

November/December 2012



Skylands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1811 Route 57, PO Box 7110, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

www.skylandsuu.org
908-684-4040



Sunday Program Schedule

*Skylands UUF Meetings are held from 10:15 - 11:45 am, Sundays, September-June.
Religious Education is offered for children of all ages. Visitors are always welcome!*

October 28: "Sitting with the Ancestors"

Renee Paddock

Pagan/wiccan tradition holds that at "Samhain" (Halloween) the "veil is thin between the worlds" and we may receive messages or inspiration from our beloved dead. We will honor our collective family of dead and learn some of the symbols and traditions of this time of remembering.

November 4: "Celebrating the Dodge Poetry Festival"

Tony Van der Mude

The Dodge Poetry Biennial is the premiere poetry event. It is attended of some of the best poets in America. This year they will feature Jane Hirshfield, Nikky Finney, Amiri Baraka and Philip Levine, among others. Tony Van der Mude will present some of the latest poetry from the best poets writing today as presented at the festival. You are invited to bring your favorite poetry, past, present and poets who are yet to be recognized. Together we will have a festival of our own.

November 11: "The Heart of Democracy"

Rev. Craig Hirshberg

Democracy is often confused with politics. But there are very clear, substantial values that Unitarian Universalists bring in our participation in the body politic. This Sunday, Rev. Craig Hirshberg, Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey, our UU presence in Trenton, will explore our UU values upholding our actions as we engage in current legislative issues.

November 18: Lighting Up the Dark**Renee Paddock**

Learn about the many traditions of celebrating light during the season of deepest dark. Warm yourself in the light of community and traditions that span the globe.

November 25: Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service (no RE) Jennifer Palmer

Gather the Spirit is an eight-session, multigenerational program that teaches stewardship with a focus on water. Through a lens both scientific and religious, using activities a wide range of ages can do together, this program addresses the importance of water, the inequity of access to clean water, and actions we can take as Unitarian Universalist stewards.

December 2: Soul Dancing with Mental Illness**Rev. Linda Goonewardene**

Mental health issues have a spiritual component. We can examine this spiritual dance or journey through the stages of the soul via Harry R. Moody and Winnie the Pooh.

December 9: Celebrating Hanukkah**December 16: Winter Solstice****Bill Montfort, Jennifer Palmer, Renee Paddock**

In this time of decreasing sunlight, we will celebrate the seasonal changes with a Solstice Service which will include calling the directions, a reading about the balance of light and dark, a children's story, special music, and a crafting activity to decorate our Solstice Tree. This is an annual SUUF service that is enjoyed by both adults and children.

December 23: No Service**December 24: Christmas Eve**

A candle light service of lessons and carols. This annual Skylands tradition is designed to be both simple and traditional. We will re-visit the night of the birth of Jesus, in verse and in song, with small Unitarian Universalist "bookends" before and after the telling of that two-thousand-year-old story. Whatever hopes, thoughts, and sentiments you have, your individual presence in our sanctuary will add significant meaning to this night for all of us as we celebrate December 24th together.

December 30: No Service

Annual Meeting - Our annual meeting will begin at noon following our service on **Sunday, November 18th**. We will vote on the 2013 budget and board members, and the results of the Capital Campaign survey will be discussed. All are welcome, although only members can vote. This would be a good time to join! We need 40% of members in attendance to have a quorum and make it official. Members who are attending, please sign up for the event at: <http://www.skylandssuu.org/events/2012-Annual-meeting>

Signing up will save a phone or email later on ensuring we have a quorum.

For the members who can't make it, an absentee ballot is available (sent via email; contact Maureen Bonner). Please mail it so it arrives in time for the meeting: Skylands Fellowship, PO Box 7110, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Secret Pals!

Coming this winter. One of our favorite intergenerational activities and now long overdue. More details by email next month...

