This time of transitional ministerial leadership at UUCSR invites all sorts of hopes and expectations for the new minister. It’s easy to have these build up into a messianic vision of someone who will come and solve all our problems and fulfill all our dreams. How might the congregation prepare more realistically for its next ministerial leader, laying out areas of strength, areas of concern, and areas of opportunity? How might we strengthen the foundation upon which this new leadership can build? Rev. Ned will offer an assessment of where we are in our interim work and what tasks lie ahead. This year's Messiah Sing in the Worship Room follows UU Café today. Singers and listeners are most welcome.

The UUA President’s Council Met in NYC

For three days in early November, approximately 60 UUs who are members of the UUA President’s Council gathered in New York City to learn about the current priorities of the Association, including its international programs. The Council consists of UUs who make substantial financial gifts to the UUA. Since UUCSR makes the largest annual grant to the UUA of any single UU source, representatives from our Congregation participate in Council meetings. At this year’s gathering, President Klaus Masuch, Veatch Chair Carole Alexander and I represented the Congregation.

The schedule included a day of meetings at the United Nations on 1st Avenue and a second day of meetings at Fourth Universalist Society on Central Park West. Here are some highlights from these two days of meetings.

In a session entitled “Moving Change Forward,” UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray identified her major priorities as “building relationships” in 2018 and “building systems” in 2019. She laid out a four-part role for the UUA vis-à-vis its member congregations: “to inspire, to model, to resource, and to leverage relationships.” Dismantling white supremacy continues to be an ongoing priority; this shows itself in a shift within the UUA from “perfectionism to resilience and making forgiveness part of the work,” from “paternalism to power sharing,” from “individualism to collaboration,” from “conflict avoidance and defensiveness to truth-telling and transparency,” and from “transactionality to relationality.”

President Frederick-Gray outlined four mission priorities for the UUA: “equipping congregations, training and credentialing leaders, advancing our values, and supporting organizational change.” She expressed eagerness to complete “The Promise and the Practice” capital campaign to support Black Lives of UU (BLUU) and institutional change, which has already raised $4.1 million toward its $5.3 million goal. BLUU is focusing on expanding ministry and building spiritual community among black UUs, amplifying the leadership of black UUs in our faith, and making

Unitarian religious educator, Sophia Lyon Fahs, has written, “Each night a child is born is a holy night…” In the darkness of the winter season we celebrate the stories of the potential of all children to bring the light of truth, justice, and love into the world. Our First Grade class will perform the Nativity Story.

Continued on page 2

Soulful Sundown
Friday, December 14, 2018, 7:30 PM
The Rev. Jennifer L. Brower

Dinner ($4) 6:30 PM | Service 7:30 PM followed by the fabulous Cosmic Orchestra offering songs of the season. A holiday reception in the Art Gallery will follow.

Sunday, December 16, 2018, 11:00 AM
Family Holiday Service: Giving Birth to the Light
The Rev. Dr. Natalie M. Fenimore

Unitarian religious educator, Sophia Lyon Fahs, has written, “Each night a child is born is a holy night…” In the darkness of the winter season we celebrate the stories of the potential of all children to bring the light of truth, justice, and love into the world. Our First Grade class will perform the Nativity Story.

Continued on page 2
In times of pastoral crisis, whether your own, or that of a fellow member about whom you are concerned, you may need to reach out to a member of the Ministry Team. Please save and follow these instructions in a critical situation:

Monday-Friday during regular business hours, please contact the Assistant to the Ministers, Kimberly Rossiter, by phone or email: 516.472.2941 or krossiter@uucsr.org

On weekends and after regular business hours, please call the live answering service at 516.795.0329.

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At this Solstice Service, together we will take time to honor the creation we are part of, meditate on our life’s passage into another year, and celebrate the ritual of burning the Yule Log. Willow will sing at this Worship Service in the Chapel.

Stories and songs that warm the heart are integral to the Christmas season. The Ministry Team will share their favorite seasonal stories, and the congregation will have a chance to request their favorite carols to sing together. Because it is the 23rd of the month, we will also remember those in solitary confinement.

Transportation Assistance

UUCSR offers FREE 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.

 grants to support community organizing and movement-building for change around the country.

Preceding a tour of the UN, we heard from two special guests that UU United Nations Office Director Bruce Knotts had invited to share their global perspectives with us. Shamina de Gonzaga, Executive Director of World Council of Peoples for the UN (a non-governmental organization) urged us to affirm a globalist identity, to continue support for the UN’s three-fold commitment to peace and security, human rights and development, and to embrace its Sustainable Development Goals. Gillian Sorenson, former Assistant Secretary-General now immersed in refugee advocacy, offered a brief history of the UN and warned us against the US abdicating its role as a global leader. “We are all connected,” she reminded us. “Even superpowers need friends.” She concluded by urging us to speak up to our elected officials on behalf of our fundamental global values.

On the second day, we heard from President’s Council member John Smith about the curious history of the UUA’s Holdeen India Program, a grant-making fund guided by the conviction that the struggle for justice begins at the grassroots. Through this program, UUs have built ties of solidarity with India’s great spiritual traditions and pioneering movements for social justice since the early 19th-century.

Holdeen Program Director Derek Mitchell introduced us to Ashif Shaikh, founder of Jan Sahas, one of India’s leading institutions battling caste-based discrimination and violence. He told us about his work since 1984 mobilizing those labeled “untouchables” who were forced to manually clean up human waste. Led by these women, this campaign has liberated over 31,800 women from this practice and begun to address other endemic problems, including rape, sexual abuse, trafficking, and violence. He gave ample evidence of the power of changing coming “from the bottom up” rather than the “top down.”

