

# BROOKLYN UNITARIAN

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The newsletter of the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, est. 1833



Spring is right around the corner, though as I write this it's snowing outside my window... again! But spring *will* come, bringing all the fragrant loveliness it typically does. Our sidewalks melt and we feel the warmth begin to seep into our bones. As the snow softens, our hearts often follow

suit, softening, relaxing, and awaking from the feeling of hibernation that can engulf us during a long, cold season.

I invite you to explore the various meanings of a melting heart. The freeing from constriction, the cracking open, and sense of new possibilities can inspire many things. One is a renewed sense of generosity. Yes, in an accompanying missive you'll read news of our upcoming stewardship cam-

paign and, yes, I'll be inviting your generosity for that. But I'm also asking you to open yourselves to the thaw and see where else your love and generosity can find a direction.

Can we reach out to people we have lost touch with and be more generous with our time? Can we unplug and enter into a Sabbath practice to find more quality time with those closest to us? Can we be more loving to our bodies and commit to more exercise and better diet? Can we say "yes" to serving our congregation or reach out to a neighbor in need?

I invite us all to let this year's spring serve as a catalyst for compassion. Let it awaken our generosity toward this congregation, toward our families and communities, toward ourselves, and toward all the creatures of the earth.

Many blessings, Rev. Ana

## March Musicales Madness: Two Festive Evenings of Song

Looking for a break from this winter weather, but not quite ready for NCAA basketball? Come to First U for *March Musicales Madness: Two Festive Evenings of Song*. The Brooklyn Unitarian Quartet, soprano Marielle Murphy, mezzo soprano Melissa Paul, tenor K'idar Miller, and baritone Andrew Cook-Feltz will offer two delightful Friday evening programs of music ranging from the Baroque to Modern on **March 7th** and **March 28th**. The quartet will be accompanied by Music Director, William Peek, on piano, harpsichord, and organ, and Alden Gatt on piano.

The March 7th program will feature music from the Baroque through the Romantic periods. Works will include four songs by Purcell, selections from Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's Concert Aria *No che non sei capace*, and four songs by Franz Liszt. The program will continue with the ravishing *Bell Song* and *Flower*

*Duet* from Léo Delibes's opera *Lakmé*, and will conclude with selections from Brahms' beloved *Liebesslieder Waltzes*. The March 28th program will focus on music composed in the 20th and 21st centuries. Andrew Cook-Feltz will perform Ralph Vaughan Williams' haunting cycle *Songs of Travel* and Samuel Barber's *Four Songs*, Opus 13. The program will also include a selection of African American songs and vocal jazz.

A suggested donation of \$25 is requested for each concert or \$35.00 for both (\$15 / \$25 for students and seniors). Patron tickets (includes reserved seating and champagne) are available for \$75 for each concert / \$100 for both. Proceeds will benefit the First Unitarian music program.

Come enjoy some great music, delicious desserts, and support music at First Unitarian!

# Report from the Board

To the Members and Friends of First Unitarian,

During the February 9th congregational meeting, I, representing trustees, updated the congregation on matters addressed by trustees in the past nine months.

Attendance, membership and contributions all are up appreciably and this success has been a factor in a number of trustees' decisions. Among other matters discussed with the congregation:

- Stefan Jonasson, a strategic advisor for the UUA, met with trustees for a very long evening in the fall to discuss our own position and progress and broader trends impacting UU congregations. Trustees are hopeful of meeting with Stefan in the future.
- Trustees appointed Garnett Losak as the congregation's Director of Membership and Communications. As part of her responsibilities, Garnett developed, and trustees approved, a communications policy intended to facilitate and coordinate communications within the congregation and with those outside the congregation.
- Trustees asked our senior minister to lead the effort to identify and hire a new music director. Bill Peek is leaving at the end of the program year after many years of distinguished service. Trustees authorized the Standing Committee (which includes Rachel Michael, Brian Dauth, Jeff Muller and me) to appoint an advisory board to assist Ana in this effort.
- During the current program year, trustees are working with a balanced budget – the first balanced budget in

## From the Director of Membership and Communications

Gems from Garnett

If you've been around First U for awhile you know that the period between Christmas and the spring auction is our busiest time of year. It seems like we spend the fall revving our engines and the winter and spring zooming around the track.

