



UUSIS NEWS & VIEWS

JULY & AUGUST 2009

WORSHIP *Services Sundays at 10:00 AM, except as otherwise noted.*

7/5: Rolf Maurer, "Them or Us" Science Fiction Movies

Looking back some 50 years it's easy to laugh at the outlandish conceptions of invading aliens, Atomic Age threats and other monstrosities of American 1950s science fiction films. But viewed in the light of today's economic crises, exorbitant healthcare costs and plummeting international standing, it's interesting to see how such Hollywood fare concerned itself with grooming the audiences' political, economic and social expectations for post-war American life, while also, in turn, responding to the public's own concerns.

7/12: Jacky Schofield, Serving People with Disabilities

Volunteering enriches both our lives and the lives of others. Come hear how a little bit of your time can make a big difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

7/19: Rebecca Sala, Defining Spirituality

This is an interactive service that gives you the opportunity to reflect and deepen your own personal definition of spirituality and how it manifests in your life.

7/26: Eleanor Dennis, "Julian of Norwich (1342 - c. 1416) and Laurence Hope (1865 - 1904)"

The love and passion of two women as explored through their revelations, poetry, and music. Eleanor Dennis and Maureen Ferrara, with Janet Cory, Carole Ehleben, Sara Ehleben, Lee Sullivan, and Pamela Thompson.

8/2: Joe Gonzalez, "I'm Pagan . . . I Don't Bite!"

Joe Gonzalez, one of the leaders of the Sacred Circle Pagan Group, will lead a discussion aimed at dispelling some of the myths behind paganism. We'll explore how paganism came to be viewed in such a negative light and why discrimination against paganism still exists even in UU congregations. Joe will explain some of the tools and rituals used by modern pagans, and discuss what we can do to bring a positive connotation back to the word "pagan".

8/9: Renee Kahn, "What Makes a City Livable?"

Renee will be talking about the forces that make a city livable based on "Death and Life of Great American Cities" by Jane Jacobs and "A Pattern Language" by Christopher Alexander - and how these classic texts relate to Stamford.

8/16: Ariel Sirocco, "Personal Divinity"

Are we co-creators and, if so, what does it mean to be a co-creator of this world, universe, and our reality?

8/23: Leslie Weinberg, "Justice Sunday"

Leslie Weinberg has been involved in Social Responsibility/Social Action around a number of issues. She has been the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Representative to the Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford for quite a while.

8/30: Poem Alley, A Celebration of Short Poetry

In this Issue:

- ⇒ **Maureen's Call for Assistance (page 4)**
- ⇒ **Congratulations! (page 5)**
- ⇒ **Green Team (page 7)**

The Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford

20 Forest Street

Stamford, CT 06901

Phone: (203) 348-0708

Fax: (203) 358-0029

Email: admin@uuisis.org

Web: www.uuisis.org

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

You may call Rev. Ron Sala at 203-559-9620 between 9:00AM – 9:00PM.

Emergency calls any time.

E-mail: ron.sala@uuisis.org

Direct Phone: 203-348-0758 to leave a private message.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed for the summer and will reopen at 9:00AM on Tuesday, August 18, after which the Administrator will be in Tues., Thurs., and Fri. 9am-3pm and the Minister will be in on Tues. and Thurs. from 1-7pm.

E-mail: admin@uuisis.org

JULY & AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			July 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Welcome Dinner, Social Room, 6:30pm	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Wedding Rehearsals, Sanctuary, 6:00-8:00pm	25 Wedding, Sanctuary, 1:00pm ♦ Wedding, Sanctuary, 4:00pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug. 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 UUSIS Office Reopens at 9:00am	19	20	21 Welcome Dinner, Social Room, 6:30pm	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July and August Anniversaries
July 4 Tara Fleck and Joe Gonzalez, Jr.
Aug. 9 Diane and Claude Montgomery
Aug. 20 Roseanne and Frank George
Aug. 31 Daniel Beltran and Armando Calderon

July Birthdays
 9 Mike Limone
 10 Blair Ednie
 13 Lee Sullivan
 15 Silvia Fernandez-Stein
 19 Paul Dennis
 22 Ray McAndrew
 23 Leslie Weinberg
 24 Ellie DeRidder

August Birthdays
 2 Howard Woodham
 6 Diane Montgomery
 7 Bob Hardin
 21 Lenny Van Reed

Recurring:

Mon. - Fri.: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 7:30-8:30AM
Sat.: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 9:00-10:00AM
Sat.: Igreja Do Evangelho Quadrangular, Sanc.&Social Room, 6:00PM-∞
Sun.: Encounter Church, Sanc.&Social Room, 4:00PM-∞ (until August 1)

NOTE: This calendar has all events as listed by the time of publication. Please check with the Administrator at 203-348-0708 or admin@uusis.org if you wish to schedule an event.