These two very full days with the UUA President’s Council opened our eyes to ways in which the UUA is making a difference not only among UU congregations in the United States, but with grassroots partners expanding justice in other parts of the world. We left the meetings encouraged and hopeful.

Cheer and blessings,
Rev. Ned
December 5, 2018

Spread the Light with Your Membership Renewal

In this season of lights

—from the Menorah to the advent wreath and decorated houses and the candlelight of our Worship Hall on Christmas Eve—

be sure that the light of your membership in UUCSR continues to burn brightly into the new year.

Renew your membership now!

Membership is renewed by making a pledge and payment by December 31, if submitting by mail or online, or by December 28 for in-person submission since the office will be closed on December 31, 2018.

To pledge or make a payment, visit uucsr.org/myuucsr, stop by the membership desk in the lobby on Sunday morning, or contact Ben Bortin, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator at BBortin@uucsr.org or 516.472.2934.

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OCIO At their August 8 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the final version of the Investment Policy Statement, which governs how our Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) may invest our portfolio. I thank all those who worked on this important project.

Hadley House At their June 12 meeting, the Board approved the Operating Agreement, Pro Forma Lease, Articles of Organization, and Pledge Agreement for Hadley House LLC. The Board also authorized Nixon Peabody (our attorneys in this matter) to file all necessary documents for the formation of the LLC and for the president of the Congregation to sign them. These actions make UUCSR Hadley House LLC a legal entity. The Board has now filled four of the five positions on the Board of Managers for the LLC. Recommendations were accepted, an application was developed, and interviews conducted. This work was done by Rev. Ned Wight, Board Vice President Mark Hartman, Board Trustee Bob Nuxoll, and Board Secretary John Ryan. All candidates have extensive resumes that make them highly qualified to manage Hadley House. The Board of Managers are: Barbara Dziorney (who will serve as president), Tom Calabrese, and Joe Macedo. A fourth candidate is awaiting full vetting. The Board of Managers was given an orientation and the authorization to establish a bank account, hire an attorney to represent the LLC, and obtain necessary insurance. The Board of Trustees also discussed with the Managers, preliminarily, shared service agreements, should they wish to pursue them with UUCSR. At present, the Board of Managers is projected to take over management of Hadley House on January 1, 2019.

Ministerial Matters In October, the Board approved Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore’s sabbatical from January till June 2019. Due to this past Thursday’s snow storm, the Board was unable to meet to discuss future ministry at UUCSR. We hope to soon report the next steps. The recent ministerial surveys were not a vote on what to do next but rather to get a sense of what the Congregation thought about future ministry and to provide information to the Congregation on ministry alternatives. The survey results were conclusive in only one area—to continue to have three ministers. The Board is keenly aware that there are many issues that need to be addressed if we were to call a minister or somehow change how we do ministry here. One example of this is the Ministerial Compensation Committee (MINCOMP). The Board is looking at how to simplify how MINCOMP operates. We hope to have suggestions in December. Ministerial evaluations are a useful tool to keep us moving forward. They provide a way to identify areas to be studied and chart future directions for growth, such as how to make ministry the best it can be so that we can grow this congregation and become who we say we want to be. It is now time for a larger group, beyond the Board, to work on these issues.

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CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

Klaus Masuch, President, UUCSR Board of Trustees

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

At the request of the committees and recommendation by the Bylaws Committee and Board of Trustees, the congregation voted at its Sunday, November 18, 2018 meeting to amend the names and charges of the following committees effective immediately:

1. The Library/Bookstore Committee. This committee will now be the Bookstore Committee. The committee will no longer have responsibility for maintaining the Veatch House Library.

2. The Music Committee. This committee will now be the Music and Performing Arts Committee. The committee will now add theatrical productions to its programming.
As members may be aware, the congregation was experiencing problems with inbound phone calls for much of November. Callers could hear staff, but staff were unable to hear the caller. The problem was random but frequent enough that some callers had to redial up to three times before an audio connection was made. Administration was engaged with the congregation’s phone carrier Windstream, daily, for most of the month. Unfortunately, the carrier was unable to locate the root cause of the problem. Finally, as of Monday, December 3, 2018, the problem has been resolved. The congregation’s agreement with Windstream terminates in February and administration is currently exploring alternative carriers.

I am pleased to announce that the new Member Lounge is now open for use. The Lounge, which is off the hallway that lies between the Veatch House courtyard entrance and the Finance Office wing in the main building, has a large screen TV, two computers, coffee set up, and a table and sofa for members. This is intended to be a place for relaxation between meetings. The TV and computers were repurposed from other rooms. With the room available, administration asks that members refrain from using the staff lunchroom for member activities so that staff has a dedicated place for required meal breaks. To reinforce the lunchroom as a staff area, the area will no longer be seen as a multi-purpose room. The Board of Trustees and Program Council have endorsed policy that Member Events will no longer be scheduled for this space beginning in January. Further, administration requests that members refrain from using the refrigerators in the staff lunchroom, so that they may be used as intended for staff. Unfortunately, and embarrassingly, staff lunches and leftovers intended for staff have disappeared.

The staff greatly appreciates the support it has from members and hopes that members will respect the staff’s professional space.

The worship committee is completing its review of summer Worship Services and is seeking recommendations. In recent years, we have included a cross section of UU ministers from other congregations, UU interns and seminarians, and speakers from other religious traditions. Guest preachers have been recommended by the UUCSR ministers, Worship Committee members, and members of UUCSR. If in your travels to conferences, retreats, or other congregations you have encountered preachers you admired, please forward your recommendations to Worship Committee chair Betty Nuxoll (bettynuxoll@aol.com) or to committee liaison Lea Titza (titza@uucsr.org).

