



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook

380 Nicolls Road, Setauket, NY 11733 (631)751-0297

### The Unicorn

Volume 45, Issue 11

November 26 - December 9

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**E-Unicorn**—send timely announcements to [loucherry@gmail.com](mailto:loucherry@gmail.com)

For **OOS** send by Wednesday to [office@uufsb.org](mailto:office@uufsb.org)

Send **newsletter** articles to [uufsbnews@uufsb.org](mailto:uufsbnews@uufsb.org)

our **Advocacy List Serve**: [uufsbadvocacy@googlegroups.com](mailto:uufsbadvocacy@googlegroups.com)

**Announcement Board** displayed during coffee hour.

If you'd like to be on staff please let us know.

**Contributing Reporters:**

- December's Share the Plate (Stefani Scott)
- Linda Mikell (Labyrinth Journeys, Victorian Ladies)
- Linda Volkerz (RE News)
- Continuation of Congregational Meeting (Megs Shea)
- New Worship Practice (Rev Barbara Coeyman)

**Barbara's Corner:**

Time seems to be flying by. It is hard to believe that we are over a third of the way through this interim year, this time of transition and change. It is important to be intentional about transitioning activities such as the mission and visioning statements you are in the process of writing as you transition to new settled ministry.

Another important transition is happening in this congregation, and it has been going on for quite awhile. This congregation is growing in numbers and activities, and that is good news. More people in this community finding liberal religion, more persons coming here to share in the life of this fellowship. However, growth also means change, change of a different sort from interim change, and change can envelope us in anxiety if we are not intentional in approaching that change.

Said in church growth vocabulary, this congregation is growing from a pastoral to a program church. These categories of church identity are determined by membership size as well as types of activities and relationship between ministry and the congregation. A pastoral congregation generally is defined as having up to 150 to 175 total attendance (including religious education) on a Sunday morning, and it is minister-centered. That is, it is one large cell in which nearly everyone relates directly to the minister. A program congregation's attendance is 175 and higher. Ministry is shared and the congregation is group-centered, not pastor-centered. That is, the congregation is no longer a single cell, but multi-celled (events may be double-booked to accommodate all desired activities). The minister's role is planning, inspiring, coordinating, and supporting lay leadership. The congregation's role is trusting the various systems and structures that are required to keep this number of members functioning well together.

UUFBSB has been in this pastoral-to-program transition for awhile, in different phases and cycles. Numbers on the roster have gone beyond two hundred and membership is growing. -- Saturday November 10, there were a record thirty-two people signed up for 'UU101,' the Introduction to Unitarian Universalism for prospective members. --- The roster of committees and activities sometimes suggests a congregation even larger than the official head count. Indeed, there are many people coming through the doors of this building. The numbers look like an emerging program congregation, but the structure is not assuredly there yet. I am working with the board and other leadership on defining roles and responsibilities for leadership, and over the next several months I want to initiate a variety of methods of communicating with the entire congregation --- newsletter, sermons, workshops, Q & A sessions --- to share with you more information about the pastoral-to-program transition. Once settled ministry is here, with that new minister you will work together to define the particular roles and responsibilities of that ministry as well as the relationship between membership and ministry.

Transitioning, growth, change: this is not easy work, but it is important work. I call on each of you to help me help you with both interim transitioning and growth transitioning. Being in the thick of change like this can be challenging, perhaps even downright stressful. Keep the faith, my friends. Coming out on the positive end of change is certainly rewarding and invigorating.

However, I feel I must warn you: as more and more people hear about all the good things going on here at UUFBSB, growth might just continue even after the 'official' definitions of program church are reached. And wouldn't that be a great thing for the greater Stony Brook community: this congregation, providing a spiritual home for more and more folks who believe in the values and activities of this free faith of Unitarian Universalism!

