The Quest
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK

We aspire to be a loving religious community where we can grow spiritually and build a more just and joyful world.

SHELTER ROCK VISION STATEMENT

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, April 9, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.
“Annual Music Sunday Worship Service”
J. S. Bach - Mass in B Minor

Stephen Michael Smith, Conductor. Jennifer Ahn, Concertmaster

Stephen wrote, “What is it about the Bach B Minor Mass which sets it apart? Why have scholars enshrined it as one of the greatest examples of human achievement? There are probably a number of answers (or, rather, hypotheses). For me, the inventiveness, universality, breadth and balance of the work evoke a view of life and existence in its fullness: deep sorrow, unbounded joy, pain and hope.

“Commencing in early January, the UUCSR Choir (and other musical friends) have been immersed in unraveling and mastering a major portion of this extraordinary work. On Sunday, April 9, you can share in our journey as we present it, in conjunction with the Orchestra at Shelter Rock, as the musical centerpiece of our annual Music Sunday. This promises to be a highlight of our musical life at Shelter Rock.”

Thursday, April 13, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.
“Maundy Thursday”
Oscar Sinclair, Ministerial Intern

Four days before Easter, Maundy Thursday marks the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples before his arrest and execution. The title of “Maundy” comes from the beginning of the Latin phrase: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” Come to the chapel as we share stories and join in community for a reflective service.

Friday, April 14, 2017
Dinner - 6:30 p.m., Worship - 7:30 p.m., Free Coffee House
SOULFUL SUNDOWN
The Rev. Jennifer L. Brower

Special guest performer
KJ Denhart

SOULFUL SUNDOWN
Where music resides at the heart of religious experience

TOUCHSTONES
The Rev. Natalie M. Fenimore

“Belonging”
Annual Giving Campaign 2017

Why are you here? The Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd, gave this answer at the 2016 General Assembly Sunday worship service: “In spite of what every congregational satisfaction survey says, we cannot come here for the coffee, we cannot even come for the great music. We don’t even come for our awesome, excellent ministers. You don’t. We come because we have a deep and aching need for an encounter with the holy that crosses our borders and expands our hearts. We come to be a part of something so much larger than ourselves, and we cannot do that holy work together unless we are really willing to set aside our need to win, and reach out our hands and see the deeper understanding that comes with difference.”

That is, we are here to BELONG. We are here to be at home – to make a home. A place where we are comfortable playing AND fighting fairly. A place where we know that we can “cross borders and expand our hearts.” We are here to make sense of life…

It has always been the case that human beings are meaning-makers, our lives are a search for an understanding of our very purpose – and a search for ways to discover and use our own unique gifts.

This congregation was built, has been tended and sustained, as a place for this meaning-making and as a place to become our best selves.

For me, Unitarian Universalism has been the container for a growing connection to other peoples – my Unitarian Universalist theology asks of me a commitment to justice, equity and compassion for an ever-growing, ever widening circle.

I have to believe that a greater and greater number of people belong in Unitarian Universalism – belong in this very congregation on Shelter Rock Road in Manhasset on Long Island. A greater number and a greater diversity can constitute our greater fellowship.

Our task is to keep this place going – to be here so that others can also find a place to “Belong.” Our commitment to membership is a

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commitment to being part of something larger than ourselves. It is a commitment to this larger and holy fellowship.

As Minister of Lifespan Religious Education, I am often the minister with the honor of presenting the Membership Book to our youngest members – the 16 year old members of our Senior Seminar youth group who have completed our Coming of Age Program in 8th Grade. They are often products of an entire young lifetime spent in this congregation's religious education program. They may have begun with us as babies. They have played on all the playgrounds and slept overnight in the Veatch House. They have grown-up in Unitarian Universalism and in this congregation. These young people already “Belong”. They already “Belong” to Unitarian Universalism and they surely and dearly “Belong” to this congregation.

But for them, as it can be of many adults, their first connections to this community are based on their relationships with their friends. Friendships are a powerful element of belonging. With our friends we find love and safety – companionship, fun, acceptance.

So if you already have found friends and if you already feel like you belong before you even sign the Membership Book; why become a member? Why make a financial pledge?

Well, I was having a conversation with our Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, India Harris, about how to talk with our young people about membership and she said to me that she sees Membership as the “movement from friendship to fellowship.”

Fellowship is a commitment to the larger community. You won't be friends with everyone here or even know most of those in this large congregation. But when you become a member you are expanding your belonging and you are saying that your allegiance – your heart – is with the larger community of faith. You have made a commitment to the larger fellowship.

And we do this because, again in the Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd's words: “we have a deep aching need for an encounter with the holy that crosses our borders and expands our hearts. We come to be a part of something so much larger than ourselves, and we cannot do that holy work together…unless…we…reach out our hands and seek the deeper understanding that comes with difference”. That is unless we risk belonging to one another in this our larger fellowship.

During our Annual Giving Campaign, I invite you to reflect on the gifts of fellowship found at this congregation and, upon taking account, enter into Membership and pledge a generous financial contribution.