The Ministry Team is proud to report that last year’s Ministerial Intern, Nancy Reid-McKee, appeared before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) on November 30 and received approval to begin to seek settled ministry in January, 2019, after completing several minor tasks. Nancy has completed over three years of seminary, including seven competency areas, a reading list of approximately 100 titles, chaplaincy and an internship at UUCSR. Congratulations to Nancy and the Ministerial Intern Committee for their important work together.

The ministers and members of Shelter Rock are honored to play a role in fostering the future of Unitarian Universalism through training and forming candidates for professional ministry. We look forward to continuing our role as a teaching congregation in the years ahead.

The annual UU Service Committee’s “Guest at Your Table” campaign raises money for and awareness about urgent human rights issues. This year’s “Guest at Your Table” boxes are for donations to Justice Across Borders. Boxes are available in the Main Lobby. Contribute to your box at every meal, and return it to UUCSR on Christmas Eve.

From the Northern Triangle of Central America, to deserts of Mexico and Arizona, to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes, supports migrants in transit, and protects the right to seek asylum. We look forward to joining with UUSC to learn more about our nation’s involvement in Central America—historically and presently—and the UUSC’s courageous Migrant Justice partners.
This collection of writings by Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) is written with her authorized biographers, Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams. RBG writes an introduction to the book, while the other two law professors present introductions to each of the chapters. Over 30 featured articles, key speeches, briefs and decisions authored by Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg and spanning 70 years give the reader a picture of her life and times. The book is divided into five parts: Early Years and Lighter Side, Tributes to Waypavers and Pathmarkers, On Gender Equality - Women and the Law, A Judge Becomes a Justice, and The Justice on Judging and Justice.

As far back as eighth grade she was writing for her school newspaper in cogent support of her position on the new U.N. Charter. Now, as an octogenarian, she sometimes looks frail and wizened, perhaps due to her tiny size. However, she works out twice a week with her trainer executing surprising feats of agility and strength. Recently she fell and fractured several ribs and the country was concerned and all hope she is or has recovered completely. Meeting her husband and their devotion to each other for over fifty years is part of her story as well as raising two children. Her husband, Martin (Marty) also an attorney, was a huge fan and willing to cook and do much to support and maintain their life together.

In the second section, she gives tribute to the many who came before her and paved a path, including: historical heroines from Ann Frank to Gloria Steinem and men too, like Louis Brandeis, William Rehnquist and Antonin Scalia her colleague, opposing Justice, and friend.

Justice Ginsburg is known for her work in women's rights and even more broadly on gender equality - even when the male is a victim of an inequitable law. The last two sections describe her daily life at the Court and how it has changed in her twenty-five years there. My Own Words, a highly readable book that will entertain and enlighten the reader is in stock at our UUCSR. We also have a 6” doll-like statuette of Justice RBG for sale, whimsical and attractive, she can stand on a desk, in the dining room or on a cocktail table. We are located off the main lobby for one hour after Sunday service. Please come in and check us out.

Lois Wolfson
Soulful Songs & Stories

Friday, December 21, 2018, 7:00–8:30 PM, Room 14

Year-end holiday time is about connection, disconnection, or maybe it’s about the loss or absence of connection, or the connection between us and the holy. Connect with us in our relaxed and safe space as we discuss Tom Waits’ “Christmas Card from a Hooker in Minneapolis” and share our perspectives and our own stories. (www.j.mp/uucsr22). (Someone down-and-out finally finds someone who will listen and show the slightest bit of respect.) With readings from Harlan Ellison, M.C. Beaton, and Rev. Irene Monroe. Follow the signs for the Chapel and park in the rear lot.

When you register with Jessica Pond (JPond@uucsr.org or 516.472.2914) you’ll get our format/covenant/guidelines so you’ll know what to expect, and an email reminder with lyrics and related food for thought. We start promptly at 7:00 PM, so please come a little early to sign in, get a name tag, and have a cup of tea or coffee. Newcomers welcome!

The New Adult Programs SUGGESTION BOX is here in the Main Lobby. Let us hear from you. What are your ideas? Do you want more spiritual programs, more social programs, more fun programs?

Also, the Adult Programs Committee is looking to grow. Interested? Contact WinterFlower Robinson, Adult Programs chair, at WinterFlowerregla@gmail.com.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Carson Jones, Lifespan Religious Education (RE) Coordinator

ANNUAL MITTEN TREE

Please bring in your Mitten Tree gifts by this Sunday, December 9, 2018!

Thank you all so much for your overwhelming support of the annual Mitten Tree toy drive that pro-vides holiday gifts for children of clients at the AIDS Center of Queens County! The final day to bring in presents is this Sunday, December 9, so please tag your unwrapped gift with the mitten you chose and return it under the Mitten Tree in the Lobby. Many blessings to you all.

UUCSR’s deep commitment to community service shows up in congregational life and is also embedded in UU religious education curriculum from first grade through adulthood. Senior Seminar, the congregation’s youth group, is raising funds throughout the year for a community service learning trip to the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota during spring break 2019. Our partner organization, Re-Member, provides trip participants with a full immersion experience in Lakota culture while assisting in ongoing home improvement projects on the reservation. Engagement in community service allows for Unitarian Universalists to share our values with the wider human family through collaborative civic action. While our high school aged youth go on a service learning trip every other year, we’re also involved in community service programs closer to home.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington is a member congregation of the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative in which area congregations host individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the winter months. Our children, youth and families continue to be warmly welcomed by UU FH to volunteer on Sunday evenings. Setting up bedding, preparing dinner and breakfast and spending recreational time with their guests gives our youngest children the rare opportunity to provide direct service.

