



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!*

May 6: Current Issues in New Jersey Education

Cliff Greenwood and Bill Robinson, two local experienced educators, will discuss some of the current issues of education in New Jersey.

May 13: “On Not Worshipping the Teapot”

Dave Hunter and Kerry Mueller

“On Not Worshipping the Teapot” explores the relationship between religion and spirituality. Dave and Kerry served as co-ministers of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, Arkansas, from 2006 to 2011. They are both graduates of the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Prior to seminary, Dave was a civil rights attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. Kerry grew up in the Central Unitarian Church in Hackensack, and then Paramus; she has had careers as Latin teacher, railroader, parent, student, and full time church volunteer.

May 20: “Coping with Homophobia without Leaving Town “

James McLaughlin

James McLaughlin of Mount Olive will speak of his experiences as a victim of homophobic bullying and how he has overcome the negativity against him. He believes that everyone has the ability and authority to make a difference, and he looks forward to sharing his ideas with us. James is currently a student at County College Morris.

May 27: Intergenerational water service

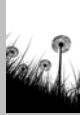
This will be an intergenerational service continuing our water services.

June 3: Teacher Recognition/Children’s presentation

This intergenerational service will feature our different RE classes and recognize the teachers who have done such excellent work this year.

June 10: Annual Fellowship picnic

This is our annual Fellowship picnic at the Palmer farm. It will be a potluck, with more details to come.



Member News

1st Sunday potluck! - We're having a potluck the 1st Sunday of each month after service. Bring your favorite dish on **May 6th** and **June 3rd**.

Blood Drive – Sunday June 3rd from 11-3. It will be held again in SUUF's parking lot. Please see Rob Ingenito if you'd like to sign up or have 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 for face value. You aren't paying any extra but we are making a little money. We earn 5% from this fundraiser, generally a few thousand dollars a year. In the past we usually got cards worth \$100 to offer members and friends, if you prefer a different denomination, please let Tara O'Connell know and on the next order she will do her best to accommodate you. To buy cards, just see Tara before or after service on Sunday or she can mail some to you.

Yard Sale – Saturday May 12th, 9 am – 3 pm. Please bring any items that you would like to donate for the sale to the fellowship. Drop off preference is as close to the date as possible. Friday 5/11, there will be people at the fellowship after from 2-4. You can also drop off items on Saturday 5/12 by 8 am. If you need to drop items off earlier, you can put them in the balcony.

Help is needed on Friday 5/11 from 2-4 for sorting and pricing. Then, help is needed on Saturday, 5/12, from 7:30 – 9 am for set up as well as from 3-4 for clean up. Also there will be 2 hour work shifts during the sale from 9-11, 11-1, and 1-3. Please let Bill Montfort know if you can help with any of the above jobs. The more the merrier and the lighter the load.

Lastly, stop by and tell your friends!

Groove in the Grove – Saturday May 19th at Vasa Park, Budd Lake. Now here's a job you won't want to refuse. Staff a table with literature about SUUF while listening to great music, surrounded by happy people, food and spirits. Stay for all or part of the day. Help is needed to set up before the music starts at noon and take down is whenever. Please contact Maureen if you can help.

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



Community News

Local food pantry needs for May: cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, **June:** shampoo, toothpaste, soap, Band-Aids, Neosporin, Tylenol



President's Message

Whether it's a Sunday service or an evening event, it is always a joy to see our sanctuary filled! We have had some wonderful speakers this past year from among our own membership, visiting ministers and interesting guests who have stimulated our minds and our hearts. If these walls could talk, they would speak to the diversity of our evening events including meditations, music, healing, dancing, films and meetings.

"Walk, breathe, eat, dream, write, think for yourself. Sing songs that no one else can." If you came by SUUF on the evening of May 4th you would have heard this chant filling the sanctuary by the 65 people attending The Beautiful Project. Most of those in attendance were young adults but there was a sprinkling of those of us a little older but from what we heard, not necessarily wiser. The readings, poetry and music that came from these young performers were profoundly beautiful and passionately felt. In his welcome, Mike told the audience that he was once bullied for being different and he also was a bully himself. Tonight, he said, was for all those who had been picked on, teased and bullied because of who they were, how they dressed, what they thought, who they loved. Everyone needs to know they are beautiful just the way they are. Erica, who felt mistreated by someone because she is a woman, wrote and read us her provoking thoughts on the strength and deep beauty of women. Alex said that he doesn't support anti anything because fighting "against" something only gives it strength to combat us. Blake told us there are only two ways to live, in love or in fear. Fear only binds us and confines us where love is all embracing. How old were these performers?

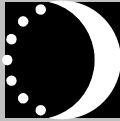
Lianna mesmerized us with her beautiful voice, Dylan, Kelly and Cody with their poetry and writings. Michael, Clyde, Alex and Bryan filled the sanctuary with music and singing and sing-alongs! As our evening was coming to an end, Mike asked everyone to anonymously write down something that they felt insecure about. These were collected and read one by one by the performers. As each insecurity was read, the crowd yelled, "You are beautiful." Group hugs, tears, smiles and lots of laughter wrapped up the first Beautiful Project.

Friday night was very inspiring for me. These young adults reached out in love to each other and yes they were beautiful. The quote below is something I read on a website this weekend and it spoke to me about what these young folks have learned in life already, understand how it affects them and are already acting on it in a way that means something to them. May we all know and believe that we are beautiful. Tell someone today how beautiful they are!

"The ability to understand another does not in any way compromise support of our own individual selves, rather it reflects internal love and peace when we listen with our hearts, and open them to another.... even in extraordinary times." ~Trish Woods

Thanks for listening.