Holiday Party! - Holiday Party at the home of Ken and Laura Knipmeyer in Middle Valley on Saturday, December 3rd. Please come and welcome the holiday season with a potluck dinner, starting at 6 pm. Children are welcome. Please RSVP to Ken and Laura at knip@knipmeyer.net. It will be helpful to know what you will bring. Come on out and enjoy a festive casual time!

1st Sunday potluck! – We will be having a potluck the 1st Sunday of each month after service.

Bring your favorite dish for the **November 4 and December 2nd** gatherings

Kitchen Help—We need more help with kitchen support for refreshments each week, as Ginny will be gone every other weekend for a while. Please see Ginny if you can help with this.

Refreshments sign up – There is a calendar on the kitchen door where you can sign up to provide refreshments for the coffee hour after service. Please sign up so we're sure to have goodies to munch on while we all catch up with each other!

Lets-Get-Together Dinners – These dinners are groups of 8-10 people who meet a few times a year at a member's house for dinner. Each person brings something to share. This provides an opportunity for people to get to know each other better, as people usually don't have time after Sunday services. Diane Dowd has kindly organized these in the past but would like to pass this on to a new person. Can you volunteer to step into her place?

SUUF Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Fellowship. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 14, and Wednesday December 12th

Mark your calendars: <http://skylandsuu.org/calendar> for the full schedule of SUUF events



President's Message

The following is a submission offered by your editor, but submitted on behalf of our president Maureen Bonner. Maureen is very excited about this opportunity for our fellowship and is asking for our support with ideas and energy on how to celebrate it for this year. We can organize any activities we would like to support this, followed by a special service on the Sunday after Valentine's Day—February 17, 2013.

Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcome to join.

So let's thinking about how to show our Love in support of this worthy and exciting idea!



Copy below is from the Standing on the Side of Love website



Dear Friends,

What started as a reimagining of February 14th as *National Standing on the Side of Love Day* eventually blossomed into a beautiful Thirty Days of Love, bracketed by Martin Luther, Jr. Day and Valentine's Day.

In 2012, thousands of people reveled in 30 days of justice-and-love-filled actions; engaged in collective visioning, active listening and theological reflection with congregations; participated in service projects; presented courageous love awards to community heroes; attended special Standing on the Side of Love services; and engaged in transformative acts of public witness throughout the month, most especially on February 14—*National Standing on the Side of Love Day*.

In 2013, we are bringing back the Thirty Days, and we have listened to your feedback! Most importantly, we want to provide ample notice so you can start planning your participation now. So please add these dates to your calendar:



Saturday, January 19th - Sunday, February 17th, 2013

What else do we envision for our next Thirty Days of Love?

- More activities geared for individuals not affiliated with a congregation, and towards children, youth, and young adults.
- A continued focus on the interfaith spirit of the campaign.
- Streamlined communications and resources that are easy to digest.

Do you have suggestions for us? We'd love to hear your ideas for daily activities, exercises, prayers, reflection, and meditations that we might share with the larger community. All ideas—big and small—are very welcome. The Thirty Days of Love is all about collective effort. Send your thoughts to love@uua.org.

Want to get a head start on planning for this year's events? All of the resources from last year are available [on our website](#).

If you are affiliated with a congregation, you might also think about identifying a small working group within your congregation to focus on planning for the Thirty Days of Love.

The Thirty Days is a wonderful, focused time to connect more deeply with others who are committed to standing on the side of love and to the calls of love and justice. So save the dates today and start brainstorming!

In partnership,

The Standing on the Side of Love Creative Advisory Team

About Standing on the Side of Love

Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) and all are welcomed to join.

Why

This is a time of great hope and possibility, yet our communities are threatened by the increased prevalence of acts motivated by fear and hate.

No one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their identities.

In public debates over immigration, LGBT rights, and more, religious people stand on the side of love and call for respect, inclusion, and compassion.

How

The Standing on the Side of Love campaign elevates compassionate religious voices to influence public attitudes and public policy.

Through [community activism](#), [social networking](#), and [media outreach](#), people across the nation are equipped to counter fear and make love real in the world.