Midnight Run is another great opportunity to provide direct community service to those that are affected by homelessness and hunger in New York City. Midnight Run refers to the act of delivering donations overnight at several predetermined stops in Manhattan. Donations of food, toiletries and clothing are sorted earlier in the evening and delivered by teams of youth and adults. The teams provide one on one assistance with everyone that approaches in finding the donations they need. Direct service gives our youth and adult teams the chance to aid their neighbors while learning more about the root causes of homelessness. One of our youth reflected about her participation in Midnight Run, “This experience really opened my eyes to the issue of homelessness in the city. There are so many people living without shelter on the street during winter- people who are just like you and me. I was speaking with a man, Arthur, at one of our stops. We spoke about how this society perpetuates homelessness to those at the bottom of the food chain.”

For more information about how you can become involved in service learning and/or direct service, please email iharris@uucsr.org.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
India Harris, Youth and Young Adult Program Coordinator
**ART COMMITTEE**
Shirley Arlt, Chair

**UUCSR Young People’s Art Exhibit in December**

The Art Committee is proud to present artistic works of young people in the UUCSR Gallery. All of the artwork on display during the month of December were created by the children and youth in the UUCSR Religious Education Program.

We invite you to experience the wonderful talents of the young people in our community.

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**POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

UUCSR congregants may dedicate poinsettias on the chancel at holiday services to memorialize loved ones, recognize special occasions, or celebrate the season.

Please contact Lea Titza by Tuesday, December 18, 2018 to order plants at $25 each (ltitza@uucsr.org or 516.472.2975).

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**VEATCH NEWS**
Marjona Jones, Senior Program Officer
Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock

**Save-the-Date and Welcome Veatch Staff**

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to the Veatch Program. Let me tell you a little about them. First is Yma Gordon-Reid, our Veatch Operations Manager. Yma is a seasoned philanthropic professional and social justice advocate who has worked in philanthropy and grantmaking for over 18 years. She has managed the grants and strategic giving programs in both corporations and nonprofits including Citigroup, Newell Rubbermaid, and the Women’s Fund of Long Island. Most recently, Yma served as the VP of Corporate Social Responsibility for Broadridge, a global financial services firm. Yma has also worked extensively to deliver innovative grants supporting the economic development of women and girls at the Ms. Foundation for Women and at the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Second is Greg Johnson, our new Program Officer. His previous positions include Manager of VIP Relationships, Corporate Responsibility, and Philanthropy at a foundation that supported access to clean water and higher education. Greg also worked as a Program Manager with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation where he served as a member of the Mississippi and New Orleans team, in the foundation’s Jackson, Mississippi office. He was also the Director of Development and Communications and a community organizer for Veatch grantee, Southern Echo based in Jackson.

Please join me in welcoming Yma and Greg to UUCSR!

**Veatch Weekend – January 26-27, 2019**

On another note, please save the date for our upcoming Veatch Weekend, January 26-27, 2019! We are thrilled to announce that the Rev. Starsky Wilson from the Deaconess Foundation will be delivering this year’s Veatch Sunday sermon. In the spirit of its United Church of Christ heritage, the mission of Deaconess is to improve the health and well-being of the residents of St. Louis. Notably, following the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO in August of 2014, Deaconess was a committed supporter of grassroots community organizing in the African-American community. Rev. Starsky guides Deaconess in providing progressive philanthropic leadership in the St. Louis region. He will be preaching about the effect of criminalization on our democracy.

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

On December 10 each year, the world observes Human Rights Day. We celebrate the signing of the International Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

In 30 articles, the Declaration guarantees a broad spectrum of economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights: the right to equality; to freedom from discrimination; to life, liberty, and personal security; to freedom from slavery; to recognition as a person before the law; to equality before the law; to remedy by competent tribunal; to freedom from arbitrary arrest and exile; to a fair public hearing; to be considered innocent until proven guilty; to freedom from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence; to free movement in and out of the country; to asylum in other countries, free from persecution; to a nationality and the freedom to change nationality; to marriage and family; to own property; to freedom of belief and religion; to freedom of opinion and information; to the right of peaceful assembly and association; to participate in government and in free elections; to social security; to desirable work and to join trade unions; to rest and leisure; to an adequate living standard; to education; to participate in the cultural life of community; to social order that articulates this document; to community duties essential to free and full development; and to freedom from state or personal interference in the above rights.

In times when our basic rights are threatened, it is good to reflect on the fact that leaders of many nations came together and said, “This is our vision for a just society.”

But rights mean nothing if they are not championed. According to Michele Alexander, Vincent Harding, a speech writer for Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Yes, America is possible, but the odds are against us. There is nothing about justice that is inevitable. The arc does not necessarily bend toward justice. It comes through the tireless efforts of us. What is necessary for us to beat the odds now?” (Michele Alexander, Facing Race Conference, 11/11/2016)

Perhaps this “new moment in which many people are experiencing a greater degree of fear for our nation and for their safety than ever before,” the observance of Human Rights Day can inspire us to have courage and stand up for the rights of ourselves and others.

On Sunday, December 9, the Social Justice Committee is sponsoring an Amnesty International Write for Rights Event. Members of the SJ Racial Justice Task Force will staff a table in the social hall during UU Café. There you will have the opportunity to write a letter to the governments of this year’s prisoners of conscience and to the prisoners themselves. I hope you’ll take a minute to join us in this important event.

Sundays in December

Holiday Donation Drive. Each year the Social Justice Committee organizes a drive to collect donations to provide roasted chickens for Christmas for the guests of the North Shore Soup Kitchen and the AIDS Center of Queens County. Please stop by the table in the main lobby after Worship to make a donation. Thank you!

