

November/December 2013



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*

November 3: Humanism as a source for UU's

Rev. Robin Capoor

We draw our inspiration as a religious people from many different sources. Rev. Robin Capoor will look at one of them-Humanism. She will examine how we have been transformed as a denomination because of the theological struggle to include rational thought in religion that began a little more than a century ago. Come and learn how we joined the twentieth century kicking and screaming.

There will also be our monthly first Sunday potluck immediately following the service downstairs.

November 10: Operation Chillout

Ray Chimlewski

The director of Operation Chillout, Ray Chimlewski, will share the story of Operation Chillout. Operation Chillout is a grassroots interfaith coalition founded in the year 2000 by concerned volunteers to help a group of homeless Viet Nam veterans living in the open under a railroad trestle in northern NJ. We believe in the inherent worth of every homeless man, woman and child and provide emergency supplies and survival gear to the most vulnerable members of our communities wherever we encounter them. More information at operationchillout.org

November 17: A Map to the Soul: the Reverent Iconoclast

Helen Kaar

What happens when an atheist and artist experiences an intensive immersion in Byzantine Russian iconography? Come to this service and find out.

November 24: The Long and the Short of It

Deborah Santucci

Deborah will share a Chinese folktale and four poems with themes of honoring the elderly and cultivating awareness of the brevity of life for pursuing our ideals.

Deborah is a member of the NJ Storytelling Network has many years of storytelling experience. She has performed stories for children (in schools, libraries, summer camps, scout meetings, Sunday schools, and birthday parties) and stories for adults (in nursing homes, worship services, retreats, women’s gatherings, and with their children at fundraising events and Read Across America nights). She is also the former Sunday school teacher and Director of RE for a New Jersey Episcopal Church

December 1: TBD

Julie Lange Groth

Julie returns to Skylands to lead an intergenerational service on Thanksgiving weekend.

There will also be our monthly first Sunday potluck immediately following the service downstairs.

December 8: TBD

Rev. Allen Wells

December 15: Winter Solstice Service

Renee Paddock and Jennifer Palmer

We will celebrate the shortest days of the year by coming together as a Fellowship to recognize the changes in the season and celebrate the lightness and darkness around us. We will also decorate the sanctuary with ornaments made during the service.

December 22: TBD

December 29: No Service

1st Sunday potluck! – We will be having a potluck the 1st Sunday of each month after service. Bring your favorite dish for the November 3 and December 1st gatherings.

Celebrating the Montfort’s November 2 Potluck Dinner

The Fellowship will host a farewell potluck dinner for Bill and Sue Montfort this Saturday November 2 at 5pm. We will be celebrating the 45 years of service, fellowship and joy they have given us. See you there!

Holiday Party December 7th - Holiday Party at the home of Ken and Laura Knipmeyer in Middle Valley on Saturday, December 7th. 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!

Refreshments and Kitchen Help— Refreshments and kitchen help: There is a calendar on the kitchen door for scheduling. First Sundays are Pot Luck Lunch. Third Sundays usually has leftovers from the night before's music program, such as chips, salsa, hummus, and cookies. Second and Fourth Sundays are the most important to fill. Donations of cheese, crackers, nuts, soups, and other non-perishables can be stored for emergencies when no one brings something. Questions? See Ginny Mills

Let's-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 next on Thursday, November 14th.

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

“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

Skylands Fellowship Turns 50 This Fall

Anniversary Highlights

An **anniversary** is a day that commemorates or celebrates a past event that occurred on the same date of the year as the initial event. Skylands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has many anniversaries to celebrate and commemorate for the last 50 years of its existence. The first service was celebrated at the Hackettstown VFW hall in 1963 as the Unitarian Fellowship of Hackettstown. In November of 1965 the fellowship was incorporated as the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hackettstown. Sometime within the next couple of years the name was changed to the West Morris UUF. In the mid 90s another name change to what we have today, Skylands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Along with names change we have had many meeting places over the years in churches, schools, libraries, private homes, dance studio and mini mall. A very significant accomplishment being our present home here in Beattystown which was purchased in 2008.