History

The message, "standing on the side of love," emerged as a rallying point for people of faith in Massachusetts during their early efforts for fully inclusive marriage, and later during the fight against Proposition 8 in California.

The Standing on the Side of Love Campaign was inspired by the [2008 shooting at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church](#), which was targeted because they are welcoming to LGBT people and have a liberal stance on many issues.

The Knoxville Community responded with an outpouring of love that [inspired the leadership at the Unitarian Universalist Association to launch a campaign](#) that would harness love's power to challenging exclusion, oppression and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, [immigration status](#), race, religion, or any other identity. In July of 2010, we [celebrated our one-year anniversary](#) at Standing on the Side of Love. Thank you to all of you who have taken part. Click to see our [2010 report](#) on the campaign (click to download).

For two years in a row, together, we re-imagined Valentine's Day as a social justice holiday. [See the difference we made.](#)

Tuesday Night Series Correction

Ooops!-the previous UUnilog was mixed up. See Page 12 for the Tuesday Night Series lineup including the correction that Belly Dancing is on Second Tuesdays and Tai Chi and Qi Gong is on Third Tuesdays.

Committees At SUUF

Aesthetics
Archives
Building
Caring
Capital Campaign
Choir
Community Outreach
Denominational Affairs
Finance
Flowers
Fundraising
Grounds
Hospitality
Let's Get Together Dinners
Membership
Newsletter
Program
Publicity
Recycling
Religious Education
Sedar
Supermarket Cards
Tuesday Series
Welcoming Congregation
Women's Circle

Chair Person

Mary Van der Mude
Dennis Sullivan
Rob O'Connell
OPEN
Josh Galster
Bill Montfort
Ginny Mills
Dennis Sullivan
Clark Paddock
Mary Van de Mude
OPEN
Gretchen Fowles
Ginny Mills
OPEN (this could be you!)
Linda Bonk
Ken Knipmeyer
Josh Galster
Peggy Robinson
Renee Paddock
Anne Kager
Joan Sullivan
Rob Ingenito
Tara O'Connell
Sue Montfort
Maureen Bonner

“We are a spiritual and intellectual community that embraces each child and adult in close fellowship, encourages the open exchange of ideas, provides religious education for all, and serves the larger community.”

Skylands Fellowship mission statement
adopted November 20, 2005



Religious Education

Much thought and spirit goes into our Religious Education program for the 2012-2013 year. We have been fortunate to be able to utilize 'Tapestry of Faith' for one more year. The benefit is that it is an excellent program that costs nothing and can be viewed online so that parents/guardians may share in the experience with their children.

Enrollment has been positive and somewhat stable allowing us to consider continuing our nursery along with Pre-K thru 1st grade, 2nd thru 4th and Middle school grades 5th and above. We will have quite full classrooms in the 2nd thru 4th and Middle School grades as many of our students are moving up into new classrooms this year. A suggestion has been put forth to potentially combine the younger two classrooms. Should the need arise due to lack of attendance on the part of the pre-K thru 1st group and the amount of children moving into our older group, we will be sure to make accommodations that will be positive for all students involved.

The expected curriculum for the upcoming year is:

Pre-k thru 1st: 'Love Surrounds Us', and can be found at:

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/lovesurrounds/index.shtml>

2nd thru 4th Grade: 'Faithful Journeys' and can be found at:

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys/index.shtml>

5th and above: 'Amazing Grace' and can be found at:

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/grace/index.shtml>

We have a wonderful group of volunteer teachers who will be returning but are still in need of additional help either as a teacher or helper, particularly for our larger groups. If you can dedicate the time, we promise you won't regret your experience nor will the children who are such a very important part of who we are. Please inquire with either Jennifer Palmer or Anne Kager for more information.

We are requesting again that all parents/guardians contribute to our program by providing snacks.

Items desired include bottled water, juice boxes, pouches and snacks such as pretzels, animal crackers, Goldfish, and any other healthy snacks that can be provided. Our little ones get quite hungry on Sunday mornings!