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
How Do We Build a Just Long Island, Hofstra University Club, north side of Hempstead Tpk, Hempstead, 6:30 PM. Join ERASE Racism, UUCSR members and the local community as we explore why racial justice is important. Light supper available. Registration required at 516.921.4863 or https://tinyurl.com/y73mgtdy

Saturday, December 9, 2018
Write for Rights! Social Hall, 12:15–1:30 PM. Every year to mark Human Rights Day on December 10, hundreds of thousands of people around the world send a letter on behalf of someone they’ve never met, as part of Amnesty International’s Write for Rights campaign. Our messages help convince government officials to release people imprisoned for expressing their opinion (called “prisoners of conscience” by Amnesty), support human rights defenders, stop torture, commute death sentences, and end other human rights abuses. The Social Justice Committee invites you to stop by the Write for Rights table and participate in the world’s largest human rights action.

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Social Justice Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM, Art Gallery: Join us as we continue to address our core issues for 2018-2019: criminal justice reform; ending gun violence; migration; and civic engagement. We need your ideas!

Monday, December 17, 2018
SJ Mental Health Subcommittee, Veatch House Conference Room, 4:00–6:00 PM. This subcommittee works to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. Join us as we plan several new programs for the coming year. We need your help! Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee

For further information about any of these announcements, please contact Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche at cderoche@uucsr.org or 516.472.2977.

Current Holiday Social Justice Campaigns

Assisting Central American Migrants at the Southern Border, the following organizations are providing direct assistance to migrants arriving at our southern border. If you'd like to contribute to their work, click on the websites provided. Our own UU Service Committee partners with many organizations working directly with migrants on both sides of the border: https://tinyurl.com/y7e8926d. Border Angels is another organization also doing work with the migrants: https://tinyurl.com/yajloppv. Finally, the American Friends Service Committee is there offering assistance: https://tinyurl.com/y6whdlq8.
Wednesday, December 19, 2018
SJ Climate Justice Task Force Meeting, Art Gallery, 6:30–7:30 PM
The Climate Justice Task Force seeks opportunities for the congregation and the wider community to address climate change. We are now collaborating with the Climate Justice Mobilization, an organization awarded a Large Grant in the last round of grant making. We have exciting plans. Please come and be a part of them. According to leading scientists, we only have ten years to avert the worst effects of climate change. Let’s make the most of them. Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Current Campaign for the INN. The Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) in Hempstead needs clean, gently used sheets, pillow cases, blankets, quilts, and duvets. The INN Clothing Boutique is also in need of gently used men’s pants and shirts as well as casual/sport pants (jeans, khakis, or similar) or shirts (short or long sleeve). This collection will be on-going until further notice. Please put your donations in the small, blue bin marked “INN Donations” in the entrance to the coat room.

The Social Justice Committee of UUCSR sponsors several ways for members of the congregation to meet the needs of others for food and clothing. Please visit uucsr.org to see the flyer with complete details.

EDWARD MILLER MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Founded by the Music Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR) in June, 2004, the Edward Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund honors the memory of Edward Miller (1943 - 1997), UUCSR Music Director and life-long music educator. The scholarships are provided to graduating high school seniors to further their music education. Recipients are chosen by the Nassau Music Educators Association.

Funding for the scholarship is generated by the annual Cabaret at the Rock, under the direction of UUCSR member Richard Bock. This year, due to the success of the 16th annual event, enough funds were raised to offer two $2,500 scholarships!

Please encourage Nassau County high school graduates to visit www.uucsr.org for a scholarship application. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2019.

SHELTER ROCK FORUM PRESENTS

IS AMERICAN FASCISM NEXT?

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019
7:30 PM • WORSHIP ROOM
$5 Suggested Donation | Open to All
RSVP: uucsr.org/stanley

JASON STANLEY
Author of the critically acclaimed book
HOW FASCISM WORKS:
THE POLITICS OF US AND THEM

“The with unsettling insight and disturbing clarity, How Fascism Works is an essential guidebook to our current national dilemma of democracy vs. authoritarianism.”
—William Jelani Cobb, author of The Substance of Hope

The Politics of Us and Them

• How the mechanisms of fascist politics all build on and support one another
• The threat of the normalization of the fascist myth is real

As a philosopher, Jason Stanley skillfully brings together insights from multiple aspects of knowing and learning in ways that are both profound and practical. This approach has led him from an examination of the philosophy of language to timely publications on propaganda and fascism.

Copies of How Fascism Works will be available for purchase and signing by Dr. Stanley.

Questions? Contact Sharyn Esposito 516.472.2960 or sesposito@uucsr.org

December 5, 2018
On behalf of all of you, I warmly welcome our new members who have signed the congregational Membership Book: Ruth Lieberman, Jenny Saatchi, Elena Litescu, Natalie Johnsen, Wendy Wan Ben Cheung, Aimee Vella Ripley, Kiri Bartels and Doris Smith. My congratulations to all who will be welcomed by the congregation on Sunday, December 9, 2018.

Also my apologies to Marielle Wyett, a new member as of this fall, for misspelling her name in the November 7 Quest.

It’s a great pleasure to introduce one of the newest members, Ruth Lieberman.

Ruth was born in Manchester, England, where she was raised in the Jewish tradition. Coming to the United States at the age of 21, she has a long record of volunteerism. She volunteered at a children’s wing at a hospital in Philadelphia, but found it heartbreaking. She couldn’t continue, and found other ways to be of assistance.

She has also spent time in Manhattan, offering cooked meals to homeless people. She now assists at this congregation Cooking for the INN. If you saw knitted mittens at the recent Women’s Group holiday sale, they may have been created by Ruth. She plays bridge, and became acquainted with this congregation through the bridge group that meets Wednesdays and Fridays. Another pastime is walking.

Ruth feels that rather than follow any particular worship ritual or tradition, being good to one’s neighbor is what is important. She was pleased at the welcoming atmosphere she encountered at this congregation, and the nice people she has met here. We welcome her heartily!

A joyous Hanukkah, Advent, and Holiday Season to all!

