they develop in that identity in positive ways? What kinds of supports are needed? How do we as a community address the reality of white privilege? As we answer these questions, we grow in our capacity to participate in conversations about race and racism in the wider community. We also grow in our capacity to take action for racial justice, both within our congregation and beyond. Youth and Junior Youth are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

This workshop is sponsored by the UUS:E Social Justice / Anti-Oppression Committee. Need childcare? Contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office at 860-646-5151 by noon on March 15. Other questions? Contact Rev. Josh at (860) 646-5151 or [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org).

### **Calling All Singers!**

Holiday choir rehearsals begin on March 6. That’s right—every Wednesday night at 7:15 PM, starting on March 6, Holiday Choir will be in session. We will be getting ready for the Easter Music Services: April 21 at 9 AM and 11 AM. There are no auditions. If you love to sing you are invited. For more information speak to Mary Bopp, UUS:E Music Director, or any choir member.

## **Thank you, Wilda!**

On February 17, Wilda Wyse, a vibrant, positive, and dedicated member of UUS:E for many years, attended her final service before moving to Ithaca, New York, to be near her son, Todd, and her daughter-in-law, Suzy.

Between services, the Music Committee held a celebration, honoring Wilda and her contributions to UUS:E. An enthusiastic crowd joyously applauded as Wilda made her way from the Lobby to the Program Room, where a beautiful cake awaited her. Peggy Webbe, chairperson of the committee, formally presented Wilda with a beautiful plaque, honoring her contributions to the music at UUS:E, singing and participating in musicals and in choir, playing her harp and the piano at services, and chairing and serving on the Music Committee.

Reverend Josh invited people to share how Wilda had touched their lives. People not only related fond memories of activities with Wilda, but also shared their gratitude for the difference and influence she had made in their lives. Just before Wilda left, having enjoyed conversation after the second service, members of The Women’s Sacred Singing Circle joined Wilda in the Lobby and sang Wilda’s favorite song, Ishe Oluwa.

Though we will miss Wilda at UUS:E, we can keep in touch via email: [wildarhea@gmail.com](mailto:wildarhea@gmail.com) or snail mail at:

Longview  
1 Bella Vista Drive  
Ithaca, NY 14850

We thank you, Wilda, and know that with your vibrant, positive attitude and zest for life, that you will have a wonderful time at Longview and in Ithaca.

## Legacy Giving

If one uses the memorial plaques as the basis for information, we have 70 names there. Only the bequest of Penny Johnson is reflected in the church's financial endowment records. With all the activity required to found a new church, we have not focused on our endowment and we are changing that now. To date, we have 51 bequests pledged.

Why have an endowment fund? How can it help us? An endowment fund will give UUS:E financial security and the wherewithal to plan for the future. It could eliminate fundraisers. Last fiscal year, we took in \$31,000 in fundraisers. They were fun to attend but they also required much energy to pull them off. In addition, an endowment fund could reduce the need for "asks" and could reduce the one annual ask to our annual appeal. Further, unanticipated needs could be funded through the endowment fund and our building and grounds could be maintained and developed through our endowment. And the endowment fund allows us to dream, to make possible ministries that could enrich us and those experiencing hardship through natural disasters. Dream about congregating housing, for example. How wonderful it would be for us to live together as we age, to live with those who share our values. And what if we could make our retirements meaningful by mission work? The young people, too, of the congregation would love being part of that. If we do the same old thing in the same old way, we perish. But if we dream and plan and work together, the result can become actualities.

What does an endowment fund do for the individual who contributes to it? First of all, it clearly defines the legacy of the benefactor. Funding and entity which has principles of respect for all, the democratic process, nurturing the earth and protecting our environment—those principles by which we have learned to live our lives—will, with our bequests, continue on for our next generations of Unitarian Universalists. A benefactor's bequest will be remembered in this congregation with his/her name on our memorial tree (still in the planning stage) and help others yet to come find the same sense of community and of mission that someone before us created for us. A bequest is a way of living on, of perpetuating one's values and perspective, of being serious about the fact that we do not live for ourselves alone.