In February we welcomed seven new members and, as of this writing, we are expecting at least ten more in March. As the mother of two graduates of our Sunday

many years. Supporting the budget are higher contributions and an increase in endowment funds available resulting from the sale of the parsonage.

- The Flatbush Committee (chaired by Myra Addington) recommended to trustees a donation from the Flatbush Fund to Original Blessing, a start-up congregation in Williamsburg. The terms of the agreement establishing the Flatbush Fund require our congregation's trustees to approve any recommendation for a distribution from the Flatbush Fund. Trustees reviewed the Committee's analysis of Original Blessing's request for funding and approved the Committee's recommendation.
- David Provost, chair of the congregation's investment committee, reviewed with trustees the performance of our endowment funds and the congregation's policies for withdrawing funds from the endowment funds.
- Garnett Losak recommended, and the Board approved, the creation of a Share the Plate Committee which will solicit recommendations for Share the Plate beneficiaries from the wider congregation and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- Trustees approved a proposal to replace the aging pews in the chapel with more modern and comfortable chairs.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me: 123mholloway@gmail.com or 347-721-3765.

For the trustees,  
Mark Holloway  
President

school I am especially pleased that three of our teens have chosen to join us in membership. Ben Eisenstadt signed the book in February and Emily DePorto and Ethan Muller will join in March. Every new member is a blessing, but when it's someone I knew as a babe in arms, well, what can I say? If you are ready to become a member of our congregation, please contact me. You are welcome to join anytime, but March 16th is the latest date you may sign the membership book and be eligible to vote at our Annual Meeting on May 18th.

I was very excited to convene the first meeting of our new Share the Plate Committee. This is a wonderful group that is taking its charge very seriously. Please consider nominating a non-profit organization that works for justice and compassion in the wider community.

On March 9th, we will kick-off our annual stewardship campaign (see more elsewhere in this issue). I am working with our co-chairs, Peter Norling and David Garvoille and our wonderful canvassers to create a fun filled five weeks of stewardship parties. There is something for everyone. Parties include Chinese and Indian cuisines, brunch, lunch, cocktails and more. You will have an opportunity to join others in fellowship, share your story and finally to consider the value First U has in your life. Membership and Stewardship go hand in hand. Your financial gift to First U is a gift to your community and its mission. Very special thanks to those families who are opening their homes in support of our congregation.

Every year, the Unitarian Universalist Association asks us to certify our membership. For the first time since we changed our by-laws to require a pledge of every voting member, we certified more than 200 members – 203 to be exact. While this is great news, what's even better is the

growth we've seen in Sunday morning participation. We now regularly host over 200 adults in worship and another 50 adults and children in the Sunday school. We have nearly 50 people registered in Small Group Ministry, regularly have 20-30 people in our newcomers orientations and expect packed houses for our after worship classes. The truth is, we're bursting at the seams. As an old boss of mine used to say, "let me have more problems like this".

Each of you is a part of our success. We have developed a real ministry of hospitality here. Newcomers regularly tell me that their first impressions of us are that we are friendly and warm. Let's not let our guard down. Can you volunteer to be a greeter or usher on a Sunday morning? Can you serve soup or Sandwiches during coffee hour? Do you speak to at least one person whom you don't know every Sunday? Join me at the welcome table once or twice a month. Our newcomers are anxious to talk. Ask a first timer, "What made you decide to come to First U this morning?" They will feel immediately valued and their answer may very well enrich you as well.

In Service,  
Garnett Losak

## **From the Director of Education Ministries**

Dear First U Friends,

I'm happy to report that I am settling in quite well here at First U. There are so many things happening at the church, it's hard to keep up with you all! This is a vibrant and full faith community with many offerings of fun and spiritual events.