Youth in grades 9-12 will be making a Midnight Run on January 4, 2019. In order to serve those in need, donations of toiletries and clothing may be delivered to a special bin in the Main Lobby.

donations for homeless in NYC

coats
sweaters
long pants
underwear
long sleeve shirts
totebags, etc.
sox
small size toiletries
gloves
We mourn the death of... Neil W. Ostergren. Those who know our congregation’s history will recognize Neil’s family name. Neil was one of the eight children of the four founding families of The Unitarian Church School for Northern Nassau County, from which the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock has grown. Neil and his younger sisters – like the other founding children and adults – are part of the very fabric of our congregation. Neil’s death reminds us of the interdependent web of Unitarian Universalism, of which we are a part.

In recent years, Neil, who lived and raised a family in Manhattan, would visit us for special congregational events. His warm, gracious and vibrant presence will be missed. Neil died on October 6, 2018 after a period of declining health. He was 84 years of age. Neil is survived by his younger sisters, Carol and Alison, his son, Andrew, and Andrew’s family. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to them.

**MILESTONES**

**THANK YOUS**

Thanks to all who contributed to our Thanksgiving donation drive. With the $3,203 collected we purchased turkeys for the guests of the North Shore Soup Kitchen and families served by the AIDS Center of Queens County. We even had a little left over to apply to our Christmas donation drive! Thank you!

Claire Deroche, Social Justice Coordinator

Thanks for Giving Thanks!

On behalf of the Caring Committee, I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year’s Thanksgiving Day Dinner. It was a delicious way to spend the day with friends and family. A special note of gratitude to all of those who volunteered their time and talents to create an event that we hope will continue to be a wonderful UUCSR tradition.

Suzanne Viverito

HADLEY HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Hadley House on the Move

Everybody moves in Hadley House, whether to the popular Social Chat on Friday evening, to the Sunday Movie, to Monday morning’s exercise class, or the evening’s Mah Jong game, to our jazzy YoFit Classes on Wednesdays and Saturdays, or to make two foot snowflakes for holiday decorations with the Art Group on Thursdays. Once a month, there is a Book Discussion Group, Small Group Ministry gatherings, a visit from the Ministers, and an opportunity to practice Zen Walking, Qi Gong, and Meditation. We keep it clear with the Residents’ Association’s “Weekly Blast,” tucked neatly in our doors.

Yes! Hadley House is on the move! Members of the Congregation are welcome and do join us for many of our events. And there’s more. Our newest program is the Caring Circle, initiated by a group of residents who want to provide support to those in the building temporarily in need. We genuinely do feel that we are a large extended family here.

Residents are enthusiastically planning festivities for the holidays. They begin with a Latke Party in celebration of Chanukah. We’ll be hanging the holly and the ivy and trimming our Christmas Tree soon after. Susan Bagnini, Joe Corradetti, and Don Einsidler are planning their annual Holiday Brunch for the residents. Our Christmas Dinner is a very special meal that we prepare for and share with one another. It has become a tradition at Hadley House.

As we move into the New Year, we are getting ready for a change in the relationship of Hadley House to UUCSR. We look forward to welcoming the new LLC Board of Managers and introducing them to our Hadley House community, 48 residents strong!

Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you!

Nancy Jacobson, Jerry Jalazo, Roz Levinson, Barbara Singer, Lilyan Strassman, for the Hadley House Residents Council

PEACE, LOVE, JOY

We aspire to be a loving religious community where we can grow spiritually and build a more just and joyful world.
This article reflects our stewardship of the earth and our commitment to the Seventh Principle.

Amazing Plant-Based Plastics

Common plastic items are usually made from crude oil. This means carbon dioxide emissions and pollution. However, companies are investing time and money into researching plants and their residues to make a variety of new durable and even biodegradable plastics for use. These can be hard, soft, transparent, colored, and durable. The leading researcher is Wageningen (UR), a Dutch firm. It is inventing technologies that use plants so we do not spoil the earth.

Packaging is a primary example of plastic waste. With plant-based packages we can get stronger, light-weight fibers. This increases the shelf life of foods blocking bacterial growth. Even tomatoes are being packaged in their own leaves. Then add to this the use of seaweed from sustainable aquaculture. It is being used as feed stock for biodegradable plastics which are turned into cups, bottles and bags. Coca-Cola is searching for renewable ingredients, too. One of their new bottles is derived from sugarcane grown in Brazil. The best known biodegradable plastic is polyactic acid (PLA)-made from maize starch or sugarcane. Currently, it is used as medical implants while plant oils, thistles, and waste are turned into bio-degradable plastics for other purposes.

In the United States, LEGO, the interlocking toy manufacturer, is changing direction. They have invested $164 million in the Sustainable Material Centre. Thus far, they’ve managed to create decorative botanical bricks, pieces that feel like the old LEGO’s. Sugar cane that is sustainably sourced is used to make about 150 LEGO elements. By 2030, they hope all of their core products, including packing will be plant-based. To further this plant-based plastics research, the World Wildlife Fund began the Bioplastics Feedstock Alliance. LEGO joined it in 2016. This alliance supports scientists researching renewable plant-based plastics for companies and technical guidance. For LEGO, the challenge has been to create load-bearing bricks. This means moving beyond rectangular like bricks into conical ones for pine trees and spiky palm fronds.

There are amazing possibilities as new and old companies delve into plant-based plastics. They understand that we need a solution to the contamination of plastic parts everywhere on our planet. Companies understand the damage fossil fuels are doing. They know the horrible impact plastic products have on land and sea. If we have plant-based plastics replace much of what we currently use, sustainability can reach a new threshold.