So you see we have the 50th anniversary of our first service this fall 2013, our 50th anniversary of incorporation in fall of 2015 and the 5th anniversary of the purchase of our own building this fall 2013. The larger celebration of our 50th anniversary of our incorporation will be held in the fall of 2015.



Skylands Fellowship in 2008, the year we moved into our new building.



President's Message

Our Annual Meeting on Sunday November 24, 2013

Yearly reviews are a standard procedure in almost all aspects of our lives. In our homes we might call it Spring cleaning. A time to get rid of "stuff" that is no longer of value to us, is not repairable, is creating clutter or we might just be plain tired of it. At work it's called the Performance Review. A time when a supervisor takes a look at how we have performed in our job, how effective we were in completing the tasks expected and maybe some constructive suggestions for improvement. For our health, we are encouraged to get a yearly check up by a medical doctor. A time to check blood pressure, cholesterol levels, maybe some blood work, and generally reviewing preventative strategies for staying healthy or identifying minor issues before they become major.

For Skylands Unitarian Universalists it's called the Annual Meeting. And in many ways, it's not much different from any of the above annual reviews. This is a time we set aside as a Fellowship to look at how we have "performed" over the past year and what improvements can be made to meet the spiritual needs of our fellowship and the physical needs of our building. It's a time to look to acknowledge all of the wonderful volunteer work done by so many, to give a state of the fellowship report, to discuss and approve our operating budget and a time to elect new board members.

This Fellowship belongs to all of us. Each voice, each opinion, each vote, each volunteer hour, each pledge, each participation is critical to our healthy, living SUUF community. Please mark your calendar to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 24th at 12:15.

We need a quorum of members to vote on any matters during this meeting. If you are unable to attend, a proxy ballot will be made available so you can authorize someone else to vote in your place. Friends of the fellowship are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions. You do not have voting power but your voice in the issues affecting our fellowship is important to all of us.

Please give some thought to a few things before our meeting:

1. What would you like to know about the fellowship that you don't know? (i.e. operating issues, committees)
2. Would you like to see more adult offerings in the evenings or weekends?
3. What concerns you about the fellowship that you would like to discuss?
4. What perspective could you bring to the board as an active member?
5. What could you bring to one of the many committees that keep our Fellowship running?

If you have any items you would like to be placed on the agenda, please send it to me via email before the 11/24. Otherwise, there will be an opportunity to bring things to the table at the meeting.

If you would consider a term on the board as either a trustee or officer, please let me know. There will be officer and trustee positions open for new members. A nominating committee is in the process of being formed and will be announced shortly. You can then make your interest known to any member of the committee. The committee members will be contacting those who make their interest known as well as others to explain the positions, the commitment involved and extend an invitation to be placed on the ballot.

I do hope that some of you will consider taking a term on the board. It is a rewarding and learning experience not to mention the invaluable service you will be providing to this fellowship.

This November will mark 5 years since we moved into our building. That is something to celebrate but like any home owner it brings lots of responsibility and joint effort to maintain our beautiful space. At the meeting we will bring everyone up to date with where we are with our mortgage. What things have been done in the way of maintenance, repairs and beautification, some pressing things that need attention now and some things we'd like to do in the future.

The meeting will be held at 12:15 in the sanctuary of our fellowship. There will be food available and time to get something to eat after service and before our meeting. We will be checking on child care and will confirm this in advance of the meeting.

Thanks in advance for giving some thought to the questions above and also for getting back to me with agenda items and interest in being on the ballot for a board position.

Maureen



Religious Education

I always start my notes with a comment about the weather. I confess that I have become completely obsessed and not in a good way, however, the change in weather also serves as a time marker of sorts that acknowledges change in other areas of our lives and THAT can be a good thing. I'm writing this before the Halloween and hoping we actually have one. If not, we are well-prepared. Our annual party is on the 27th and I'm quite glad we started doing this regularly or some of our children simply wouldn't have had a Halloween at all in the last few years.

Classes appear to be rolling along quite well, supported by our seasoned staff and fabulous newcomers. We are looking forward to many exciting times as we near towards the holiday season and then a new year of more social action and intergenerational gatherings that promise to be enriching!