When you reflect on who you are and what you want to leave to the world from your own wisdom and experience, what better way to do that than to join the effort to keep this treasured spirit of UUS:E vibrant in all the years to come?

Jean A. Labutis, Endowment Committee

## Freedom Songs:

An Inter-faith Fundraiser for the Immigrant Bail Fund

Sat, Mar 30 at 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Long Wharf Theater  
222 Sargent Drive, New Haven

Featuring performances by:

- Afro-Semitic Experience
- Music Haven
- The Isabella Mendes Bossa Nova Trio
- Tina Colón Williams

Plus testimony from community member freed from immigration prison by the Immigrant Bail Fund.

Tickets available at the door, pay what you can!



## Greater Hartford Faith-Based Community Organizing

Winter Assembly

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 to 9:00

Congregation Beth Israel,  
701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford.

Over the past few years, Rev. Josh and other religious leaders from across the Hartford region have been developing an interfaith organization that will work to address issues that impact the quality of life for the people in the Greater Hartford region. On March 12 at 6:30 PM, members from more than 40 area congregations will gather at Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford to learn about the progress and the possibilities of bringing together so many committed and energetic people of faith! (Rev. Josh has promised UUS:E will bring at least 25 people to this assembly—so let's not let him down! Please get in touch!)

The assembly will include a series of "house meetings"—where people will gather in groups of 5 to 6, with a group leader, to have a focused conversation on what they are experiencing in their lives. What's keeping them up at night? What do people want to see change? House meetings are the vehicle that, over time, will surface the issues the faith-based institutions will address.

The assembly will also decide on a name for the organization.

If you would like to attend, please contact Nancy Pappas at [Nanapap338@aol.com](mailto:Nanapap338@aol.com) or 860-306-3777.

### Affirmation Donations

Help support our Affirmation class as they collect feminine hygiene products for area homeless women, 2/24 – 3/31. Please donate individually wrapped pads (preferably with wings), tampons with applicators, panty liners, flushable wet wipes, cosmetic bags, and handbags, and drop them in the bin located in the lobby. If you would prefer to donate money, please see Jenn Richard, or leave your donation with Annie Gentile in the office. Cash donations can also be made in the weekly collection plate in envelopes labeled with your name and "Affirmation." For questions, please email Jenn at [faerieminstrel@gmail.com](mailto:faerieminstrel@gmail.com).

## Meet Thousands of UUs This Summer!



<https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/ga flyer2019.pdf>

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association, the central governance group of our denomination. Thousands of participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. UUS:E can send four delegates to the 2019 GA, which will be held from June 19 – 23 in Spokane, Washington. See link for a preview of the exciting programming, lectures and Social Justice opportunities.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We." Delegates will look at the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation – both inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity.

If you are interested in attending this year's GA, please speak with Rev. Josh, Society president Rob Stolzman, or to Nancy Pappas. GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open March 1 at noon EST at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga). There are volunteer opportunities and scholarships which can help defray the costs

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Film Series

A Question of Faith  
Wadsworth Atheneum  
600 Main Street Hartford CT, 06103



In collaboration with the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU)

Our film festival experience is unique:

The films are all produced outside of Hollywood, and feature issues that are not well explored in a typical American context. Each film also highlights the complex situations that arise with faith questions of faith. These films provide opportunities for patrons to explore cultures and religions other than the ones with which they might be familiar, as well as the opportunity to ask questions and deepen their understanding once the film is over.

Admission is \$10 for regular guests, \$9 for Seniors and Students, and \$7 for Atheneum members.

Advance Reservations are required for Brunch. \$45; \$35 Member including admission to the film.

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### INTERFAITH BRUNCH

March 3, 2019 at 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Join us as we “break bread” in celebration of six years of the Interfaith Film Series. Enjoy à la carte brunch with music by Frank Varela. Admission includes film screening of **The Band’s Visit** following brunch at 2 PM. \$45/\$35 members.

Please note that tickets must be purchased online and are not available by phone. Tickets do not include gratuity for brunch service.

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### THE BAND’S VISIT

Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 2:00 PM

The Israeli film, *The Band’s Visit*, opens the series. A band comprised of members of the Egyptian police force head to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab arts center, only to find themselves lost in the wrong town. Comedic drama. Now a smash Broadway play.