Elaine Peters for the Green Sanctuary Committee
MEN’S GROUP
Gerry Matusiewicz, Chair

WOMEN’S GROUP
Maria Ceraulo, Chair, Women’s Issues

Orange the World: #HearMeToo

It’s the United Nations theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on Nov. 25, 2018. A guide is offered for 16 days of activism that ends on Human Rights Day on Dec. 10. It’s heartening to know that there are global efforts to end impunity and ensure human rights of women and girls.

It’s not normal. Research shows that violence against women and girls affects one in three women worldwide! It’s not normal for housewives to be beaten. It’s not acceptable that girls should be abused by teachers. An office secretary should not be groped. The list goes on. I’m sure we agree that all of it is not normal, at least in most of our lives. For all of humanity, violence should never be inevitable. The majority of perpetrators should face consequences. This should be the new normal. Then, women and girls can be free and safe.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women addresses the role of law enforcement. She states that a small number of cases are reported, a smaller number result in charges and an even smaller number face conviction. She calls for taking reports seriously and for priority to be given to the safety and wellbeing of survivors. In addition, she calls for employers to enforce standards of behavior that reinforce gender equality and zero tolerance for any forms of abuse.

The 16 days offer 16 ways to help end violence against women. I won’t list all here, but highlight a few. The very first suggestion is, “Listen.” Read survivor stories by following #HearMeToo on social media. An interesting idea is to turn the world orange to raise awareness. This can be on your facebook frame, or your clothing. You can attend an orange event. Know your rights. Mobilize men and boys. Buy from women entrepreneurs. Another very interesting way is “Share your story.” You can create your own story at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women. Look for the blue letters: “Create my story.”

This year’s effort is to support all those voices that are still not yet being heard. Maybe one of those voices is your own.

WOMEN’S GROUP T.G.I.F

YOUR SCARF, YOUR STORY

Friday, December 7, 2018, 7:30 PM, RE Room 15. Do you have a favorite scarf? One with a special story behind it? Bring it and share it with the Women’s Group. Join us for an evening of sharing. A beautiful scarf will be raffled.

WOMEN’S GROUP BOOK SERIES

Friday, December 21, 2018, 7:30 PM, Art Gallery

Discussion will be led by Maria Ceraulo. All are welcome.

Questions? Contact Sharyn Esposito 516.472.2960, sesposito@uucsr.org

WOMEN’S GROUP

Cookie Baking with the Children of New Hour, and Women’s Opportunity Rehabilitation Center (WORC), Thursday, December 27, 2018, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, Social Hall. Contact Maria Ceraulo, 516.313.0169, mceraulo0116@gmail.com
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018
How Do We Build a Just Long Island, 6:00 PM, Hofstra University
SRI Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM, Veatch Conference Room
Inisfada-Zen Sitting Meditation, 7:30 PM, Veatch Ballroom, Terrace Room
Membership Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM, Art Gallery
Stewardship Task Force, 7:30 PM, Office Conference Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018
Yoga, 9:30 AM, Art Gallery
INN Cooking - Thursday, 9:30 AM, Mn Kitchen
AA Meeting, 10:30 AM, Rooms 206, 207
Shelter Rock Forum Meeting, 6:30 PM, Veatch Conference Room
Messiah Sing Dress Rehearsal, 7:00 PM, Worship Room
Messiah Sing Dress Rehearsal, 7:00 PM, Art Gallery
Personnel Committee, 7:00 PM, Library
Common Read: Justice on Earth, 7:00 PM, Chapel
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal Rm
Transition Team, 7:30 PM, Bride's Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018
Tai Chi/Qigong, 10:15 AM, Art Gallery
Holiday Lunch Bunch Strathmore Vanderbilt, 1:00 PM, Manhasset
League of Women Voters Post-Election Tea, 2:30 PM, Veatch House
Herstory Workshop, 3:00 PM, Bride's Room
RE Volunteer Holiday Party, 6:30 PM, Social Hall
Holiday Sing-Along Dessert Tasting Party, 7:00 PM, Veatch Ballroom
TGIF-Your Scarf, Your Story, 7:30 PM, RE Rm 15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018
Introduction to Medical Qigong, 9:00 AM, Veatch Ballroom
Caring Hearts - Quilters, 10:00 AM, Rms 204, 205
Messiah Rehearsal & Musician Lunch, 10:30 AM, Worship Room
Yoga, 11:00 AM, Social Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018
SGM Second Sunday- Early AM Meeting, 8:30 AM, Office Conference Room
Women's Group Board Meeting, 8:45 AM, Veatch Conference Room
Great Books-Modern American Poetry & Consuming Interests, 9:00 AM, RE Room 4
Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal, 9:00 AM, Ensemble Rehearsal Room
Christmas play rehearsal, 9:00 AM, Worship Room
New Member Breakfast, 9:15 AM, Art Gallery
Worship Committee Meeting, 9:15 AM, Veatch Oval Room
Choir Rehearsal, 10:00 AM, Worship Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018
Expedition to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 10:00 AM, NYC
Medical Qigong for Senior Health, 11:00 AM, Hadley House Community Room
Reach Out America, 12:30 PM, Social Hall
Small Group Ministry Second Wednesday AM HH Meeting, 1:00 PM, Hadley House
Bridge Group-UUCSR Members, 1:00 PM, Veatch Ballroom
Bookstore Committee, 4:00 PM, Bride's Room
NAMI Family Support, 7:00 PM, RE Room 15
Emerg. Preparedness, 7:00 PM, Bride's Rm
Small Group Ministry Second Wednesday PM Meeting, 7:30 PM, RE Room 19
Social Justice Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Art Gallery