Ron's Report

Planning a trip this summer? Something engrossing to listen to can make travel time more enjoyable. Some listening you might like:

Audiobooks: You can purchase audiobooks from stores, of course, but can also download them from sites like Audible.com and LearnOutLoud.com. Some roadside stores rent them out, and most public libraries have a good selection as well.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. Two women's struggle for life and dignity under the Taliban.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy. In a post-apocalyptic world, a father and son rely on one another.

Escape! by Carolyn Jessop. True story of a mother's flight from forced polygamy.

Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne. World travel 19th century style. For the whole family.

Podcasts: An easy way to download podcasts for your iPod or other listening device is with the free iTunes program from Apple.com, which works on Macs and PC's.

Alan Watts. Enlightenment from the late expert on spirituality.

Bill Moyers Journal. Big issues with a conscience.

Legacy of Laughs. Comedy from the Golden Age of Radio.

The Mystic Mind. Reflections on life and meaning.

NPR: Religion. Recent stories on from Public Radio.

Speaking of Faith. A thoughtful treatment of varied topics.

TVUUC iSermons. Rev. Buice is quite a preacher.

Have a wonderful summer!

Rev. Ron

P.S. In my 5/31 talk, "Affection," the feature on Puppies Behind Bars was on *Oprah*, not *CBS Sunday Morning*.

President's Message

I am honored and privileged to be writing this to you as your new President. Dani left big shoes to fill, and I thank him for all he has done for this congregation for the past two years. As I look to the year ahead, I see many challenges that UUSIS will face, not the least of which is our financial situation. I am confident that, with the great team we have in place, we will get through this and come out stronger than ever! There are some new and interesting fundraisers that we will be exploring for next year. We are working very hard to replace the renters that we will be losing. It is also one of my goals to get our name out there in the community and let more people know that we are here.

However, as good as any team can be, we cannot do it alone. We need all of your help and support. UUSIS is a community like no other because of the people here. We have been through many ups and downs together. This past year in particular, it seems like the downs have outnumbered the ups. But we have been there to support each other and keep each other strong. I ask that we continue to do so as we prepare to face the challenges ahead. I promise to do my best to lead with only the congregation's best interests in mind. I look forward to working together with all of you. I wish you all a happy, fun, and safe summer!

Joe Gonzalez

THE CARE TEAM

Congratulations to Jim Bridge, Amy Good, Liliya Guttsewok, Julie Punishill, Ariel Sirocco and Karen Versanti for completing the Pastoral Care Lay Ministry class held in April and May. While we work on reorganizing the Care Team, I will be the on-call person for July and August. You can reach me at 203-219-4341.

Peace,
Rev. ReBecca

MAUREEN'S CALL FOR MUSIC LIBRARY ASSISTANCE

The church will acquire a new lateral file to be placed in the foyer near the name tags. It will serve a couple of purposes: one of them is to hold working choir folders and files. It would be a tremendous help to me and our choir library if one or two persons will be willing to help me an hour at a time during the summer help to set it up. The tasks would be to file and fetch files/folders from the upstairs library and bring them down to the cabinet. It shouldn't take too much time. Please email me at maureenfh@optonline.net to volunteer or find out more info.

Maureen Ferrara Higle

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to Robin, Maisie, Lee, David, Karen Davis, Ophelia, Paula & Regina for volunteering to greet and take attendance on Sunday morning. If you would like to help out, please see Kristin or Caitlin. If you could help out for just one Sunday; it could be a day that has special meaning & you want to give back to our community.

The membership team is thinking about new ways to keep our current members engaged. If you have any ideas, please see Caitlin, Bonnie or Kristin.

The Welcome Dinners will continue during the summer!! Thanks to Robin, Ophelia, Jill and the Kings. If you would like to join in the cooking fun, please see Kristin or Caitlin. There will be dinners on June 19, July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18. The fun starts at 6:30PM in the Social Room just like a First Friday potluck, but please note that this is a different event – the focus is to talk to someone that you don't already know.