I've been meeting with parents and working with Rev. Ana and the Religious Education Council to identify ways to meet the needs of the families in our growing Sunday school. We have created a kid's section of pews at the front of the sanctuary. Children who want to sit close to the chancel with a few adult volunteers now have the opportunity to be fully engaged with the worship while also keeping their hands busy with chenilles or coloring. We also moved up the start time for the Pre-Kindergarten class to 10:55 so that our three and four year olds can go straight to class, rather than sit-

ting in the service for the first 30 minutes. Of course, young children are always welcome to stay with their parents, but we also wanted to give the option to go to class for those who are still too young to sit still for long periods of time. Keep an eye out for additional family and kid friendly initiatives and if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

I really enjoy getting to know each and every one of you and I feel so blessed to be a part of this loving community. If you want to get together sometime for lunch or tea or coffee or just to chat and take a walk, please give me a call at the church office or send me an email at [meagan@fuub.org](mailto:meagan@fuub.org) and we will set up a time to get together.

In Faith,  
Meagan Henry

# From the Religious Education Council

## Springing Forward!

Religious Education at First Unitarian abounds with activities, gatherings and celebrations this spring. Although our regular Tapestry of Faith lessons for Pre-K to 6th grade come to their conclusions at the end of March, Sunday morning programming for children and youth will be going strong through June. Here are some of the things we have planned...

On March 30th we will show our appreciation to the fantastic staff and volunteer teachers who have been leading and nurturing our children and youth all year. This year has been a fruitful and exciting one, and that is all because of our amazing teachers!

This year's Spring Retreat at Murray Grove is April 4-6. The theme will be "Growing our Spiritual Practices." All weekend there will be opportunities for children, youth and adults to explore the outdoors, play games, talk, meditate, pray, read, and of course... eat! This is always a delicious and rewarding weekend. What better way to deepen our connections to each other and our spiritual life? Registrations are online this year. Check the congregation's website, e-news or Facebook page for more information and the link to sign up!

Our Junior High OWL (Our Whole Lives, a sexuality education program) continues until May 11. The "graduates" will be celebrated in a small ceremony that Sunday afternoon. A

## Accessibility Campaign Update

Last May the Congregation authorized fundraising of \$25,000 to make our historic buildings, which are so important to our worship and community life, more accessible to all. So far congregants have generously contributed over \$15,000, which funds the first two improvements:

- Last June we installed a hearing coil in the Chapel, like the one that has been so successful in the Sanctuary, to make worship services and meetings easier to hear for people using hearing aids or the Congregation's headsets.
- We are now ready to install handrails up the front steps to the Sanctuary, to make worship services more

huge thank you to our OWL teachers and parents this year for making this vital curriculum available to our youth!

Younger children will continue the great singing they have been doing with our fantastic Children's Music Director, Bert Eisenstadt. They will be showing off some of the songs they have been practicing during Sunday worship sometime in May... stay tuned for the date, you won't want to miss it!

Bagels and Babies, a small group coffee hour for families with little ones, will continue on the first Sundays of the month from 9:30-10:30AM. The upcoming Sundays are May 4, and June 1st. (We will skip April due to the Murray Grove Retreat.) If you've got a toddler or infant, come and play!

Finally, don't miss the Spring Festival on Easter Sunday (April 20). We'll have egg hunts, Easter bonnets, crafts and of course... treats!

As always, if you have an idea for an event, celebration or lesson please don't hesitate to contact me as chair of Religious Education Council (REC) or our Director of Educational Ministries (DEM), Meagan Henry. We are always looking for your input!

Thank You!

Becky Huffman, REC Chair [becky7676@gmail.com](mailto:becky7676@gmail.com)  
Meagan Henry, DEM [meagan@fuub.org](mailto:meagan@fuub.org)

accessible to congregants and visitors who could use a steady handhold up the steep steps.