Blessings Rev. Barbara

## Grateful Thoughts

We thank all these people for their dedication to the life of the Fellowship. Send your thank you's to:

[uufsbnews@uufsb.org](mailto:uufsbnews@uufsb.org)

11/18-Thank you to those who shared their gifts with us this morning. **Stefani Scott** as the Worship Associate. **Pat Killian, John Seppala,** and **The Unicorn Singers** shared their gift of music. **Seri Doyle, Claudia Dunmire,** and **Katie Trieller** were the Welcome Assistants. The warmth of hospitality was shared by **Lou Cherry** as the Greeter and the **Couple's Group** as the Coffee Hosts. The beauty of our shared space was enhanced by a floral arrangement donated by **Joan Feyk, Stefani Scott,** and **Jeanette Terrell.** The altar was created by **Barbara Diamond** and nametags created by **Lynn DiGiovanni.** **Helen Nagy** provided our weekly visitors with a welcome card. Board Member **Frances McGuire** served as usher.

11/25-Thank you to those who shared their gifts with us this morning. **Linda Volkersz, DRE** as the Service Leader. **Rev. Barbara Coeyman** as the Worship Associate. The **Children's Choir,** under the direction of **Lee and John Morris,** shared their gift of music. Thank you to **Janet Hanson** for sharing her gift of music. **Arlene and Lou Cherry** were the Welcome Assistants. The warmth of hospitality was shared by committee members of the **Grounds & Sounds Café** as the Coffee Hosts and **Stephanie Regan** as the Greeter. **Nancy Lynch** and **Michele Maggio** prepared the bread sharing tables and the ingredients. The beauty of our shared space was enhanced by a floral arrangement created by members of the **Floral Committee.** The altar was created by **Barbara Diamond** and nametags were created by **Lynn DiGiovanni.** **Helen Nagy** provided our weekly visitors a welcome card. Board Member **Irv Frankel** served as usher.

Thank you to Helen Nagy who has very kindly purchased 30 new hymnals for the fellowship.

Ellen Virginia Lubin November 10, 2007

Ellen Virginia Lubin, 66, of Brighton Towers, Syracuse, NY, passed away peacefully in her home on Saturday, November 10, 2007. She was born in Queens, NY, and was a longtime resident of Long Island and Florida. Ellen retired after over 20 years of dedicated service in teaching young children. She had been a devoted member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church and the Red Hat Society while living in Syracuse. Surviving are her daughters, Wendy (Rusty) Haas of La Fayette, NY, and Cathy Lubin; also her mother, Catherine Kopp of Fort Lauderdale, FL; and her sister, Barbara (Ben) Del Duca of Burlington, MA. A private family burial will be held at LaFayette Rural Cemetery. There will be a memorial service in honor of Ellen at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 109 Waring Rd., Syracuse, at 1 p.m. Sunday, with a luncheon reception to follow. Contributions and/or flowers may be made to the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 109 Waring Rd., Syracuse, NY 13224. Arrangements by Hall Funeral Home, Lafayette, NY.

Published in the Syracuse Post Standard on 11/16/2007. [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)

Linda Volkersz

### **New Worship Practice: from Rev. Barbara**

Beginning December 9, with the support of the Pastoral Associates of this fellowship, I want to introduce a new practice into the worship service. During the Prayer / Meditation segment of the service, I want to add 'Celebrations and Concerns of the Community.' This will be a time when the service leader highlights both milestones and sorrows in the lives of members of this fellowship community: a new baby or job promotion or significant anniversary; or a hospitalization or death or personal setback. If you wish to have a celebration or concern mentioned in the service, contact the office no later than Friday noon to be included in that Sunday's service. Feel free to leave information directly with the office staff. If you do not speak directly with me, please leave your phone number so that I may call you back. No celebration or concern will be mentioned in worship without direct permission of the person or persons being remembered (that is, even if I hear about something from a third party, I will not mention that joy or concern until I speak directly to the persons involved.)

## Labyrinth Journeys



Come to an evening labyrinth walk and enjoy the candles and the peace. Our next evening walk is Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm. It's a great way to "take stock," unwind, de-stress, meditate, unblock or connect to the moment. There will be Tai Chi on the labyrinth at 8:00 pm. Come to watch or participate. We also walk every Thursday at 1:30 pm in the sanctuary. Make a labyrinth walk part of your holiday tradition.