Our only request at this time is snacks and drinks to sustain our children during class. As always, we welcome any suggestions, comments, concerns and help anyone is willing to offer!

~ Re Chairs
Anne Kager & Jennifer Palmer

Riverside Rhythm
at Skylands
the middle of its
The monthly
open-mic and
regional indie
family-friendly



and Rhyme Singer/Songwriter Series
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is in
exciting 4th season!
Songwriter and spoken-word focused
performance series features local or
(independent) singer/songwriters in a
environment.

Come join us at Riverside Rhythm & Rhyme for our Songwriters & Spoken Word Acoustic open mic! Strut your stuff at RRR! Signups begin at 6:30 and the spots go from 7-8 so spots are limited and given on a first-come basis. After a brief intermission we will enjoy the talents of a regional indie Songwriter. Admission is by donations at the door.

Upcoming lineup:

Chaz DePaolo on November 16 - Back by popular demand! (and home after entertaining adoring fans in Eastern Europe!)

Rockin' Blues! Amazing guitar and sax licks, smooth bass and the smallest drum kit you've ever seen allow Chaz' 4 piece band to fit neatly on our stage!

And **Dave Murphy on December 21!**

Dave Murphy is a storyteller. The music conveys the same message as the words. It's a unified expression from a man who has drilled down deeply in life experiences as a cancer survivor, jack of many trades and world traveler. Think of the first time you heard Johnny Cash or Norah Jones. It's a display of rich life experience through a tone and phrasing that is manifestly ripe and personal. Dave Murphy has it.



Fellowship Activities

Grounds Progress and Work Party November 3

Our grounds are looking better and better. Have you seen the recent work, , including the new planters and bench? The grounds volunteers have been working hard under the encouragement of Gretchen and Mary.

Sunday 11/3 will be the next first Sunday grounds work party. We'll get together after the potluck to work on some projects around the outside of the Fellowship. The plan for 11/3 will be taking care of the leaves. More specifics will be sent out as the date gets closer.

A new way to help us Fundraise

We have set up a new fundraising mechanism for the Fellowship. We can all raise money now by simply searching and shopping online! Over 1,000 merchants participate in this free program and up to 26% of each purchase benefits our cause!

Simply sign up for free and start at this link when you're perusing and shopping online:
<http://www.igive.com/SUUF>

The Blood Drive needs You!

The next Blood Drive will be on December 15th from 11am-12:30pm, when the Blood Center of NJ (BCNJ) bloodmobile pays us a return visit.

Please contact Rob Ingenito if you can help, or with any questions.

Regifting Table will Help Skylands Fellowship raise money

The regifting is a small fundraiser for the fellowship. Tables will be set up along the back of the sanctuary from 11/17 through 12/15.. If anyone has any new or very slightly used items that they no longer want, they can donate them to the regifting table with a very reasonable price tag. Others may purchase these items for holiday gifts.

Gifts for donation can be brought to the fellowship anytime after 11/2. Please be sure to put a price on the item someplace that it can be easily removed since these may be used as gifts. If the tables are not yet set up the items can be put in the office. If tables are set up place the items on the table.

Skylands has a YouTube Channel and Google+ Page!

Thanks to Rob O'Connell we have our own YouTube Channel and Google+

The first item up is a video of Philip Garber Jr's Service on Stuttering: a Personal Perspective

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SklyandsUU>

Google + Page: <https://plus.google.com/106729694715645717898>



Also at Skylands!

Tuesday Series Continues!

First Tuesdays at 7:00: Open

Second Tuesdays at 7:30: Open

Third Tuesdays at 7:30: Open

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

Fifth Tuesdays at 7:00: Terracycle with Renee Paddock

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.

Recycle Those Ink Cartridge and Cell Phones and Help Us

Don't forget to bring in any used inkjet printer cartridges, or old cell phones. We can recycle them and raise some money to help ourselves. Put them in the appropriate box downstairs, or see Rob I. for any questions.

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.

Income Opportunity

Carol Pratico has 100 Longaberger Baskets for sale and needs someone to help her package and mail them to customers, possibly through Ebay or some consignment shops. The baskets are honey colored maple baskets, woven in Ohio between 1996-2004 and never used.