Finally, we encourage all parents /guardians to fill out registration forms and re-read our policy on transitioning the children from classrooms to their respective guardians during coffee hour. Safety is of utmost importance to us and is crucial for the success of our program.

We look forward to seeing all of you throughout the year!

~ RE Chairs: Anne Kager & Jennifer Palmer

Riverside Rhythm
at Skylands
getting ready for an
The monthly
open-mic and
regional indie
family-friendly
We produce live



and Rhyme Singer/Songwriter Series
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is
exciting 3rd season!

Songwriter and spoken-word focused
performance series features local or
(independent) singer/songwriters in a
environment.

shows generally once a month with an

opening hour Songwriter Acoustic "open mic" and then.

Renee & Clark Paddock of Mountain Ledge Music have been busy working on this
year's lineup and have the following exciting shows to announce:

On **November 17**, Riverside Rhythm and Rhyme will welcome Rock and Blues
guitarist Chaz DePaolo.

This "NY State Blues Hall Of Famer" plays a very "Electric Style Of Blues" . NY area
guitarist Chaz DePaolo is an internationally acclaimed Blues/Rock artist. He has toured
extensively in the U.S. Canada and Europe.He has performed on stage with Leon
Hendrix, Commander Cody, Bernard Purdie, Buddy Miles, Jose Feliciano, Harvey
Brooks, Blue Lou Marini, Stir Fry, Brian Downey, Pete Brown, Monster Mike Welch,
Vince Converse, and the legendary David Maxwell, Steve Phillips of The Notting
Hillbillies, as well as the Grammy nominated Reese Project.

Currently December 15 RRR is TBA.

Doors open at 6:30 for Open mic sign-ups with the open mic running from 7-8 there is
then a short break for refreshments before the monthly featured performer 8:15-9:30.
For ongoing information about Riverside Rhythm and Rhyme or Mountain Ledge Music
please "Like" us on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RiversideRhythmAndRhyme>

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainLedgeMusic>

2012-2013 Schedule:

Nov 17 - Chaz DePaulo – Rock/Blues

Dec 15 – TBA

Jan 19 – TBA

Feb 23 – TBA

Mar 23 - Chuck Schaeffer – Alt Country

Apr 27 – TBA



Community News

Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to Argentina Buenos Aires and moonlight at Iguazu Falls! We leave time for serendipity to happen, take time to soak it in, and be mindful of what we are experiencing. February 23 - March 3, 2013. www.nuuc.ca

Beverly Carr, beverlzcarr@gmail.com

Neighbourhood UU Congregation's journey for UUs everywhere.
Toronto, Canada



Environment & You

The first Tuesday program on Environment & You will resume on October 9th. Laura Knipmeyer will bring movies, speakers, book-shares, and discussion on Local Living and Environmental topics. See details of these and other interesting get-togethers on <http://www.meetup.com/nj-green/>.

Your Personal Carbon Footprint - Workshop & Discussion

Date: Tuesday November 6, 2012

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm (starts and ends promptly so you'll be home for election night)

Is Flooding Getting Worse? - Speaker Josh Galster

Date: Tuesday December 4, 2012

Time: 7:30-8:30 pm (note time)

You may also enjoy the films Laura is showing on the last Tuesdays at the Washington Township library. The schedule includes *Forks Over Knives* on October 30th and *Bag It* on November 27. All screenings are at 6:30 pm.

Got a subject that you would like to recommend and explore? Let Laura know at 973-727-7962, or send an email to laura@knipmeyer.net.

Terracycle Update (with changes in red)

Personal Care and Beauty Brigade accepted waste:lipstick cases, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, shampoo bottles, conditioner bottles, bronzer cases, foundation packaging, body wash containers, soap tubes, soap dispensers, lotion dispensers, shaving foam tubes, powder cases, lotion bottles, chapstick tubes, lotion tubes, face soap dispensers, face soap tubes, face lotion bottles, face lotion jars, eyeliner cases, eyeliner pencils, eye shadow tubes, concealer tubes, concealer sticks, lip liner pencils, hand lotion tubes, hair gel tubes, hair paste jars.