The handrails have been designed for compatibility with the historic architecture of the church and have been approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the NYC Department of Buildings. We expect to install them this spring at the same time as the cracks in the steps are repaired and resurfaced. Your contributions to further advance accessibility within the \$25,000 budget are welcome – please write "Accessibility" in the memo line of your check and deposit it in the offering on Sunday or mail it to the church office. Please feel free to contact Tom Check at [checktf@cs.com](mailto:checktf@cs.com) with questions or comments.

## From the Facilities Management Committee

The FMC has been active throughout the year. During the summer we met monthly with the Accessibility Group and with our architect. We are conducting an ongoing review of problem areas in our buildings and are identifying projects for the future while being respectful of the budget.

The repairs to the pinnacle near the 50 Monroe entrance will begin in the spring. Permits are in place and bids are being reviewed for final contracting. All we need now is temperatures continuously above 40 degrees to begin. We expect to present a final plan to the Board at the March meeting. The work will include repairs to the sanctuary steps and installation of new handrails as recommended by the Accessibility Group and approved by The Landmarks Preservation Commission.

We are surveying the Sanctuary for repairs and the maintenance and improvement of lighting. When

budget and technology permits, we will be ready.

David Thebus has completed a survey of our buildings, an invaluable tool for managing our spaces. He, Nancy Wolf and Elaine Macken have identified a new electrical contractor and we plan to rewire and upgrade the lighting in the Old Furnace Room.

Eyes and ears are valuable. Please share any ideas about our plant with any member of the committee: Mark Holloway, David Thebus, Nancy Wolf, Liz Davis, Gloria Furman and Sara Faison.

The Facilities Management Committee meets monthly. Please Contact Chair, Elaine Macken, [eamdesign@aol.com](mailto:eamdesign@aol.com) if you would like to join us.

Elaine Macken

## The Music Director Search Is In Full Swing

The committee searching for First U's next Music Director has been hard at work. We recently finalized and posted a job advertisement that is listed on our congregational website (under the "Music" tab) and on many other musician networks and job sites. The committee encourages congregants to share the advertisement broadly. We are beginning to review applications and we hope to complete the search process before the end of the program year in June.

The Search Committee is led by Rev. Ana and is comprised of seven members of the congregation: Julie Bero, Lee Pardee, Gregg Schaufeld, Carolyn Ellis, Sean McLaughlin, Melissa Paul, and James Goward. (Melissa and James are our newest members, replacing Jacque Schultz and Marquetta Drakes who needed to step down.)

We have been reflecting deeply about the rich tradition of our congregation and the wonderful opportunities we have to explore our musicality and our faith. It has been tremendously important to our process to meet with a broad variety of congregants to discuss what matters most to our members when creating community through worshipful music. We led a congregational conversation on February 23rd and throughout February and March we are also meeting with the choir, the Board, the RE Council, the Worship & Music Committee, Twenties and

Thirties (TNTs), the Women's Alliance, and the Deacons. As stewards of this search, we are discussing and internalizing the broad diversity of our community to find the best candidate possible.

These are some of the values and themes that have emerged in our discussions with the congregation so far:

- A music program that is joyful, inclusive, and knits the community together
- Continuing the tradition of excellence established by Bill Peek, especially in the organ and sacred music repertoires
- Congregational singing that is accessible and meaningful for children and adults
- A music director able to build rapport with a diverse community and with proficiency in several musical genres
- A multi-faceted music program that may include additional musical groups and opportunities for lay musicianship

We look forward to continuing these conversations as the process unfolds. If you have thoughts, dreams, or visions for the future that you'd like to share, please email us at [music.director-search@fuub.org](mailto:music.director-search@fuub.org) or talk with us at Coffee Hour. We very much want to hear from you.

Rev. Ana and the Music Director Search Committee

## **IFG!: Stewardship Campaign Rolls out on March 9th**

In her letter in this issue of The Brooklyn Unitarian, Rev. Ana calls on us to be generous -- generous with ourselves, with each other and with the world.