**Transportation Assistance**

UUCSR offers transportation assistance to Sunday Worship and Soulful Sundown services for members who are unable to travel due to physical or financial limitations. Contact Kimberly Rossiter, Assistant to the Ministers, at krossiter@uucsr.org or 516.472.2941 for an application.

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You should have all by now received your invitation giving details of the event. Do come and be prepared to have a “fun evening” to be together to enjoy each other’s company. “Eat, Drink, Dance and be Merry.” And to commemorate our many years, you are invited to choose to wear something “dressy” from your favorite decade 1940’s to present.

The 75th Anniversary Gala Committee
Co-chairs Chris Hilke and Sandra Hazel Frank

Invitations have been mailed for our UUCSR 75th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Our ‘special occasion’, just a few weeks away, promises to be filled with fellowship, fine food and lots of trivia as we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary! Please RSVP as requested as there will be NO admission at the door.

Do you have an historical anecdote or a bit of trivia that you wish shared during the evening? If so, please email it to Richard Bock rbock@optonline.net and we’ll make every effort to include it.

Here’s a teaser: When the bagpipers player came over the hill, where was he, what group was he leading and what was the occasion?

Might you also have photos that go ‘way back to our early days? Please get them to Jen Sappell asap via email (jsappell@uucsr.org) or deliver to the office.

Marguerite Pohek and “Margaret’s War”

Some of you may remember Marguerite Pohek (1904-1990), a former member of The North Shore Unitarian Universalist Society in Plandome. She was a tough cookie – not afraid of intimidating Generals or even UU clergy. She eventually became a member of our BOT, our Veatch Board and helped shape the present UUCSR. Margaret’s War”, the play, is inspired by events that occurred in Vienna in 1939 where Marguerite had gone to help the Society of Friends expedite the escape of Jews and others from the Nazis. In 1945 Marguerite was placed in charge of a displaced persons camp and rose to be appointed Assistant Ambassador to Europe from the United Nations.

**Margaret’s War**

**April 28, 29 - 2017, 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets at the door: $15 ($10 for Members)

Net Proceeds to Benefit The Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYC
On March 30, after a series of challenging events, Rev. Peter Morales resigned as President of the Unitarian Universalist Association effective April 1, 2017. The UUA Board will appoint an acting president at its next meeting. And as planned, the members of the Association will elect a new president at General Assembly in New Orleans this June.

In his resignation letter, Rev. Morales makes reference to the current controversy over the lack of diversity in hiring in the Association and the ways in which this reflects a continued institutional and systemic preference for White leadership, especially at senior leadership levels. The question raised was: How can the UUA lead in areas of diversity and equity for all, when the UUA itself is not capable of making a space in its own ranks for meaningful leadership from People of Color? Rev. Morales did not believe that he was capable of leading the UUA into an answer to this question. Please read Rev. Morales’ letter and a letter from the UUA Leadership Council below:

LETTER FROM UUA PRESIDENT PETER MORALES TO THE UUA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MARCH 30, 2017

You are all aware of the ongoing controversy regarding the UUA’s hiring practices and lack of diversity in our senior leadership. Unfortunately, a note I sent to UUA staff a few days ago made matters worse. In my hasty effort I created more hurt for those already hurting. I failed to lead appropriately. I reacted when I should have listened. I am deeply sorry.

I have clearly lost the trust of many people and my comments have become a focal point in the ongoing discussion. It is clear to me that I am not the right person to lead our Association as we work together to create the processes and structures that will address our shortcomings and build the diverse staff we all want. We need space for healing and listening.

It is time for me to step aside. I am resigning the office of UUA president effective April 1. It has been an honor to serve as president. I am grateful for your dedicated and diligent service to our faith. May you have wisdom, vision, and courage in the days ahead.

My fervent prayer is that by stepping aside I help create a space for moving forward together in love and respect. It is time for us to come together, to listen deeply to one another, to reaffirm our commitment to our ideals.

Faithfully,

Peter Morales

LETTER FROM THE UUA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL TO THE UUA GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT, UUA OFFICERS, MARCH 30, 2017

We write this having learned from our President, the Rev. Peter Morales, his intention to resign from his leadership position in our faith. We honor him for his service to our Unitarian Universalist movement. We hope that his difficult decision will open a new way for the work of racial justice in our own house.

We want to apologize for the way our leadership at the UUA has fallen far short in building the diverse Associational office that the core values of our faith demand. In addition, we understand that our responses and silence in response to recent public statements have layered harm upon harm.

We take very seriously the question of how our policies, practices, leadership and culture systematically center and advantage white people within Unitarian Universalism. We acknowledge that it is past time for us to examine more deeply than we ever have the patterns of institutional racism that are embedded in our practices of leadership, including hiring.

It has been humbling, devastatingly sad, and inspiring to read so many courageous calls to a deeper justice, to more courage, more faithfulness from us, especially from Unitarian Universalists of Color who have helped us hold a mirror to our own institution. We recommit ourselves and our service to this call.

