



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork

June  
2012

977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike  
PO Box 1444, Bridgehampton, NY 11932

[www.uucsf.org](http://www.uucsf.org)

**We are a spiritual community.**

## Children's Garden Project

A children's garden can incorporate the unexpected; it need not be closed to deer, can be messy and spontaneous, can include artwork and nutritious vegetables as well as weeds and bales of hay. It benefits by rooms and walls of living things, paths to be taken, sand, and tree stumps. It is an intergenerational space to create, explore, learn about our place in nature, and have fun.

A group of interested adults has been meeting to discuss the garden. West of the meetinghouse, the children planted a small demonstration straw bale bed with herbs, radishes, peas, and sugar cane. They've carefully added worms to the soil. Have one of them show it to you. All helping hands are needed and welcome for future constructions and plantings.

Water is a major consideration for all agricultural endeavors, and the Children's Garden is part of our objective as a community to see water as a social justice issue. We have choices here: using rain directly by capturing roof runoff in a small pond, getting the old pitcher pump on site back in operation to pump water up from the aquifer by hand, or accessing the public water supply. The kids liked the first two ideas best.

The garden will use accepted organic practices. Commonsense reason and the evolving nature of the project require that we communicate with each other and stay informal in organization. Anyone can initiate a project in the children's garden by sharing his or her ideas. Two projects are planned:

**The Bamboo Project:** encourages young and old alike to embark on simple constructions like fences, teepees, wigwams, and tunnels. With a ball



**Ken Ettlinger, Jack Martin  
and Flynn Martin at work.**

of twine there is unlimited potential. These projects are enhanced with fast-growing climbing plants such as pumpkins and gourds, cukes, melons, pole beans, and flowering vines.

**The Water Project:** Building a retention area for roof runoff could provide a resource for hand watering the garden, as well as a new kind of habitat to explore.

We now need people who continue to think of small and large projects for the garden. Let your inner child out, and think how your ideas can benefit the kids. Some projects should involve the children directly, from decision-making to project completion.

Other projects require adult initiation, and age-appropriate skills. The garden should form out of all those ideas by a process of consensus. We will probably have different groups of people working on projects in the garden dependent on the interests and time availability of the participants. It may work out well if those of you who often get together already as friends reach out to a few others to work on a project.

And, think of raw materials you might donate to create the spaces for play and creativity: straw or hay bales (spoiled hay is fine), cut log sections, clean sand or gravel, rocks, and untreated, nail-free lumber planking. It would be nice to recycle old fencing, netting, and rope into a project. The need for leaf compost and topsoil is a high priority to build the soil beds, so that children can plant a variety of veggies and flowers for summer and fall.

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## Thoughts from Alison ... *Of Time, and Action*



Timing is everything. And, then there's life.

This is a story about how it is that Unitarian Universalists from all over the U.S. will be headed to Phoenix, Arizona in the third week in June.

Our General Assembly, the annual gathering of delegates and others from all our UU congregations across the country to “do the business” of our Association, takes place at the same time each year, although the location changes to give each region a chance to host the event. And, these are big events, involving thousands of attendees, convention centers, hotels, arrangements for those with disabilities ... so the planning happens years in advance.

Back when Phoenix, Arizona was chosen as the site for 2012, the state's SB 1070 anti-immigration law was not yet on the books. (In sum, SB 1070, enacted in 2010, represents the broadest and strictest anti-illegal immigration law in recent U.S. history.) At the UUA's 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, the question was put to the delegates: should we still go to Phoenix in 2012, or should we express our opposition to this new law with a boycott? We'd lose money. And planning time. And perhaps cause harm to those whom we wished no ill. Still, some argued, it's a way to voice our grave concerns about how this law fails to protect the dignity of all human beings.

The delegates decided to go ahead with GA in Phoenix, but to create a “Justice GA”: keeping our Association business to a minimum; seeking out and working with partners in Arizona who protect human dignity and worth by *Standing on the Side of Love* in the aftermath of the law's implementation; and instituting a “National Day of Service” for UUs all over, regardless of whether in Phoenix or staying home. The decision was not unanimous.

Some in our association will invoke their own private boycotts by not attending, while others have been hard at work on the details and arrangements. In the months following our vote, UUA President Peter Morales, along with 27 other UU ministers and lay leaders, have been arrested during the ongoing civil actions in protest of the law.