Current members are encouraged to bring big smiles and five dollars to defray the cost of the event. First-timers and children are asked to bring laughter. No need to bring a casserole or your own plates, those will be provided. If you would like to join in the merriment, please sign up during coffee hour or contact the membership team so that we know how many people to include in the shopping and cooking.

If you no longer feel like a guest and want to become a part of our spiritual family, please see Caitlin about the New to the Stamford UU workshop on September 20 after worship service 11:30 - 1:30 with a simple lunch. We will talk about our faith journeys, the mission and vision of our organization.

Thank you to all of you who have invited your friends to UUSIS activities during the season. We hope that you will continue to include your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family in our summer events.

Caitlin McConoughey, Membership Committee Chair

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to all those who have served on Committees and volunteered their time to UUSIS in 2008-2009!
If you should need anything or would like to join a committee for 2009-2010, please see:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers

President - Joseph Gonzalez	2009-2011
Vice president – Neil Danilowicz	2009-2010
Treasurer – Tom Burke	2009-2011
Clerk – Bonnie Currie	2009-2010

Trustees

Meilen Wong	2008-2010
Jacque Carlsen	2008-2010
Ellie deRidder	2009-2010
Amy Good	2009-2011
Kristin Sampiere	2009-2011

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Buildings and Grounds:** Neil Danilowicz
- The Pastoral Care Lay Ministry Team:** Nancy Furnas
- Committee on Ministry:** Bob Nixon
- Fellowship:** Robin Gans
- Finance:** Rama Kumanduri
- Membership:** Caitlin McConoughey
- Religious Education:** Jacqueline Carlsen
- Religious Services:** Robert Hawley and Leslie Weinberg
- Social Action:** *Open Position*

ELECTED COMMITTEES

Nominating: Carole Ehleben, Michael McLarney, Janet Cory, Eleanor Dennis, and Rolf Maurer

OTHER COMMITTEES

- Publicity:** Amy McAndrew
- Green Team:** Linda King and Mike Berlinski
- Denominational Affairs:** Diane Montgomery

BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS

- Historian:** Dorothy Sonn
- Photographer:** Ray Mosher
- Rental Coordinator:** Brad Eaton

POSITION APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT

Director of Personnel: Eleanor Dennis

SECOND SUNDAY HIKERS

Our Hike to Devil's Den----think of the quote by Henry David Thoreau, 1817-1862, that says it's more fun to go off the beaten track.

- ◆ Bob Hawley found the devil in the den when he pre-walked this hike without ID or a cell phone. The devil is spelled L-O-S-T.
- ◆ On the hike day Bob H was his usual accommodating self and let three of us soon-to-turn-grubby people ride in his pristine car.
- ◆ Norris, who lives close to DD and backed us up with a photo of the trail map, knows the Thoreau quote (see above) and can help you solve DMV problems without hiring a flatbed.
- ◆ Karen stepped on the snack grapes and was told that it took more effort to make wine.
- ◆ Janet quipped when we returned to the car with fallen mountain laurel blossoms: We will all be resting on our laurels.
- ◆ Bob Sanders topped us all. We dropped him off at his apartment and in his parking lot we had a serendipitous meeting with Holly (Bob Hawley's wife).

Thanks,
Karen Davis

ADVOCACY

UUSC Developing Climate Change Campaign

Our June conference call addressed climate change and how UUSC will be shaping an increasing portion of its programmatic work around this pivotal issue.

Because climate change is such a pressing global issue, with significant human rights implications, UUSC has decided that it is imperative that we become more involved in this arena and look for a compelling focus for our work. Over the past several months, there has been an organization-wide process of research and discussion to produce a UUSC climate change plan. During a series of UUSC roundtables and events held from January to April 2009, staff carefully considered models for addressing climate change, in consultation with UUSC partners, volunteers, and supporters and other nonprofit organizations. Our discussions centered on how UUSC can play an effective and unique role in creating just climate change policy, on the local, national, and international level. Although UUSC has yet to fully shape its climate change campaign, several components will be:

- ◆partnering with grassroots organizations
- ◆legislative advocacy
- ◆attention to existing regional efforts
- ◆mobilization
- ◆unified, faith-based leadership

During the call, several volunteers gave valuable input on what they already do in their congregations to address climate change and what specific role they see UUSC playing in the future. Anyone with comments on these two issues and anyone who would like to offer input during the process of developing this campaign is encouraged to e-mail us at volunteerservices@uusc.org. Watch for more updates in Fall 2009.

You can hear a recording of our call, as well as other past calls, at www.uusc.org/conference_calls.