In the next week, we will begin putting together a plan for how we will engage in an immediate internal review of how our institution advantages white leaders, and Unitarian Universalists. This will include a review of hiring and promotion procedures and goals, the involvement of outside expertise, working together with the UUA Board, and engaging in critical self-examination about how all of our programs and initiatives advance our commitment to anti-racism and inclusivity.

We will be examining our own hearts, listening humbly, and partnering with other leaders in our faith to find our way forward.

We are grateful for your faithful, angry, disappointed, loving expressions of your hopes for our faith. This, all of it, is what will carry us to a new way.

Yours in service,

UUA Leadership Council: Rev. Harlan Limpert, Chief Operating Officer, Tim Brennan, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Director of Stewardship and Development, Helene Atwan, Director of Beacon Press, Taquiena Boston,
**MINISTERIAL MESSAGE**

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Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness, Rev. Scott Tayler
Director for Congregational Life, John Hurley, Director of Communications, Rev. Sarah Lammert, Director of Ministries and Faith Development, Rob Molla, Director of Human Resources, Mark Steinwinter, Director of Information Technology Services

Members of the UUA staff will be present at the UUSCR Veatch Board of Governors policy meeting on May 9. They will report on the Association's support of congregational health and social justice engagement, and will be able to respond to questions about the current crisis. This is an open meeting and all members of the UUCSR community are invited to attend as observers.

Please feel free to contact any member of the ministerial team if you would like to discuss the current painful situation in our Association. While there is much hurt inherent in these times and in the crisis that brought about Rev. Morales’ resignation, Unitarian Universalism continues to do good work in the world. And we strive to become a better and more equitable Association that can live up to its Principles and honor, respect, and celebrate the gifts of leadership inherent in all its members.

**VEATCH VIEWS**

Denise Centkowski, Program Associate

Your UUCSR Veatch Program Dollars at Work

At their grants meeting on February 7, 2017, the Veatch Board of Governors (VBOG) awarded 37 grants totaling $1,651,000. The VBOG also voted to recommend to the congregation for approval four grants above $75k totaling $755,000. Jobs with Justice, PICO National Network, UUA Beacon Press and the Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund/Long Island Community Foundation were all presented by members of the VBOG and approved at the Congregational Meeting on March 12, 2017.

Every meeting of the Veatch Board of Governors, the Program Officers highlight the work of several of our grantees. This past meeting, we heard about the work of the MinKwon Center for Community Action. MinKwon means “civil rights” in Korean, and this organization means civil rights in a “big tent” way, including justice for immigrants, low-income people, and other marginalized communities. Since its founding in 1984, the MinKwon Center for Community Action has been a leading force for progressive change in the Korean American and Asian American communities of greater New York. MinKwon educates community members about issues that impact their lives and their communities, while advocating for housing, labor, and other issues of community concern. They deliver critical legal and social services to low- and middle-income members of the community to alleviate poverty and hardship and work to increase voter engagement among new American voters.

**VEATCH VIEWS**

Continued

The MinKwon Center for Community Action can accomplish these victories because of the long-term, general support of this congregation through the grants of the Veatch Program. Veatch grantees make real changes in the world and are a living testament to faith in action. For more information on the MinKwon Center visit them online at http://minkwon.org/newsroom/press-releases/.

The Veatch Program supports organizations working in low-income communities and communities of color. For more information about our grants visit us on the UUCSR website at https://uucsr.org/programs/philanthropy/veatch-program/

**THANK YOU**

From Save the Children for the $100,000 Crisis Grant they were just awarded to rehabilitate three schools in Haiti.

“We are so grateful for the generous support of the UUCSR, which will help us to reach more children in Haiti who have been affected by Hurricane Matthew. I know [our Haiti office] is going to be thrilled, and that this funding comes at a crucial time for them.”

Sarah Wilbanks
Manager, Strategic Foundation Partnerships

From Doctors without Borders for the $100,000 Crisis grant to support the distribution of hygiene kits, food, and reconstruction supplies to residents of remote mountain villages.

“Thank you to all the members of the congregation for this most generous grant… and your commitment to our work. We are delighted that you have decided to support our relief efforts in Haiti.”

Alexa Adam
Director of Foundations

The Large Grants Program of the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock provides support for efforts within the religious and spiritual mission of the congregation where their purposes are best served by outside agencies acting under the Large Grants Program and the Congregation.
Farmworkers Deserve Equal Rights!

You may remember that last spring farmworkers from around the state gathered in Smithtown and marched the 200 miles to Albany to call attention to the need to pass the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. Some of the marchers stayed here at UUCSR with us on the first night of their walk. The trek took them 18 days, but even that was not enough to convince lawmakers that the bill should pass.

Undaunted, the farmworkers are trying again. They will not be walking to Albany, but from now until the State Senate, like the State Assembly has done many times over the years, casts a supporting vote for the bill, they will be engaging the public and lawmakers to ensure that the bill does pass this year.