Meanwhile, the Arizona law has been wending its way through the courts. Sherriff Joe Arpaio has been sued by the Justice Department. The city and state where General Assembly attendees will arrive the week of June 17 will have lived through nearly two years of post-SB 1070. While the specifics keep changing, the issue is still very much with us: how to fix our country's broken immigration laws. There are several timelines at work here, and we are in control of only our own process.

I will attend part of this year's General Assembly, as well as other trainings and meetings which take place at the same time and place. But I admit to feeling some trepidation about going. I have never functioned well in hot weather, and June in Phoenix is sure to be very hot. While I have faith in those who have been planning General Assembly, it is a very tall order to organize the diverse body we represent, and connect us through meaningful and respectful partnerships with local organizers – all for a few short days. This issue is complicated, as Kimberly French writes in the Spring issue of the *UU World*, “Not everyone in the denomination agrees on this divisive and complex issue – what to do as a country, what to do as religious people.” But I do agree with her conclusion: “... Everyone should be treated with compassion and dignity. Protecting family unity and human life must be priorities in enforcement. And there must be reasonable, attainable legal pathways to citizenship.”

While I am in Phoenix I'll be listening for ways others have found to move forward on these challenging issues, bringing them home just in time for our summer worship season that is focused on “The Nexus of Diversity Here on Long Island's East End.” In the grand scheme of things, it's time to dig in to these oh, so complicated issues!

Blessings,  
Alison

## President's Letter

This was an exciting and productive year for our congregation both in the utilitarian aspects that make it possible for our congregation to continue in operation, and in the spiritual, uplifting aspects that give us a reason to exist. I hope you will read the annual report to the congregation, in which I have more to say about the wonderful year past.

In that letter I've also proposed a set of goals for the coming year. Recognizing that not everyone will read through the entire annual report, I'm repeating that agenda here.

1. We need to make social justice as big a deal as it once was with us. Over the past couple of years I sensed we were losing our energy. That's why I put much of my own energy into the LUUV Team, and why I hope to keep the momentum going in the coming year, with the special Water Justice projects and with a reinvigorated Social Justice committee.

2. I hope that we will move forward on a vibrant and inclusive Lifespan Religious Exploration program. Our recent mini-retreat revealed a lot of latent enthusiasm. That energy needs to be kept alive and growing.

3. Our minister has experienced unusually heavy demands for pastoral care during the current year. Given the demographics of our congregation, it is likely that this need will remain constant or even increase. I hope we'll be able to get Pastoral Care Associates up and running, using the Worship As-

sociates as a model.

4. We need to address the long-term upkeep of our meetinghouse.

Although there may be differences of opinion on how we

prepare for major items such as replacement of the roof or of the heating and cooling system, there's little disagreement on the need for multi-year planning to be ready for inevitable major calls on our financial resources over the coming decade.

5. We need to bring along new leaders who can replace the current slate of officers and committee chairs when they complete their periods of service. There are several types of opportunities for upcoming leaders to gain experience, both within our congregation and at events sponsored locally by our District and nationally by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

6. Although many of us will shy away from words like "evangelism," and though it's unlikely that we're going to go door-to-door the way some other religious communities do, nevertheless we need to continue to expand our efforts to make ourselves known in the community. It's well for us, as individuals, to follow Jesus' advice to do our good deeds in the dark, so that the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. But as a community we need to trumpet ourselves from the rooftops. Our new website was a significant advance in communications during the current year. We need to build on this foundation during the next twelve months.



### Ways to Experience General Assembly this year.

- Log onto [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) to watch streaming coverage June 20-24.
- Join Alison at the meetinghouse Saturday, June 23, 9 am for breakfast, her GA report, and an opportunity to participate in the UUA National Day of Action.

Peace,  
John Andrews  
Candrews40@optonline.net

## June Service Calendar

Sunday services begin at 10:30 am

### June 10

**Religious Exploration Celebration and Flower Communion**

**The Rev. Alison Cornish and Worship Associate Sue Penny**

**Musician: Lysbeth Rogers and kids**

As we close the Religious Exploration program for this church year we have much to celebrate! We will honor the participating children and teachers as well as the new Children's Garden. Bring a flower for our annual Flower Communion.