Leslie Weinberg

POEMALLEY

Dear Congregation,

The PoemAlley poets were cordially invited by Robert Hawley to read again at one of your Summer Sunday services. We accepted the invitation for August 30, 2009. The title for the reading is "A Celebration of Short Poetry from the Members of PoemAlley". All participants are looking forward to the reading.

Eva-Maria and Friends from PoemAlley

GREEN TEAM

Important Date to Remember

Hazardous Household Waste Drop Off Day

Saturday, July 11, 2009 – 9am to 2pm

Scalzi Park, Washington Blvd. and Bridge Streets. Info at www.cityofstamford.org

Household hazardous waste is generally defined as any waste that is toxic, flammable, reactive or corrosive.

Enjoy the "green" of Summer!

There are a number of local events throughout July and August to get outside and enjoy the outdoors... Here are a few ideas:

Bartlett Arboretum for Sunday morning or Sunday evening music on the lawn. Sunday morning is Classical music; Sunday evenings 5-7 PM is a mix of Jazz, Bluegrass, Rock, Folk or Country depending on the week. Specific dates can be found on their website: www.bartlettarboretum.org/newsevents/summermusicsundays/

Waveny Park on Wednesday evenings 7:30 – 9:30 PM. Music varies by date and is a mix of Big Band, Jazz, Country Western, Folk, Steel Drums and Swing. These are free!... just bring a chair or blanket, picnic supper (no grills) and enjoy the music and outdoors. For more info: newcanaan.qscend.com/content/293/323/667/1563.aspx

Go pick your own fruit and vegetables (or visit a farm stand for local produce). For pick your own farms and dates: www.fairfieldcountypickyourown.net

We would like to thank Janet Cory for her extraordinary efforts in bringing Green programs to UUSIS and the greater Stamford community as Green Team Chair. The Green Living Festival last Fall was a perfect example of Janet's ability to network, organize, and deliver valuable eco-friendly content. As we take over for Janet, we hope we can fill her big green shoes!

Michael Berlinski and Linda King, Green Team Co-Chairs

FIRST SUNDAY UUSIS FOOD COLLECTION

For June, UUSIS donated 61 lbs. of food to The Food Bank!

Food collections will continue in July and August on the 1st Sunday of each month.

We will continue to keep a basket in the kitchen for those who bring food on other days.

Any questions, please see Janet Cory or Tara Fleck.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION PREVENTS HUNGER! Thank you!

ABOVE & BEYOND

THANK YOU to everyone that has been a part of UUSIS! Without the help of members and volunteers, we would not have such a wonderful, welcoming community.

If you want to recognize someone or a group who went "Above & Beyond", please write a brief paragraph and submit to Tara Fleck, Office Administrator, for inclusion in the next newsletter.

A FINAL THOUGHT...

**"It is never too late to be what you might have been."
— The Saturday Wife by Naomi Ragen**

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN STAMFORD

Parish Minister – The Rev. Ron Sala
Community Minister – The Rev. ReBecca Ames Sala
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Stan Aronson
Music Consultant – Maureen Ferrara Hagle
Office Administrator/Newsletter Editor – Tara Fleck
Cleaning Crew – Goodwill Industries

President – Joseph Gonzalez
Vice president – Neil Danilowicz
Treasurer – Tom Burke
Clerk – Bonnie Currie
Buildings and Grounds – Neil Danilowicz
Pastoral Care Lay Ministry Team – Nancy Furnas
Committee on Ministry – Bob Nixon
Fellowship – Robin Gans
Finance – Rama Kumanduri
Membership – Caitlin McConoughey
Religious Education – Jacqueline Carlsen
Religious Services – Robert Hawley & Leslie Weinberg
Social Action – *Open Position*
Publicity – Amy McAndrew & Cathy Steel
Green Team – Linda King & Mike Berlinski
Denominational Affairs – Diane Montgomery
Historian – Dorothy Sonn
Photographer – Ray Mosher
Rental Coordinator – Brad Eaton
Director of Personnel – Eleanor Dennis

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

If you would like to submit an article to UUSIS News & Views, please e-mail admin@uusis.org or call (203)348-0708. Articles are due by the 15th of each month and should be less than 200 words. We look forward to hearing about all of your activities, information about your committees, and member/friend updates!

LOST AND FOUND

MISSING ANYTHING? CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE ITEM. UNCLAIMED ARTICLES ARE SUBJECT TO BEING DONATED OR DISCARDED.