New York State's 80,000 farmworkers (an estimated 7,000 on Long Island), who often work 70 hours or more a week, are one of the last groups of employees not to be covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. What they are fighting for are the same rights and protections that workers in other sectors have: the right to collective bargaining, a day of rest each week, overtime pay, disability and unemployment insurance, and other fundamental rights accorded other workers in the state.

Rural and Migrant Ministry (RMM), a project of the Episcopal Church in New York State has been a fierce defender of farmworkers for many years. They have provided behind the scenes support for various campaigns undertaken by the workers. This year is no exception. Nathan Berger, RMM's Long Island organizer recently shared information about a series of events designed to keep the cause of passing the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act in front of the public and in the news. (Please see flyers in the main lobby for further information.)

We can participate in this campaign by calling our state senators and asking that they vote in favor of this bill. Here are the names and phone numbers of the Long Island senators: Senator Thomas Croci: 518.455.3570; Senator Kenneth Lavalle: 518.455.3121; Senator John Flanagan: 518-455-2071; Senator Phil Boyle: 518.455.3411; Senator Todd Kaminsky: 518.455.3401; Senator Carl Marcellino: 518.455.2390; Senator Elaine Phillips: 518.455.3265; Senator Kemp Hannon: 518.455.3265; Senator John Brooks: 518.455.2765. If you don't live on Long Island or are unsure the identity of your state senator go to https://www.nysenate.gov/ and click on “Find Your Senator.” Complete the form, and you’ll have the contact info for your state senator.

Let’s make this year the last year that New York State's farmworkers go without their basic worker rights!
SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Local NYC Peoples’ Climate March, Saturday, April 29, 12:00 p.m., Washington Square Park Washington Square Park, New York City, NY 10003. Host Contact Info: sixtinerouyre@gmail.com Website: http://tinyurl.com/lg6j2x UUA information on the PCM at http://tinyurl.com/mo39uu

Advocacy Day for the HALT Solitary Confinement Act, Tuesday, May 2, 6:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., Albany NY. To register for a place in the UUCSR van and Advocacy Day Training on Monday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m in the Art Gallery, please contact Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche immediately. Space is limited!

Thursday, April 6, 2017
Cooking for the Guests of the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN): Thursday, April 6 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Main Kitchen. Meals cooked will be delivered to three shelters run by the INN. For further information, contact Verna Livingston, 516.883.7999.

Sunday, April 9
Support the Shelter Rockers in NAMI Walks: On Saturday, May 6 the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Nassau/Queens) will hold its annual walk/fundraiser. Members of the SJ Mental Health Subcommittee will be in the lobby after Worship every Sunday in April to receive your donations in support of this effort.

Wednesday, April 12
Social Justice Committee Meeting, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., Art Gallery. April agenda will include discussion of our volunteer project with the Congregational Church, Manhasset and LI Rebuilding Together on June 3. New members always welcome.

Tuesday, April 18
Conference Call of the NY Interfaith Campaign Against Torture (NYICAT): 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Call in number: 1.855.392.2520. When prompted, enter code 5471845#. Special guest TBA. If you intend to participate, please email cderoche@uucsr.org to receive the agenda prior to the call.

30 Days of Action for Climate Justice Program: “Sustainability in the Home Landscape” presented by Reese Michaels, Horticulture/4H Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Nassau County, Art Gallery, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING

Non-perishable food donations: Our donation drive continues and will next benefit the INN Soup Kitchen in Glen Cove. Suggested items: boxes of cold cereal; canned meats and fish with pop tops; tuna, chicken, salmon, sardines; peanut butter; and soups with pop tops. (Plastic jars, only, please!) Thank you!

UUCSR Used Clothing Bin and Clothing Closet: Please place items for children and adults (in well-secured bags) in the bin designated “Donations of Gently Used Clothing and Shoes,” located in the entryway to the coatroom. Items hanging in the back corner of the coat room are available to all; you are welcome to take anything you need. The bulk of the clothing will continue to benefit the United Veterans Beacon House. If you have any questions about donations or how to donate other items, please contact Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche at 516.472.2977 or cderoche@uucsr.org. Thank you!

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jeanne Nametz, Religious Education (RE) Coordinator

Celebrating Earth Day

The original intent of Earth Day 47 years ago was to bring awareness to environmental and climate issues particularly air and water pollution. In 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, auditoriums and parks for coast to coast rallies. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts.

As Unitarian Universalists we are asked to be stewards of our planet earth and to appreciate the earth as a living system whom we are in relationship with and of which is worthy of our protection. In the RE program this understanding is woven into our curriculum, worship and even play time.

RE has had several Earth “Day” events in March and upcoming April. Last Sunday, April 2 children participated in the Climate Justice Festival and the youth were invited to a workshop by climate activist Tim DeChristopher and his music partner Bryan Cahill. On Sunday, April 23 pre-school thru Grade 3 children will participate in Earth Day activities during RE.

What we love, we protect. What we are in danger of losing, we fight for. “Love is active, not passive. It is our love for one another, for Mother Earth, for our fellow creatures, that compels us to act on their behalf.” - Lawrence Overmire, author of “The One Idea that Saves the World: A Call to Conscience and a Call to Action”.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Come with your “easter bonnet” and basket to our Annual Easter Egg Hunt following the Family Easter Service, April 16. All ages of children are welcome to hunt for the brightly-colored eggs! There will be bags provided for those who do not have baskets. Come join in the fun!