Dairy Tub Brigade accepted waste: all cream cheese tubs and lids, all sour cream tubs and lids, all cheese tubs and lids, **all yogurt tubs** and lids, all butter tubs and lids, all margarine tubs and lids, **any other dairy product tub, foil tops, plastic tub tops, any other type of packaging on all dairy tubs.**

Solo Cup Brigade accepted waste: #6 rigid cups, polystyrene cups, rigid polystyrene cups, plastic cup packaging. NO FOAM.

Cleaner Packaging Brigade accepted waste: pumps, triggers, pouches, and flexible cleaner product packaging

The following types of waste can be collected through the Colgate Oral Care Brigade: toothpaste tubes, toothpaste caps, toothbrushes, floss containers

The following types of waste can be collected through the Chip Bag Brigade: Chip Bags, Tortilla Chip Bags, Pretzel Bags, Pita Chip Bags, Bagel Chip Bags, Soy Crisp Bags, Salty Snack Bags.

****shipments must now be 8lb or more to qualify for funds**

Cheese Packaging Brigade accepted waste: string cheeses packages, individual singles wrappers, singles packages, shredded cheeses packages, all cheese wrappers.

The following types of waste can be collected through the Candy Wrapper Brigade: Individual Candy Wrappers, Large Candy Bags, and Multi-Pack Candy Bags.

Energy Bar Brigade accepted waste: Foil lined energy bar wrappers, foil lined granola bar wrappers, foil lined meal replacement bar wrappers, foil lined protein bar wrappers, foil lined diet bar wrappers. Clif SHOT wrappers, Clif Twisted Fruit Wrappers, Clif Roks Wrappers, Clif Bloks Wrappers, Clif Gels Wrappers.

****Please note that the cookie packaging brigade has been discontinued – we will ship 1- 2 more boxes but will no longer be collecting packaging after that.**



Also at Skylands

!

Gingerbread house making Saturday Dec 1 at 1pm at SUUF.

A long tradition for SUUF for the children to make gingerbread houses. Bring empty milk cartons and graham crackers and candy to decorate and share.

RSVP to Rob or Tara O'Connell 973-691-4861 so we know how many tables to set up and to make sure you get the icing recipe.

Grocery Cards-

Our congregation participates in a fundraiser involving grocery cards. We buy grocery cards at Shop Rite, A&P, and Weis in bulk for a discounted price. We sell the cards to you at face value. You aren't paying any extra but we are making a little money. We earn 5% from this fundraiser. In the past we usually got cards worth \$100 to offer to members and friends, if you prefer a different denomination, please let Tara or Rob I know and on the next order we will do our best to accommodate you. To buy cards, just see Rob I or Tara after service on Sunday.

Tuesday Series Continues!

Skylands will continue to offer something special every Tuesday of the month.

Please Note the corrected times for Belly Dancing (Second Tuesdays) and Tai Chi and Qi Gong (Third Tuesdays)

First Tuesdays at 7:30: Environment and You with Laura Knipmeyer

Second Tuesdays at 7:30: Belly Dancing with Anne Kager

Third Tuesdays at 7:30: Tai Chi and Qi Gong with Ginny Mills

Fourth Tuesdays at 7:00: Shamanic Journey Circle with Julie Lange Groth

Fifth Tuesdays at 7:00: Singing Bowl Meditation with Sandee Conroy

All activities are open to the public. We will pass a basket for free-will donations at the conclusion of each activity, with no minimum donation required for participation.

Note to readers of the UUnilog on the web: In order to protect the privacy of our members, we no longer include their personal contact info in the web version of this newsletter. If you would like to know more about the activities mentioned here, please leave a message on our answering machine at 908-684-4040 or send an email to info@skylandsuu.org.

And you can now find us on Facebook! Look for Skylands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.