### Victorian Ladies Holiday Sale

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, after service there will be a Victorian Ladies Holiday Sale. "Principle" ornaments will be available at this time. We are up to the "Fifth" principle. Each ornament is \$7. For those of you who are new to the Fellowship, each year a new ornament is hand lettered and decorated with a UU principle on it. You may start collecting this year because when we get to seven we'll start over again with one, so you'll have a complete set. We are also taking orders for decorated glass "bricks." (\$25) You have your choice of three styles. There's one for Hanukah, (in blue and silver), there's one in Red and Green and one decorated in gold. Call Linda Mikell or sign up on Sunday after service to order one.

### Children's Choir Performances are Uplifting Successes



Several members of the UUFBSB Children's Choir recently joined with other children from local faith communities in performing the song "Quiet Holy Grace" at the Three Village Clergy's Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service (which took place this year at the North Shore Jewish Center in Port Jefferson Station). Many thanks to the children and their families who came to the service and helped generate just the right spirit of sharing and grace to reflect the importance of this holiday. Our Children's Choir reprised this song at the UUFBSB Sunday service following Thanksgiving. Congratulations, kids, on two great performances! Thanks must also be extended to the Unicorn Singers, under the direction of Janet Hanson, for enriching this intergenerational song by singing and leading the special echo section.

### Continuation of Congregational Meeting: December 2, 8:30 a.m.

The length of the congregational meeting on October 28, at which the congregation voted on a mission statement, precluded discussion of a vision statement. Therefore a proposed vision statement will be presented for a vote on October 2 at a continuation of the October congregational meeting. The meeting will be held between 8:30 and 10 a.m. and coffee and bagels will be served from 8 to 8:30 a.m. All members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting, which will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Megs Shea, President Board of Trustees

### Notes from Rev. Barbara

Printed copies of Rev. Coeyman's sermons are available in the magazine folder in the entryway of the building. Free for the taking. If you see that a file folder is down to the last copy, please notify the office: do not take the single remaining copy.

If you are interested in having a child dedicated during an upcoming worship service here at the fellowship, please contact the minister. The next dedication service will probably take place sometime in February or March, the exact date to be announced soon. This service is for members in good standing in this fellowship.

1st and 3rd Thursdays: Lunch with the minister, on December 6 and 20, at the fellowship. These lunches are informal: bring a brown bag. No registration required.



It has come to our attention that members and visitors of the fellowship should not be making u-turns at the firehouse intersection on Nicolls Road.

The Suffolk County police recommend that drivers either make a u-turn at the traffic lights where u-turns are permitted or turn into the firehouse parking lot first before proceeding back onto Nicolls Road to the fellowship.

Please use caution and drive safely!

The Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony Brook presents CONGRESSMAN TIMOTHY BISHOP in a discussion of the Iraq War, Democratic initiatives to end the war, and the threat of war against Iran. Bring your questions or just come to hear from our own Congressional Representative.

When: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 from 6:30-7:15

Where: UUFSB, 380 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook, NY.

Tel: 631-751-0297 for more information.



### **HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIME HAS ARRIVED...**

**Amazon-** Another amazingly thoughtful action. Do your holiday shopping through the UUFSB website link to Amazon and anything you purchase contributes to the congregation. When you purchase something like books, toys, household items on Amazon through the UUFSB website 5% of each purchase goes to the fellowship. This is an easy way to help us raise money just with judicious and thoughtful purchasing.



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## December's Share the Plate

This is a story about a man of the Earth and God by the named of Albert Hobbs who had a vision, who understood about growing things including human beings (more to come about this in the next newsletter). It is also a story about our sister congregation Bethel AME and our UU 7 Principles.

The Hobbs family came to Long Island from Alabama in 1906 and grew farm vegetables for local Long Islanders for 3 generations; historically the farm may have been one of the only black owned commercial farms on LI. Mr. Albert Hobbs didn't sell his farm when he retired or even when he became partially crippled to real-estate developers, he said it was his joy to work the land. The Bethel AME church has a vision, too, they were donated the land when Mr. Hobbs died.