Spring Garden Preparation
Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Art Gallery. Presented by Reese Michaels, Master Gardner.

EARTH DAY OBSERVANCE

Sunday, April 23
Earth Day Worship Service, 11:00 am, Worship Room. 30 Days of Action Conclude

Container Gardening: No Yard Needed! No Weeding! No Bending!, 1:00 p.m. RE Room 15, Presented by Anne Marie Ansel, UUCSR Member
It’s a great pleasure to introduce Marilyn Pedalino, who joined our congregation this past November 13, 2016.

Marilyn was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, but lived her early childhood years in Boston. When she was about seven years old, her family moved back to Bay Ridge. After graduation from St. John’s University, Marilyn returned to Boston for her Masters at Emerson College, got married and had her son, Marc. She completed a doctorate at Boston College and worked in public school and college planning until 2000 when she returned to Brooklyn for a position with CUNY and then, happily for us, to Long Island, for a position with LIU Post.

Marilyn comes, as she puts it, from a “strong Roman Catholic background,” and attended a Catholic high school. She began developing questions about her religious upbringing in high school. While no longer a practicing Catholic, she hasn’t rejected everything in her Catholic background.

Although not a jock, Marilyn has always been inclined toward physical activity – these days she practices yoga, loves to garden and enjoys hikes, earlier she pursued ballet and skiing. But she also has a spiritual side to her nature, and has been interested for a long time in philosophical questions. She also loves learning, and history, including ancient history.

She reads a lot, and while considering language arts to be her greatest strength, she also feels quite adequate with quantitative subjects such as applied statistics. In fact, she attributes her success as an education planner to having expertise in both disciplines.

She has long been acquainted with, and attracted to UUism, particularly its tradition of social activism, and its willingness to take difficult stands on vital issues. She also appreciates the lack of a creed underlying our approach.

Expeditions
Interested in planning expeditions for the congregation, to museums, concerts, plays, and parks? You are invited to the Expeditions Working Group meeting this Tuesday, April 4, 2:30 p.m. in the Brides Room.

New Member Orientation
Sunday, April 9, 1-2:30 p.m., Art Gallery

Passover Seder
A cordial invitation to all to the Passover Seder, which my wife, Andrea Starr, and I have the honor of officiating. It will be, as in the past, a celebration of the ancient Hebrews’ deliverance from slavery, and of any people’s liberation from oppression --- political, ethnic, religious, or personal. Good food – lively music! L’Chaim!

Shelter Rock’s

P A S S O V E R

S E D E R

Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 5:30 p.m., Social Hall

Register at uucsr.org or send your checks, payable to UUCSR, marked “Seder” to Sharyn Esposito.

$30 Members
$35 Non-Members
$15 Children (12 and under)

RSVP Deadline by Friday, April 7, 2017.
Since I walked in the door in 1993, I have been doing my best to tell the media and the rest of Long Island about us. I always thought that publicity about our programs on cyber-bullying, climate change, human rights, corporate responsibility, immigration reform, affordable housing and domestic violence might induce outsiders to become curious about Shelter Rock, visit the congregation and become members.

That strategy hasn’t worked.

In the past two years, with the assistance of our Congregation Operations Administrator Adam Barshak and Communications Associate Jen Sappell, the Publicity and Promotion Committee has decided to ask for professional help. When Wally Brown was chair (2014-16), we sent out RFPs, interviewed candidates and hired two consulting firms (Austin & Williams of Hauppauge and Epoch5 of Huntington) to help us with marketing and public relations. Since I became chair July 1, Epoch 5 has developed a plan to publicize our philanthropy: the Veatch Program, the Large Grants Program and our Socially Responsible Investing subcommittee of the Investment Committee. Myself, Adam and Jen will meet shortly with Veatch executive director Joan Minieri, Board of Governors chair Katie Kjurjakovic and vice chair Carole Alexander to discuss it.

Meanwhile, A&W has conducted a congregational survey, made recommendations and developed a marketing plan. On A&W’s advice, we will be working to publicize a Big Event this summer: Steven Michael Smith’s Orchestra Concert on July 30 at 1 p.m. It will be under a tent with the musicians on the patio outside the lobby doors and seats extending to the RE wing. A&W recommended holding one or more non-denomination events each year to engage the community and make them aware of our presence, with the expectation that some will become inquisitive about and engage with the congregation on Unitarian Universalism. In coordination with Stephen the Committee thought an expansion of our Summer Concert would be a great start down this path. The committee is open to other suggestions for future big events, that would be repeatable each year.