### June 17

**Mankind Project: Saving the World One Man at a Time**

**Don Schmitz and Jim Thurman**

**Musician: Claude Soffel**

Celebrate Fathers Day with the New Warriors. Jim and Don, participants in the Mankind Project, will discuss the concept of the modern man. We explore how men work to become powerful and robust, and at the same time gentle and loving.

### June 24

**Pride Sunday**

**Dr. Jack Drescher and**

**Worship Associate Chris Epifania**

On this Pride Sunday, we welcome Dr. Jack Drescher to our pulpit. Dr. Drescher is a distinguished teacher, advocate, lecturer and scholar in the areas of gender, sexuality, and the health and mental health of LGBT communities. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and has worked with the World Health Organization and numerous U.S. and global entities.

### July 1

**In Celebration of the Web**

**The Rev. Alison Cornish**

**Musician: Bennett Konesni**

E. B. White's classic children's book, *Charlotte's Web*, turns 60 this year. Besides being an engaging and delightful story, the book allows us to encounter the greater web of life, especially the intelligence and inner lives of animals. Bennett Konesni adds his American fiddle music to this celebration of Charlotte, Wilbur, Templeton—and of course, Fern.

Service Date	Greeters	Hospitality
June 10	Wittenbergs	Brolin/Lindley
June 17	Jackson	Truit/Jackson
June 24	Gordon	Krinke/Krouse
July 1	Krinke	Liss/Striby
July 8	To come	O'Neill/Littman

When you find a substitute, please call the administrator: 537-0132 or email [uucsf@optonline.net](mailto:uucsf@optonline.net).



**We're all happy to see the farm stands opening for the summer**

## New Administrator

With Deirdre LaPenna's departure, we now welcome a new Congregational Administrator, Kathleen Furey. She has already started work and is in the office twice a week. You can reach her via e-mail, [admin@uucsf.org](mailto:admin@uucsf.org) or through voice mail, 537-0132, even before you meet her in person at the meetinghouse. Kathleen lives in Hampton Bays and brings a breadth of experience to her work here, including a background in education, food, media, and advocacy. She has just been graduated from SUNY Stony Brook. Welcome, Kathleen!

## Upcoming Events

Unless noted, events are free, open to all, and held at the meetinghouse.

### Wednesday, June 6, 6 pm

**Welcoming the Stranger workshop** sponsored by the Long Island Council of Churches for clergy and lay leaders. How to help your congregation and community to become more welcoming of immigrants. Held in Bridgehampton at the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary church on Montauk Highway.

### Saturday, June 9

**June Campout.** Details below.

### Sunday, June 10, noon

**Qi Gong: a time of growth and renewal.** Find your flexibility and adaptability with these simple movements and massages from ancient Chinese tradition. Free and all are welcome.

### Saturday, June 23, 9 am

**Breakfast, General Assembly Report, and National Day of Action with Alison**

### Friday, June 29, 5:15 pm

**Worship Associates meeting**

## Campout June 9

Everyone is welcome to come to all or any part of our June Campout. We'll begin at the meetinghouse at 6 pm for a cookout. Feel free to bring a dish to share. Games, the Children's Garden project, and campfire will be part of the evening activities. Tents will be pitched and the brave will sleep overnight. The tradition of a pancake breakfast cooked by our minister, Alison Cornish, will continue this year, too! Deliciously fueled, we'll all be ready for the Intergenerational worship service at 10:30 am, which will mark the close of Children's Religious Exploration for this year.

Rain date is June 30. Questions? Call Sue Penny, 631-725-6435

## Readers' Forum

May's passage from Thomas Mann's *Buddenbrooks* compared the predictability of the seashore with the opposite dynamic of the mountains.

"I found this fascinating," one reader wrote. "I remember that sense of exhilaration testing myself against other young men in combative sports, wrestling, boxing, and football, at least while I was winning. But in the mountains I would ultimately find myself in a place where I was outmatched, too steep, too high, and my memory is the taste of small and secret humiliations."

A second reader offered another quotation he had liked from the novel: "We are most likely to get angry and excited in our opposition to some idea when we ourselves are not quite certain of our own position, and we are inwardly tempted to take the other side." The reader thought this was "applicable to our present-day situation in which religious people react violently to anything that brings their beliefs into question. If it is due to finding the opposite opinion reasonable, perhaps there is some hope for them."