Maureen



Women's Circle

Women's Circle meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Fellowship at 7:30 pm. The next circle will be **May 17th** at the Fellowship at 7:30 pm: Chakra Energies – the last of the 7 chakras that we will explore are the Chakras of Communication. On **June 21st** (time and place TBD): Summer Solstice Celebration. All are welcome.

For information and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, please contact Maureen Bonner



Religious Education

It's hard to believe that the end of the year is approaching rapidly and we that will have completed another successful year of Religious Education. We could only have accomplished this with the tireless dedication of our volunteers who have spent countless hours on lesson plans and come out every Sunday for the benefit of our youth. As a result, both have usually been richly rewarded along with our congregation on a whole. Our children will carry us in the future. Please keep this in mind as we thank all our teachers for their continued hard work and service.

As we start to wrap things up for the end of the year, several dates need to be noted:

May 13th will be the final class for our two oldest groups and practice for Religious Education Sunday. **May 20th** is an intergenerational service for the two oldest groups and will involve a guest speaker who will talk about bullying. There will be no class on **May 27th** in honor of Memorial Day. **June 3th** is Religious Education Sunday where all our children will present what they have learned thru-out the year to our congregation. **June 10th** will be our annual picnic at the Palmers.

For more information on any of the dates, please contact our RE chairs, Jennifer Palmer and Anne Kager.

On two separate notes:

I recently received literature from the Unitarian Universalist Scouters Organization (UUSO) which is a national organization of active UUs involved in scouting, announcing that they have partnered with the Boy Scouts of America in regards to UU Religious awards. The awards have been approved by the Religious Relationships Committee of the BSA and the medals may be worn on a scout's uniform.

Many of you may remember that for a period of time Unitarian Universalism was excluded due to our core values of supporting members of all beliefs (or lack thereof). It appears we now have not only an affiliation but a presence. While the brochure and web site offer little

insight in regards to this recent change in policies and what this may actually mean, I invite those interested to research and inquire with the UUSO at <http://www.uuscouters.org/> .

I also received information on a Unitarian Universalist camp, UUMAC that gathers every July at DeSales University in Allentown, PA. The camp gathers members of all ages throughout the Joseph Priestly and Metro Districts. For more information please see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjPmFxeAIUs>

What is UUMAC?: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybw4tQS8-y4&feature=related>
www.uumac.org Info for UUMAC 2012! Or contact Pam Mann: 610-505-4777

~ Anne Kager, RE Chair



Also at Skylands

Tuesday Series Continues!

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

Second Tuesdays at 7:30: Belly Dancing

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 7:30: 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.

Environment and You

May 1st: Home Energy Conservation and Geothermal

Prioritize your projects! Anyone can do it! Results are measurable and motivating!

June 5th: Ingredients (documentary film). The local food movement takes root.

<http://www.ingredientsfilm.com/>

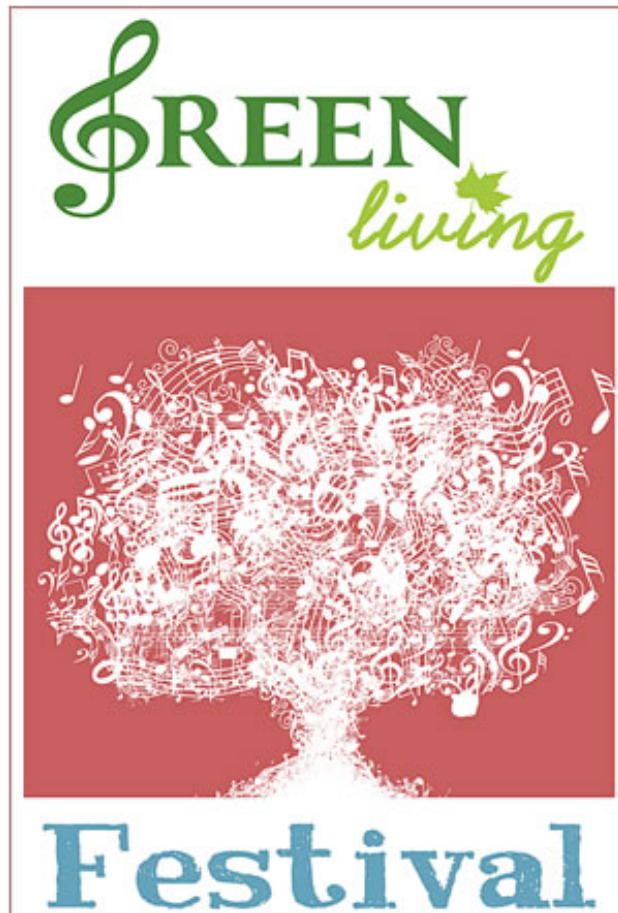
Bring your friends and family out for these free events at Skylands UU. We welcome any publicity you can offer to spread the word. Please feel free to send folks to postings of these on <http://www.meetup.com/nj-green/>

Best regards,

Laura Knipmeyer



Area Events



July 14, 2012

11 AM – 4 PM

Rock Spring Park

37 East Springtown Road Long Valley, NJ

The theme of our Green Living Festival is "Local Life and Learning". We enjoy a beautiful community of natural treasures, from our rivers and preserved farms to native and early American heritage. Residents here have farmed organically, shopped locally, and conserved a presence of place—in more than 20 small villages—that have become our townships today.

The festival will have exhibits, kids' educational programs, live music, and documentary films throughout the day.

Laura Knipmeyer
Green Living Festival Organizing Committee

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.

"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