A&W feels that the 100-acre size of our property (and our stewardship of a forest and major aquifer) is the “differentiator”—the factor which makes us unique among all L.I. religious organizations. A&W has encouraged us to plan events such as nature walks and environmental fairs to bring in folks from the surrounding five miles who can admire the natural beauty of our grounds and stroll them. Using this and other information developed from their work with the Committee, A&W designed a marketing campaign that was approved by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Committee and the Ministers. A new tagline of HUMAN. KIND. was agreed upon as an intriguing catch phrase that captures the denomination’s and our congregation’s acceptance of diversity. A messaging campaign, entitled “Portraits,” will roll out at the start of FY18 in both print and digital mediums that represents this spirit of diversity. For a sneak peek at the templates please visit your member profile via the MY UUCSR section of our website www.uucsr.org.

On behalf of the Publicity and Promotions Committee, we are excited to launch these new initiatives and look forward to working with the entire congregation to help fulfill our purpose of promulgating Unitarian Universalism.
Fearless Girl

Can you remember ever being a fearless girl? Ever stare with that “I dare you?” stance, hands on your hips, wind tossing your pony tail and dress? A fearless girl statue faces the financial district’s “Charging Bull” in downtown Manhattan. She has created a sensation.

Kristen Visbal’s statue was placed in Bowling Green by State Street Global Advisors in honor of International Women’s Day in March. Although Fearless Girl was originally scheduled to be removed next week, because of her wild popularity, she will remain until 2018. We hope it will always be there to inspire us to have the courage and strength to resist the forces that work to take away our rights.

At a recent press conference, Mayor DeBlasio said that Fearless Girl is a symbol of “standing up to fear, standing up to power, being able to find in yourself the strength to do what’s right.” “That sense that women were not going to live in fear, that women were going to teach their daughters and all the women in their lives to believe in themselves.”

It may be wise to use some restraint in heaping too much praise on the responsible financial company. We love the statue but State Street Global Advisors has only five women of 28 people in leadership although it manages $2.5 trillion in assets. Could this statue call attention to the lack of women on boards of financial companies? Then again, it could inspire us all to take on this bull of inequality on Wall Street and in our lives.

Not everyone is delighted. The sculptor who created the bull, Arturo DiModica, expressed his disapproval. He called it an advertising trick and a mistake to see Fearless Girl as a symbol of women’s empowerment. He says his bull is a symbol of prosperity and strength.

Whether you agree with the sculptor of the bull or not, one cannot help celebrating the courage of the young girl facing the bull - our female version of David and Goliath. We cherish the Fearless Girl in all of us and we stand with her.

MEN’S GROUP

The Men’s Group Presents: Celebrate Shakespeare!

Sunday, April 23, 1:00 p.m., Art Gallery. Price of Admission: One Poem

Come join us for an hour of poetry on the Bard’s Birthday! In honor of the late Craig Jennings, poetry expert and Men’s Group leader. Since Shakespeare is the theme, please bring your favorite Shakespearean selections or poetry of your own or another author that may fit into this theme. Dessert and refreshments will be served. For more info, contact Ben Bortin at BBortin@uucsr.org or 516.472.2934.
Earth Day and Climate Change

Another Earth Day, April 22nd, is upon us. It was forty-seven years ago that this event to increase public awareness of the world’s environmental problems was celebrated. At that time millions of Americans and other international groups participated. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, a staunch environmentalist, promoted this objective: “a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment so that it would”... “shock the political establishment out of its lethargy.” His goal was to “force this issue permanently onto the national political agenda.”

Oh, how times have changed. Currently, in the United States our environmental awareness and connection to nature has grown. Many people affirm how our actions and lifestyle choices impact Mother Earth, but the consequences are being ignored and pushed to the back of the class. The current crop of politicians in power along with the President deny climate change exists and causes problems. Thus they are now cutting staff to stifle and gag those agencies that explain what they are doing. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for example, which had been established by special executive order to regulate and enforce national pollution legislation is having its hands tied. President Trump has appointed Scott Pruitt, a former executive for Devon Energy, Oklahoma’s largest oil and gas corporation, to oversee the EPA. During his tenure there, he sued the EPA 14 times. He is known as a hard line anti-environmentalist. We can conclude that the fossil fuel industry, coal, oil and gas, will have little or no restrictions as they drill and drill and frack and frack. Thus, more air, water, soil as well as the food we grow will be subject to pollution and toxins. Any evidence that these industries will cause more and more global warming and weather related disasters will be squelched. So what will happen when this year’s United Nations Climate Conference arrives?

The United Nations Climate Conference has been trying to get an international environmental treaty since its UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in June 1992. They had previously organized an Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro to set standards that would “stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” But despite best efforts the countries that attended to confront the greenhouse gas problem were thwarted. On April 22, 2016 (Earth Day) an agreement was finally signed by 174 countries, but was not a binding one. The biggest polluter in the world, the United States, continues to avoid committing itself to greenhouse gas limits. It would not even sign the Kyoto Protocol which had two commitment periods, 2008-2012, and 2013-2020. This agreement set emission targets and binding commitments under international law. Under the Trump administration, a bunch of climate deniers, ratification is even more unlikely.