The two books the UUCSF/Temple Adas Israel reading group explored this year with Alison and Leon Morris grappled with the tough challenges generated by human and political difference. Both books insisted that resolving the challenges of diversity was not only possible, but essential to our survival on Planet Earth.

The combination of reading these books and the textured discussions of our group made Karl Shapiro's poem from 1987 catch my attention:

### After the Surrender

After the surrender of Japan  
When hundreds of thousands of Americans  
Flew over, drove over, walked over Japan,

General MacArthur issued an order:  
Any American who slaps a Japanese  
Will be given ten years in the penitentiary.

A Japanese general wrote in his journal:  
It was then that I knew we had lost the war.

We love to hear from you. Please send your responses to [marlogan@optonline.net](mailto:marlogan@optonline.net)

## The Green Corner

From the barnyard I heard a strange droning in the woodlot between our fields; it was a World War II fighter pilot guiding his bi-plane a few feet from the treetops. When he reached our field he peeled into a tight turn, laying a white cloud behind him. In a minute he flew off to spray the next woodlot. This began in 1952, at times including our fields among the targets.

My interest in watching these crop dusters was heightened by the occasional news stories of their crashes, but my firmest memory was back in that barnyard when I saw the first of them. I asked my father if DDT was poisonous to people. To a 10-year old his reluctant response, "Well, they don't think so," raised more questions than it answered.

Although a few scientists were aware of the risks, it was almost a decade before Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring*.

We should be grateful that not every state or county could afford the crop dusters. In those neglected enclaves the birds survived, and over fifty years they were able to repopulate the unlucky areas that received the heaviest spraying. Today, when I surprise a goshawk in the woods or hear an osprey overhead, I breathe a word of thanks to Rachel Carson. Only a talent such as hers could have drowned out the carping and half-truths from the chemical companies.

We love these stories of successful dragon slayers. In a real sense Rachel Carson ignited the environmental movement. But if you love the woodlands and forests, you have another reason for giving thanks.

At the same time that DDT was depleting our birds of prey, our forests were beginning a recovery from 200 years of intensive farming. In the early 1900's, 60 percent of New York and New England, excluding Maine, was either in pasture, plowed for crops or burned over from wild fires. From hilltops in the center of Connecticut you could look out over naked hills to tens of thousands of farms and villages laid out across the landscape. The country was empty of wildlife; no deer, no coyotes, no raccoons or turkeys, only a few partridge and perhaps a fox in the inaccessible swamps. For one who loves the wilderness, it was a wasteland.

Today we have seen a complete turnaround. Despite the development we all bemoan, 72 percent of the Northeast is now covered in mature forest. A walk in local woodlands will bring you past the stone walls, root cellars and foundations of forgotten home sites. In Connecticut, interspersed among open forests of oak and maple 100 years old, you will find massive colonial-era boundary oaks with branches reaching out into what had once been open fields.

What happened to the farmers? Turns out they weren't happy with the rocky New England soil. Immediately after the Civil War, farmers flocked into the rich prairie lands of the Midwest. The farms they abandoned were worthless, eventually picked up for park land, reservoirs and estates which the owners let go back to nature. Today, only the very best farmland continues in cultivation.

Farming became more efficient, as well. With the development of hybrid seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and the machinery of a booming industrial age, farmers learned to create more food on less land, with fewer people. Back in 1900 a farm population of roughly 30 million fed a nation of 75 million. Today fewer than one million busy farmers are feeding over 300 million of us, to say nothing of the food we ship overseas. This movement happily swept me out of that barnyard 60 years ago. Better yet, it freed all those sub-standard farms in the Northeast to grow back to forest.

Yet if the world contained *only* dragons and dragon slayers, it would be less confusing. In 1952, the same chemical companies that helped power this agricultural miracle were poisoning our bird life with DDT. Yes, the forests were growing back, but they were increasingly empty of bird life. It took Rachel Carson to show us that though the emperor was not quite naked, he was missing his pants.