#### Commentators:

**Sarah S. Willen, PhD, MPH**, is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut and Director of the Research Program on Global Health and Human Rights at the university’s Human Rights Institute.

**Esam Boraey** is a human rights activist working for freedom and democracy in the Middle East. Esam taught classes and studied for his Master’s degree in international relations at several universities in Egypt and in the United States.

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### OF GODS AND MEN

Sunday, March 10, 2019 at 2:00 PM

An order of Trappist monks live among the Muslim population in a quiet corner of Algeria. As the country is plunged into civil war in the mid-1990s, the men of God must decide whether to stay among the impoverished residents who have been their neighbors, or flee the encroaching fundamentalist terrorists. Based on actual events.

#### Commentators:

**Dr. Colleen Keyes** served as chief academic officer at Tunxis Community College and Zaytuna College between 2001 and 2016. Currently, Dr. Keyes teaches English, works with local refugee assistance groups and is a member of the boards of directors of Council on Islamic-American Relations (CAIR)-CT and the Muslim Coalition of CT.

**Rev. Father Michael F. Dolan** serves as director for Inter-Religious Affairs in the Archdiocese of Hartford, as well as Pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Hamden.

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### BLACK ROBE

Sunday, March 17, 2019

The *Black Robe*, is the final film in the series. A young Jesuit priest seeks to convert the Indian tribes in Canada while also trying to survive the harsh winter.

**Commentators:** TBA

## 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.

Contact Paul Cocuzzo at [pcocuzzo@gmail.com](mailto: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.

- March 12: **The Age of Innocence**, by Edith Wharton
- April 9: **The Age of Innocence**, by Edith Wharton

For information: [marlar@wordshard.com](mailto:marlar@wordshard.com)

#### UU Buddhists

First Tuesdays, Room 2

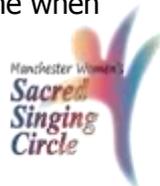
The Buddhist Group meets at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month, for meditation, dharma, and discussion. The March ministry theme is "journey." Contact Nancy Thompson [nancythompson123@yahoo.com](mailto:nancythompson123@yahoo.com) with questions.

#### 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](mailto:janeosb3@gmail.com)



#### Yoga News

Come enjoy yoga at UUS:E!

The current yoga session with Susan Barlow is January 23 – March 20, 11 AM – 12 noon. Her next session is March 27 – May 15. The current yoga session with Jessica De Carli is January 28 – March 18, (weather permitting) 5:45 – 6:45 PM. Her next session is March 25 – May – 13.

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](mailto:jess.decarli@gmail.com)
- Susan at [SBarlow627@aol.com](mailto:SBarlow627@aol.com), or
- Annie at [uuse153@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uuse153@sbcglobal.net)

To read about their classes, visit UUSE.org.

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

#### Jesus and After: The First Eighty Years

This course explores the earliest years of Christianity, when it was still a universalist sect of Judaism. Together we will read E. Bruce Brooks' **Jesus and After: The First Eighty Years**, available at <http://www.umass.edu/wsp/publications/early/jesus/index.html>. As one reviewer has said, "this book reveals a Jesus compatible with science and Unitarian Universalism, a Jesus with urgent ethical relevance to our lives today." Meet in Rev. Josh's office on Thursday afternoons January 31, February 14 and 28, and March 14 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.

## Books, Classes and Discussions

continued

### Community Kirtan



### Celebrate the Hope of Spring! Kirtan with Charlie Braun Is Back!

Friday, March 8, 7:00 PM

Charlie Braun's kirtan is a fusion of melodic folk-rock that wanders into reggae, blues, and other musical forays, but stays true to the heart-opening power of Sanskrit mantras. A lifelong singer-songwriter, Charlie is also an award-winning record producer, award-nominated music creationist, and an acclaimed guitarist. Joined by percussionist Charlie Shew and vocalist Brie Sullivan, Charlie guides the group in the call-and-response singing of mantras, co-creating a joyful, sacred musical atmosphere that uplifts, comforts and is a whole lot of fun. Come sing, dance, or just kick back and drink it in!