The newest problem in the United States today is the gagging of scientific fact, ignoring evidence and data accumulated by scientists worldwide. Our government is promoting the message that there is no climate change e.g. fossil fuels are not to blame for something that is non-existent: global warming. Well, this is the government’s assault on science and “the dumbing down” of America. The United States seeks profits for the fossil fuel industry and maintenance of jobs for those who work in it, (jobs that will only last until there are no more fossil fuels). Unfortunately, we will all pay the price of these bad practices. While the enormous profit, potential and growth of the non-polluting renewable industry is overlooked, yet occurring worldwide, we will be sinking in our acceptance of ignorance these politicians promote and the debris left behind. The icebergs will continue to melt, oceans will rise over coastlines, cities and countries, fish will die from acidification, fertile lands will dry up from droughts, and habitats will disappear causing the death of commonplace species and exotic creatures.

The celebration of Earth Day 2017 will be a farce if we don’t ask for Climate Justice Now. It is up to us, the people, to purposefully combat the deniers. We must organize to convince our government and other nations that climate change affects us and all life on Earth. We must try to get our nation and other nations to commit to stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions now. We cannot let any nation ignore the facts. All of life depends on us holding the climate deniers accountable and stopping them. We must strengthen our ties to organizations that want to save the Earth from continued environmental destruction. It is imperative that we support the United Nations in its goal of paving the way to a global commitment to curb these emissions and to hold any nation accountable that does not comply.

Elaine Peters for the Green Sanctuary Committee

UU Community Garden

Calling all thumbs... If you have a green or black one, we don't care. Come join our organic UU Community Garden this season! Those who wish to participate MUST be able to commit to 2-4 hours per week during peak season to harvest and weed.

For more information, please contact May Choi-Steele at may_steele@yahoo.com or even-ing hours at 917.215.3336.

The March For Science

The Green Sanctuary Committee asks: “Where will you be April 22, 2017?” This day is the March for Science

For many in the research community, the day is marked on the calendar for the March for Science in Washington, DC, but there will be one in New York City and other cities. People who value science are joining the marches. Sigma Xi, a science organization, is one of them. This is an opportunity to promote scientific research in an apolitical and nonpartisan manner. We are encouraging the use of science in policy decisions and urging scientists to speak out in their communities about the research they do and why it’s important. To participate, you can find more information online or on Facebook, or contact Elaine Peters or Jim Peters (516.433.3347).

MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Myth: Only older people can get Alzheimer’s.

Reality: Alzheimer’s can strike people in their 30s, 40s and even 50s. It is estimated that there are more than 5 million people living with Alzheimer’s disease in the United States. This includes 5.2 million people age 65 and older and 200,000 people younger than age 65 with younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease.
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please see uucsr.org for additional details on all programs.

Tuesday, April 04, 2017
10:30 AM Overeaters Anonymous Veatch Ballroom
2:30 PM Expeditions Meeting Bride's Room
4-7:15 PM Personal Meditation Worship Room
6:30 PM BOT-Agenda Planning Mtg Veatch Library
6:30 PM Nar-ANON Meeting RE Room 19
7:00 PM Veatch BOG Meeting Ballroom, Terrace
7:00 PM NAMI Family to Family Re Room 15
7:00 PM Sex and Sexuality After 50 Art Gallery
7:30 PM RE Committee Meeting Veatch Conference Rm
7:30 PM Sacred Story: Passover Easter RE Room 16

Wednesday, April 05, 2017
12:00 PM WG - Women Talk Daytime Art Gallery
1:00 PM Bridge Group Veatch Ballroom
4-7:15 PM Personal Meditation Worship Room
7:00 PM SRI Committee Veatch Conference Rm
7:30 PM “Margaret’s War” Rehearsal Worship Room
7:30 PM Hadley House Trans.TF Bride’s Room
7:30 PM Inisfada-Zen Sitting Med. Ballroom, Terrace
7:30 PM Membership Meeting Art Gallery
7:30 PM Willow Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal Room
8:00 PM Greysheeters RE Room 17

Thursday, April 06, 2017
9:30 AM SJC INN Cooking Main Kitchen
9:30 AM Yoga Art Gallery
10:30 AM AA Meeting Room 206, 207
4:00 PM Sacred Story: PassoverEaster HHCommunity Room
7:00 PM Long Strange Trip Veatch Terrace Room
7:00 PM Music Sunday Rehearsal Worship Room
7:30 PM Facing Death with Life RE Room 16
7:30 PM Personnel Committee Mtg Veatch Library

Friday, April 07, 2017
10:15 AM Tai Chi/Qi Gong Art Gallery
1:00 PM Bridge Lessons & Game Play Ballroom, Terrace
7:30 PM Movie “Jiro Dreams of Sushi”Re Room 15
7:30 PM WG - TGIF Art Experience Veatch House

Saturday, April 08, 2017
9:00 AM Love & Stitches Craft Group RE Room 15
9:00 AM Quilting Room 204, 205
11:00 AM Music Sunday Rehearsal Worship Room
11:00 AM Yoga Social Hall
2:00 PM LIAC Annual Workshop Veatch Conference Rm
6:00 PM LIAC Annual Dinner Veatch House