She will give a fair percentage of the price of each item sold to the person who can help her. If you or someone you know would be interested please call her 908 835-9414 or e-mail her at capratico@yahoo.com

SUUF TERRACYCLES!

Terracycle is a company that makes usable products out of things we normally throw away. They collect their raw materials from organizations like us, schools, businesses and individuals who ship their “garbage” to them. Terracycle pays for the shipping, and pays our congregation a small fee for each item collected.

Please drop off your terracycling items at the left of the bottom of the steps to the coffee area – behind the curtain.

Terracycle is also committed to education and has a curriculum available on their website: <http://www.terracycle.net/curriculums/overview> “In Nature garbage doesn’t exist, but it does in the human system. The Terracycle curriculum series focuses on how we can solve this problem.”

For more information on Terracycle and to find where you can buy the products that terracycle makes using our garbage, go to: www.terracycle.net or find them on Facebook.

Attached is a list you can hang on your refrigerator to remind you about the packaging we recycle.

SUUF BRIGADES:

Candy Wrapper Brigade

Candy Wrapper Brigade FAQ’s: We accept any brand/size of CANDY WRAPPERS. NO BOXES! NO GUM WRAPPERS!

Chip (salty snack) Bag Brigade

Chip Bag Brigade FAQ’s: We accept any brand/size of Chip/Snack BAGS and Multi pack outer bags.

Energy Bar Wrapper Brigade

Energy Bar Wrapper Brigade FAQ’s: We accept any brand/size of foil lined Energy Bar/Snack Bar/Granola Bar/ Meal Replacement Bar wrappers.

Dairy Tub Brigade

Spreads Brigade FAQ’s: Yogurt tubs and lids, Sour cream tubs and lids, Cheese tubs and lids, Cream cheese tubs and lids, Butter and margarine tubs and lids, Plastic ice cream tubs

and lids, Whipped topping tubs and lids, Pudding tubs and lids, Foil tops and plastic seals.

Drink Pouch Brigade

Drink Pouch Brigade FAQ's: We accept any kind or brand of drink pouches. We do not accept juice boxes. (Must send 1000 per mailing to receive credit)

Scotch Tape Brigade

Scotch Tape Brigade Page FAQ's : any brand tape dispenser and cores.

Hummus Container Brigade

Hummus accepted waste: Hummus containers and tubs, Hummus container lids, Hummus container foil tops and plastic film, Hummus container outer plastic seals and other plastic packaging

Colgate Oral Care Brigade

Oral Care accepted waste: Toothpaste tubes and caps, Toothbrushes, Toothbrush and toothpaste tube outer packaging, Floss containers

MOM Brands® Cereal Bag Brigade

MOM Brands Cereal Bag Brigade accepted waste: **Plastic cereal bags, Plastic cereal bag liners**

Solo® Cup Brigade - ONLY #6 rigid plastic cups

Cleaner Packaging Brigade

Cleaner Packaging Brigade accepted waste: Pumps and caps, Triggers, Pouches, Flexible cleaner product packaging

Personal Care and Beauty Brigade

1. **Hair care packaging** such as shampoo bottles and caps, conditioner bottles and caps, hair gel tubes and caps, hair spray bottles and triggers, and hair paste plastic jars and caps
2. **Skin care packaging** such as lip balm tubes, face soap dispensers and tubes, face lotion bottles, tubes and plastic jars, body wash containers, soap tubes and dispensers, body lotion dispensers and bottles, shaving foam tubes (no cans), and hand lotion bottles and tubes
3. **Cosmetics packaging** such as lipstick cases, lip gloss tubes, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, bronzer cases, foundation packaging and bottles, powder cases,

eyeliner cases, eyeliner pencils, eye shadow tubes, concealer tubes, concealer sticks, and lip liner pencils

Cheese Packaging Brigade

1. Large flexible cheese packaging, such as shredded cheese packaging, string cheese packaging, individual slices outer packaging, solid cheese block packaging, Kraft Fresh Takes packaging, deli-style sliced cheese packaging and other large cheese packaging
2. Individual cheese packaging such as individual slices packaging, individual string cheese packaging, and other individual cheese packaging
3. Foil cheese packaging

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.