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2018
Yoga, 9:30 AM, Art Gallery
Stewardship Committee, 10:00 AM, Office Conference Room
AA Meeting, 10:30 AM, Room 206, 207
Food & Water Watch Potluck Holiday Party, 6:30 PM, Art Gallery
NAMI Sibling & Children Group, 7:00 PM, RE Room 17
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal Rm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018
Tai Chi/Qigong, 10:15 AM, Art Gallery
Bridge Lessons & Game Play - UUCSR Members, 1:00 PM, Veatch House
Herstory Workshop, 3:00 PM, Bride's Room
Soulful Sundown, Dinner, 6:30 PM, Social Hall
Soulful Sundown, Service, 7:30 PM, Worship Room, Coffee House afterward
Grade 6 Retreat, 7:00 PM, RE Wing

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018
Grade 1 Play Rehearsal, 8:30 AM, Worship Rm
Grade 1 Play Breakfast, 8:30 AM, Art Gallery
Introduction to Medical Qigong, 9:00 AM, Veatch Ballroom
Caring Hearts-Quilters, 10:00 AM, Rms 204, 205
Yoga, 11:00 AM, Social Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018
Great Books-Modern American Poetry & Consuming Interests, 9:00 AM, RE Room 4
Building and Grounds, 9:00 AM, Office Conference Room
Coordinators Meeting for Small Group Ministry, 9:00 AM, Bride's Room
Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal, 9:00 AM, Worship Room
Christmas Play Rehear, 9:00 AM, Worship Rm
Choir Rehearsal, 10:00 AM, Worship Room
Bagel Breakfast, 10:00 AM, Social Hall
Young People's Choir Rehearsal, 10:00 AM, Choir Rehearsal Room
Worship Service, 11:00 AM, Worship Room
UU Café, 12:00 PM, Social Hall
Third Sunday SGM Mtg, 1:00 PM, Bride's Rm
Do You Believe?, 1:00 PM, RE Room 14

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018
Mental Health Meetings, 4:00 PM, Veatch Conference Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018
Overeaters Anonymous, 10:30 AM, Veatch Ballroom
Nar-ANON Meeting, 6:30 PM, RE Room 19
NAMI Family to Family Classes, 6:30 PM, RE Room 15
Small Group Ministry Third Tuesday Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bride's Room
Kundalini Yoga, 7:00 PM, Art Gallery
Small Group Ministry (Rescheduled) Fourth Tuesday Meeting, 7:00 PM, Veatch Terrace Room
Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30 PM, Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018
Medical Qigong for Senior Health, 11:00 AM, Hadley House Community Room
Great Books-Modern American Poetry & Consuming Interests, 9:00 AM, RE Room 4
Women Talk Daytime, 12:00 PM, Art Gallery
Bridge Group - Members, 1:00 PM, Ballroom
Adult Programs Meeting, 5:00 PM, Veatch Conference Room
Leukemia/Lymphoma Society Meeting, 6:00 PM, RE Room 16
Investment Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM, Office Conference Room
Climate Justice TF Meeting, 7:00 PM, Gallery
Inisfada-Zen Sitting Meditation, 7:30 PM, Social Hall, Bride's Room
Program Council Meeting, 7:30 PM, Ballroom
Transcendentalism: Emerson, Parker, and Fuller, 7:30 PM, Veatch Library
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please see UUCSR.org for additional details on all programs. See LIACUU.org for other area congregations.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018
Yoga, 9:30 AM, Art Gallery
AA Meeting, 10:30 AM, Room 206, 207
Green Sanctuary Meeting, 7:00 PM, RE Rm 15
Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30 PM, Ballroom
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal Rm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018
Tai Chi/Qigong, 10:15 AM, Art Gallery
SGM Third Friday Meeting, 1:00 PM, Hadley House Community Room
Bridge Lessons & Game Play - Members, 1:00 PM, Veatch House
Herstory Workshop, 3:00 PM, Bride’s Room
Soulful Songs & Stories, 7:00 PM, RE Room 14
Women’s Group Book Series, 7:30 PM, Art Gallery
Winter Solstice Service, 7:30 PM, Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018
Saturday INN Cooking, 9:00 AM, Main Kitchen
Caring Hearts-Quilters, 10:00 AM, Rms 204, 205
Yoga, 11:00 AM, Art Gallery

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018
Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal, 9:00 AM, Ensemble Rehearsal Room
Christmas play rehearsal, 9:00 AM, Worship Room
Choir Rehearsal, 10:00 AM, Worship Room
Bagel Breakfast, 10:00 AM, Social Hall
Worship Service, 11:00 AM, Worship Room
UU Café, 12:00 PM, Social Hall
Men’s Group, 12:30 PM, Veatch Conf Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018
BUILDING CLOSED-Christmas Eve Holiday
Christmas Eve, Worship Service, 5:00 PM, Worship Room
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service, 7:00 PM, Worship Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018
BUILDING CLOSED-Christmas Day Holiday

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2018
Overeaters Anonymous, 10:30 AM, Ballroom
Bridge Group-Members, 1:00 PM, Ballroom
NAMI Family Support, 7:00 PM, RE Room 15
Inisfada-Zen Sitting Meditation, 7:30 PM, Veatch Ballroom, Terrace Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018
Yoga, 9:30 AM, Art Gallery
Cookie Baking with New Hour, 11:00 AM, Main Kitchen
AA Meeting, 10:30 AM, Room 206, 207
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2018
Medical Qigong for Senior Health, 11:00 AM,
George Frideric Handel

Messiah Sing

THE ORCHESTRA AT SHELTER ROCK
Stephen Michael Smith, Conductor

THE UUCSR CHOIR
with
Professional Soloists
Meagan Brus, soprano
Blythe Gaisser-Levitt, mezzo
Michael St. Peter, tenor
Brace Negron, bass baritone

Sunday, December 9, 2018
1:30 PM

UUCSR Members: $5
Non-Members: $8
Under 18 years old: Free
Come sing along, or just listen

Musical scores provided at no charge
Ample, free parking | Fully handicapped accessible