Their vision is to restore the farmhouse and barn and to start a cooperative community gardening project. They need our help. They need funding and volunteers to restore the farmhouse to rent so that life can come again to the farm. **December's Share the Plate** is about **acting locally** our 7 Principles; it is about supporting freedom of religion and our covenant to the web of life.

The Bethel AME church wants to honor Mr. Hobbs and his vision, but their congregation has recently lost 2 elders and can't continue this vision without UU's, their neighbors and friends. Think about it. Give generously.



## Religious Education News

December 23 - The Winter Holiday Service - R.E. Committee The Winter Holiday service is a family service that celebrates the holidays of the Solstice, Hanukkah and Christmas with stories and songs. The children's choir will perform. Childcare will be provided for the youngest children. Don't forget the Mitten Tree donations! Bring in mittens, scarves, gloves and non-perishable food, toilet articles, soap, toothpaste, etc. The children will be putting items under the tree during the service.

### December 23 -30 Winter Break No Classes

There will be services on Dec. 23 but there will be no children's classes on this Sunday or on Dec. 30, 2007. Happy Kwanzaa! Children's Religious Education classes resume on January 6, 2008. Guest at Your Table boxes can be brought in on this Sunday.

Coming of Age Program scheduled-The Coming of Age brochures are coming soon. Please register your youth as soon as possible. The deadline is December 20th , 2007 and the orientation is Jan. 6th . The youth must be at least 13 in 2008, and those in the 8th or 9th grade will be accepted first. For a brochure, please call the office or email Linda V. [lvolkersz@juno.com](mailto:lvolkersz@juno.com)

### Scene at the Fellowship



Picture of “UU 101” workshop participants, as discussed by Rev Barbara in Barbara’s Corner.

Come join in wishing the community  
**A Christmas of Caroling Peace and Good Will**  
 at Port Jefferson’s 12<sup>th</sup> annual  
**Charles Dickens Festival!**  
Saturday, December 1, 2007.

We’ll meet at **1:00pm** by the big clock next to the Gap at the corner of Main St.& Arden Place (1 block up from the harbor). . From there we’ll roam the streets, singing carols with passersby and handing out our Dickens Festival carol books, which include “ads” of UUFSB programs and principles. We attract lots of attention, singalongs, and photographers. The more children, the more photogenic we are! This is a great way to outreach to the surrounding community.

At **2:00pm**, we’ll arrive at the First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson at the corner of Main & South Streets (3 blocks up from the harbor). During their famous Victorian Tea we lead singalong caroling and perform vocal and instrumental music along with Dickensian tidbits “on stage” from 2:00–2:45pm. (We are still identified as the UUFSB “choir” even though we continually call ourselves “members and musicians from UUFSB”.) Costuming can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. Men and boys need only dark pants and a button shirt, perhaps with a vest, and a ribbon, scarf or cravat with a knot in front. Women and girls wear long skirts, a high-necked blouse, and perhaps a shawl. Hats and capes are great for outside—if it’s cold, wear your long underwear, too. And if you don’t feel like wearing a costume, come anyway!

**Lots of FUN & FESTIVITY for the whole family.** \_\_\_\_\_

For more info and to volunteer to help revise our Dickens “script” or to perform,  
 contact [J. Hansen](#) • \_\_\_\_\_



### The Grounds & Sounds Café

features the best in live acoustic music in a casual, comfortable atmosphere.

**Live Music in Stony Brook, NY**  
**Every show begins with an open mic at 8PM**  
**followed by the featured act at 8:45PM.**

Normally, shows will run until about 10PM  
 Individual tickets are \$10. (\$3 student/senior discount)

**Refreshments available.**

### December 14th Phil Minissale

*"It's not that someone chooses to play the Blues, rather, the Blues chooses who will play it. The Blues has chosen Phil Minissale as its next torch carrier, and in that regard, has made a wise decision. Phil has what it takes, and will be someone to watch for in the near future. My hat's off to him."*