Sunday, April 09, 2017
8:30 AM 2nd Sunday SGM Office Conference Rm
9:00 AM Great Books-SS Omnibus RE Room 4
9:00 AM Music Sunday Rehearsal Worship Room
9:00 AM Worship Committee MeetingVeatch Terrace Room
10:00 AM Bagel Breakfast Social Hall
11:00 AM K-4th Grade Special RE RE Room 15
11:00 AM Music Sunday Worship Room
12:00 PM UU Cafe Social Hall
12:30 PM Art Meeting Staff Luncheonroom
1:00 PM “Margaret’s War” Rehearsal RE Room 15
1:00 PM Orientation Art Gallery

Monday, April 10, 2017
1:30 PM Shelter Rock Forum Meeting Bride’s Room
4-7:15 PM Personal Meditation Worship Room

6:30 PM Greysheeters RE Room 17
7:30 PM Program Council Meeting Veatch Ballroom

Tuesday, April 11, 2017
9:30 AM LREDA Cluster Meeting Art Gallery
10:30 AM Overeaters Anonymous Veatch Ballroom
4-7:15 PM Personal Meditation Worship Room
5:30 PM Passover Seder Social Hall
6:30 PM Nar-ANON Meeting RE Room 19

Wednesday, April 12, 2017
12:30 PM SJC Reach Out America Social Hall
1:00 PM Bridge Group Veatch Ballroom
4:00 PM Library/Bookstore Comm. Bride’s Room
4-7:15 PM Personal Meditation Worship Room
7:00 PM NAMI Family Support Grp RE Room 15
7:30 PM “Margaret’s War” Rehearsal Worship Room
7:30 PM 2nd Wednesday SGM Mtg RE Room 19
7:30 PM Bylaws Committee Meeting Veatch Library
7:30 PM GS Food & Water Watch MtgVeatch Conference Rm
7:30 PM Inisfada-Zen Sitting Med. Ballroom, Terrace
7:30 PM Willow Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal Room
7:30 PM SJC Monthly Committee MtgArt Gallery
7:30 PM Special Board of Trustees MtgVeatch Ballroom
8:00 PM Greysheeters RE Room 17

Thursday, April 13, 2017
9:30 AM Yoga Art Gallery
10:30 AM AA Meeting Room 206, 207
4-7:15 PM Personal Meditation Worship Room
6:30 PM Music Committee Meeting Bride’s Room
7:00 PM NAMI Families of YA RE Room 17
7:00 PM NAMI Family to Family RE Room 15
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal Room
7:30 PM Facing Death with Life RE Room 16
7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting Office Conference Rm
7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service Chapel

Friday, April 14, 2017
1:00 PM Bridge Lessons & Game Play Ballroom, Terrace
6:30 PM Soulful Sundown Main Building
7:30 PM Good Friday/Tenebrae ServiceChapel

Saturday, April 15, 2017
9:00 AM SJC Inn Cooking Main Kitchen
10:00 AM Quilting Room 204, 205
11:00 AM Yoga Art Gallery
2:00 PM Funeral Consumers Alliance Art Gallery
5:00 PM Dramatic Readings Art Gallery

Sunday, April 16, 2017
6:00 AM Sunrise Worship Services Pond Area
6:30 AM Sunrise Breakfast Art Gallery
9:00 AM Jazz Ensemble RehearsalEnsemble Rehearsal Room
10:00 AM Bagel Breakfast Social Hall
10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Worship Room
10:00 AM Young People's Choir RehearsalChoir Rehearsal Rm
11:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship Room
12:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt Meadow
12:00 PM UU Cafe Social Hall
12:30 PM Love & Stitches Craft Group Room 204, 205
1:00 PM “Margaret’s War” Rehearsal RE Room 15
1:00 PM 3rd Sunday SGM Meeting Bride’s Room
Easter Sunday, April 16

Easter Sunrise Service
6:00 AM, Pondside
Art Gallery in case of rain
Breakfast will follow

Easter Family Service
11:00 AM, Worship Room

Traditional Egg Hunt
12:00 PM, Main Lobby Lawn
Meadow by the Pond
for the youngest among us

Small Group Ministry Openings!
Third Sundays, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Facilitators: Cello Da Silva and Patti Paris. If you’ve wanted to join Small Group and explore your own faith as well as deepening relationships, here is your chance. Nothing to do but show up and enjoy. Please contact Lea Titza in the office (ltitza@uucsr.org or 516.472.2975) to reserve your spot.

Death Cafe
Sunday, April 30, 1:00 p.m., Veatch Ballroom. Coordinators: Betty and Alan Gold. Admission free. Register with Kimberly Rossiter at 516.472.2941, krossiter@uucsr.org.

As You Journey Through Bereavement...A Support Group Can Help
Led by Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson, UU Community Minister at Stony Brook. 8 Week Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, April 27-June 15, in the Terrace Room at UUCSR. Free. Maximum 10 participants. Contact Kimberly Rossiter at 516.472.2941, krossiter@uucsr.org or register at uucsr.org