Check out Charlie's kirtan music at <http://www.charliebraun.com>.

ALL ARE WELCOME. While a \$15 donation is requested at the door, no one is ever turned away. Chair seating is provided. Bring your own floor cushions if you want to sit on the floor in the front. Footwear is optional.

### Explore the Healing Power of Sound Gong Journeys: Into the Sacred Heart with Ed Cleveland

Friday, April 5, 7:00 PM



We all know that music soothes the soul in myriad ways, but join Ed Cleveland's Gong Journeys: Into the Sacred Heart, to experience the power of sound on a deeper level. Ed is a certified Reiki Master and Holographic Sound Master and Teacher, offering a wide range of abilities to enrich your healing experience. Using singing bowls and gongs, he creates sound waves that trigger the release of healthy neurochemicals and hormones—sounds that can ease pain, boost your creativity, and promote a healthier, freer state of mind.

A \$15 donation is requested at the door, but no one is ever turned away. Chair seating is provided. Bring your own floor cushions if you want to sit on the floor. If you choose to lie on your back for the hour, bring your own mat, blanket, pillows—whatever you need for your comfort.

### Science and Religion

4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 4:30 – 6:00 in the Chapel

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. Please sign up in advance, by contacting Annie Gentile at [uuseoffice@uuse.org](mailto:uuseoffice@uuse.org) or 860-646-5151 or Linda Duncan at [lindakduncan@gmail.com](mailto:lindakduncan@gmail.com). Those who sign up will receive information about the next meeting's topic and questions.

## UUS:E Memorial Garden Project Update and Request

Many thanks to those of you who have already participated in our fund-raising campaign for the improvement/beautification of our memorial garden. Thanks to your generosity, we are close to our goal of being able to contract to begin work this spring.

If you intend to contribute or buy a plot but have not yet done so, now is the time! Donations from those who purchased a plot in the past are, of course, always greatly appreciated as well.

For questions or more information, please contact any of the Memorial Garden Trustees (Jeanne Pitney, Sharon Gresk, Eric Vogel, Gene Sestero, or David Garnes)...In gratitude, DG.

P.S. Those who arranged to buy a plot during this campaign will be contacted regarding choosing a specific location. We are waiting for warmer weather, though we're happy to meet now if you wish; contact any one of us. For general questions, you may also call Annie Gentile in the UUS:E Office at 860-646-5151.

### A New Way to Sign Up for Eblast

At <http://uuse.org>:

SEARCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY: EAST  
Search this website ... SEARCH

IMPORTANT LINKS

- New? Visiting?  
Learn about us. Get directions, etc.
- Online Community  
Join The Discussion / Online Directory
- Welcoming Congregation  
Events and Programs open to all
- Get Email Updates**  
News, Events, Community  
Privacy by SafeSubscribe™
- Calendar of Events  
Whats going on at UUS:E?

## UUS:E History Memorabilia Search

Next year will be our 50<sup>th</sup> 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



### Missing VHS Tapes

From 1980 through 1985, six Broadway productions were presented to packed audiences at our UUS:E meetinghouse. They were produced and directed by our beloved Bob Richardson and many of the performers were our own members. Videos were made from each of these productions, but alas, only two still exist, thanks to Howard and Miriam Epstein: **Music Man** in 1983 and **Carnival** in 1985.

We are looking for the missing ones – 1980 – **Forum**; 1981 – **South Pacific**; 1982 – **Carousel**; 1984 – **Fiddler**. If anyone has these tapes or is aware of where they might be, please call Annie at the church office or contact Joe Madar at 860-647-8559. Thanks for your help.

**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](mailto:uuseoffice@uuse.org)

**Minister:** Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, [revpawelek@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:robandtammylee@yahoo.com)

**Director of Religious Education:**

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, [redirector@uuse.org](mailto:redirector@uuse.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Paul Cocuzzo, 978-270-2056, [newsletter@uuse.org](mailto:newsletter@uuse.org)

**Website Coordinator:** Carol Marion 860-643-8765, [uuseweb@gmail.com](mailto:uuseweb@gmail.com)

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

April Newsletter Deadline:

March 20

Unitarian Universalist Society: East  
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