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## Delegate's Report, Metro District Annual Meeting

On May 5, President John Andrews and I trekked across the Sound by ferry to Stamford, CT, for the UU District of Metropolitan NY annual meeting and workshops. Keynote speaker, the Rev. Stefan Jonasson of Iceland, UUA Director of Growth Strategies and Large Congregation Development, delivered a rousing hour-long talk entitled, "Golden Opportunities, Concrete Realities, and the Future of Liberal Religion." The reverend adamantly expressed that in order to push forward as a pertinent and viable liberal religion, UUs must not rest on their beliefs and accomplishments, or fall into "behaviorally conventional" habits. The core value of "our zero" is to experience and illustrate truth, goodness, and love through what we do. Our principles are not abstractions, but tangible and concrete in their endless varieties of manifestations. The United States suffers from being the loneliest society in the world. UUs have a lot in common with that segment of the population who choose "none" as their religious affiliation. We can win the hearts of this population, across all educational backgrounds, not through "believer's baptism," but by sharing personal growth and exploration together to make the world better. There are solid reasons why organized religion can improve the quality of life, and he quoted Lillian Daniel who once said, "There's nothing challenging about having deep thoughts all by yourself." Unitarian Universalists are richly rewarded by intellectual interaction, a spiritual community, and the meaningful participation of "honest doubters and earnest seekers." Invite and welcome those "nones" to join in.

The workshop, "Building a New Way as a

Learning Community," focused on the "learning" and not the "learned" as key to establishing viable learning communities which aim to grow spiritually mature UUs who exhibit empathy, self-differentiation, compassion, generosity, resilience, and a sense of the universe. Congregations become the curriculum. Peter Senge's five ideas are incorporated into establishing a learning community: understanding of systems thinking; openness to personal mastery; managing mental models; building shared vision; team learning. I left the workshop understanding that our congregational relationships shape us, and that spiritual growth requires more than just *knowing*. It is in the *finding out* that we grow.

The afternoon workshop, "56 Hours in Phoenix: A National Day of Non-Compliance," was a video presentation that covered the protest of SB 1070 on July 28-30, 2010 in Phoenix as being unconstitutional and leading to racial profiling. This event attracted more than 200 UUs around the country and many were arrested. A majority of the youth were represented at this workshop. I listened to their reactions to the video and was impressed by their thinking. Many were dismayed by the number of people with cameras. To these youth, filming the process did not constitute participation. Another reaction was confusion over the issue of "illegal immigration" versus "legal immigration" and whether the two factions were equally represented.

There were several long intermissions throughout the day, giving attendees plenty of time to peruse the displays, books, and other UU-specific objects for sale. The place was usually

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Deadline is the 15th of each month. E-mail copy, photos and events to Margaret Logan [marlogan@optonline.net](mailto:marlogan@optonline.net)  
Please start your subject line with "UU newsletter".

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## News from Our Treasurer

As many of you already know, Martha Potter, Communications Chair, has recently refreshed and improved our UUCSF website. Peter Weiss's technical expertise gave crucial support to this work. He also helped me make our site ready for PayPal.

Most members and friends of UUCSF currently pay their dues, donations, contributions, and ticket fees for events by check. This assures a clean, tax-ready, paper trail. PayPal will do that as well. I invite you to use this method of payment. But if you, like me, are not computer-savvy enough to plunge right in, here's a brief introduction to how it works:

To start off, in order to use PayPal, you need to



decide if you'd like to use a credit card, or establish a PayPal account for yourself. This is easy to do.

When you open our website (uucsf.org) you will find at the bottom of the screen a PayPal "button." When you click that button you'll be guided through the process. You may choose to use your credit card. Or, you can set up a PayPal account to transfer money from either your bank account, PayPal account, or credit card account, depending how you choose to set things up. The money will automatically transfer to our UUCSF Bridgehampton Bank account.

PayPal is a very simple way to transfer money safely and fast. You will receive e-mails to confirm that you sent money, and a confirmation of its arrival; where it went, and for what purpose. This gives you the desired paper trail for your records..

Imke Littman  
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### Delegate's Report, continued

packed full of "shoppers." Some stopped to observe our Hamptons Hospitality display with its familiar photos of the East End, and so I introduced myself whenever I could. One woman asked us to please send her our newsletter so that she could learn what we were up to during the summer months.

It was a long day, not always "full," but ultimately both John and I found bits of gold nuggets dispersed throughout.

Pam Wittenberg  
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### Tightrope Walk Over Niagara Falls, June 15

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is offering UUs the opportunity to witness this thrilling event. Details at [www.firstuunf.org/TightRopeWalk.html](http://www.firstuunf.org/TightRopeWalk.html)



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