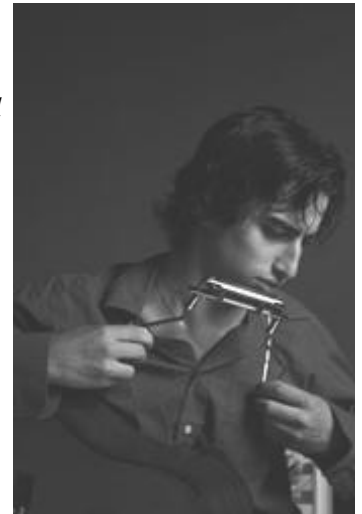
--Little Toby Walker--

*"I hear a lot of people tryin' to do this music, but few coming across with it. You're doing it no doubt."*

--David Mowry of Beaucoup Blue--

*"Top notch guitar work and engaging vocals!"*

--Jay Spica, WVKR, Poughkeepsie, NY--



*"His growth in stature as a musician in this area has been quick, indeed, and he is now very much a member of the performing blues musicians on Long Island."*

--Charlie Backfish, WUSB, Stony Brook, NY--

### **Autumn Notes Concert A Smashing Success!!**

On the afternoon of November 11<sup>th</sup>, with the autumn leaves sparkling outside the beautiful windows of the sanctuary, an audience of about 70 people was treated to a fabulous array of Long Island musical talent. And what might this event have been, you wonder? Well, it was none other than the **Autumn Notes Concert!**

What a wealth of music the audience was treated to from early music to Brahms, Debussy and Richard Strauss all the way to Jacques Brel. We heard the brilliant piano playing of **Donna Demian**, **Dan Fogel** and **Ann Jupp**, the beautiful tenor voice of **Anthony Butera**, the special treat of hearing our own **Rev. Barbara's** tenor and bass viols so expressively played, **Linda Strasser's** songs sung with such grace, charm and humor, the sweet, cohesive sound of the **Toot Sweet Flute Quartet** and, of course, that most sonorous voice of **Mike Nashleanas**, our marvelous master of ceremonies, who thought of just the perfect introduction for each performance!

It is with much gratitude that we extend heart-felt thanks to all who participated as well as to **Dorothy Hoffman** for being the "ticket-taker" extraordinaire, **Joan Feyk** for her unfailingly beautiful floral arrangements and to **Joan Guadagno** for all the time she gave to printing up flyers and the program. One comment heard spoken repeatedly at the end of the concert was, "What a delightful way to spend an afternoon!" We couldn't agree more.

With many kudos and very best wishes to all,

Julie Doczi and Joanne Hammer

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Fellowship at Stony Brook

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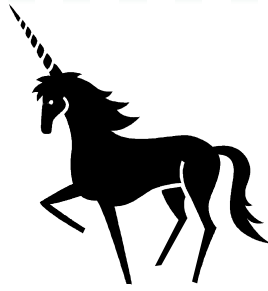
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Upcoming Services Begin at 10:30 AM

**December 2 "Can a Politician Change Positions and Still Be Successful?"** Frank Myers, Speaker  
In the current political campaign, candidates are frequently attacked for adopting positions that are inconsistent with their past acts and statements--of "flip-flopping." If the charge of opportunism and dishonesty sticks, it can be ruinous. But change is not necessarily betrayal, and some political leaders have managed to survive it.

**December 9 "As a Congregation Grows: Yet More Meaning of Membership"** Rev. Coeyman  
Today is the ceremony for new members. Whenever a congregation, or any other organization for that matter, takes on new members, the identity of that congregation changes. How is the identity of this congregation changing as it grows in numbers of those committed to membership in this liberal religious association? Come, welcome the new members, in the worship service and the reception following. (Reminder: Those wishing to sign the book on December 9 should contact the minister or membership chair Pat Killian by December 1.)

**December 16 "Why Are You Here?: Checking in on Mission and a Lot More"** Rev. Coeyman  
As we near the end of this calendar year and the mid-point of this interim ministry year, we are at a good checking-in point. How is this congregation doing, in this process of transitioning that marks interim ministry? How are you doing in your on-going commitment to liberal religion and this fellowship? We will include insights from the History Wall created during the month of October.

Deadline Next Issue December 9, 2007 at 3 PM. Please send articles to [uufsbnews@uufsb.org](mailto:uufsbnews@uufsb.org).