Generosity arises from gratitude, and the stewardship campaign is a time to assess the value our congregation has in our lives. Have you felt enriched by your relationship with our community? Built new friendships? Been supported during a difficult time in your life, or shared a joyful one? Discovered an untapped gift through committee work? Appreciated the emotions that our communal worship has brought out in you?

It is hard to quantify the gifts that we bring to each other as a congregation. Each of us will make a decision about how to give back to our faith community. One of those ways is by a financial contribution in support of our church. The stewardship team asks only that, by your financial contribution, you give yourself the gift of feeling generous. That's why the theme of this year's campaign is IFG!: I Feel Generous!

We invite all of you to join us on March 9th for the stewardship kick-off. Rev. Ana will preach an inspiring sermon and afterwards you will have an opportunity to sign up to attend one of many stewardship events. There is something for everyone, and everyone is invited. Each event will be an opportunity to meet fellow congregants, share your spiritual story and hear from a canvasser. We will ask that you declare your pledge --a promise of financial support --for the 2014-2015 fiscal year (beginning on July 1, 2014) at that time. (There is no need to write a check or make a payment at the event).

Many people who are new to church finances wonder why we ask for a pledge. Think of it this way: in your own life, you probably have some idea of what your income will be for the foreseeable future and you make decisions based on this knowledge. Our Board of Trustees also must have some idea of how much money we will have in the coming year in order to make decisions that affect all of us. For example: can we afford to increase funding to our religious education, worship and social justice programs, make repairs and improvements to our building, or give well-earned salary increases to our staff? Pledges -- promises, really -- from our members and friends (yes, many non-members choose to pledge to the congregation) tell us how much we can do for each other in the coming year.

Our stewardship team is here to help you make a decision about your pledge and to answer any questions you may have along the way. Instead of attending one of our events, if you would rather have a canvasser reach out to you personally, please let us know. In the end, we want you to be able to say with gusto, IFG!

Stewardship Co-Chairs

David Garvoille (davidgarvoille@gmail.com)

Peter Norling

Reminder: Our by-laws require members to complete a pledge form each year and make a payment on that pledge in order to retain voting status.

## **Spring Music Worship Services**

### **Palm Sunday Service**

**April 13, 2014**

**Music of Johann Sebastian Bach  
Choir and Soloists of the  
First Unitarian Church  
with Chamber Orchestra  
William Peek, director**

### **Jazz Service**

**May 18, 2014**

**Choir and Soloists of the  
First Unitarian Church with  
The Ron Vincent Quartet  
William Peek, director**

## **First U welcomes our new members for February, 2014!**

### **Kim and Ron Charles and Daughter Sylvia**

Kim and Ron currently reside in Williamsburg, Brooklyn with their four month old daughter, Sylvia. Kim, originally from the city's suburbs to the north, has been living in NYC for 10 years. She is an early childhood special education teacher who attended the University of Florida (Go Gators!) and Bank Street College for her degrees in psychology and education. For fun Kim loves to travel, cook and ride her bike but is most of all enjoying her maternity leave to be with Sylvie. Kim is committed to food that is grown humanely and sustainably and strongly supports working towards a healthy planet in whatever way she can. Ron was born and raised in central NJ and attended Penn State for his undergrad degree in Mechanical Engineering. He moved to NYC after school, and is currently a Professional Engineer with JB&B Engineers in Manhattan. In search of a spiritual home in Brooklyn after moving to the borough, Ron was drawn to First U after reading about Unitarian Universalism on the internet and being surprised there was a religion that seemed to so closely match his personal beliefs of equality, freedom, and humanism. The community has been incredibly welcoming, and Ron is very excited to become a member, as well as invite his siblings and parents to come experience Unitarian Universalism first hand.

### **Gate Pratt**

Gate lives in Brooklyn Heights with his wife, d'Arby Toledano and their two children, Macon Toledano and Corbin Toledano. Gate and his family relocated from New Orleans 3 years ago. Before that they lived in Charlottesville, Virginia. Gate is an Architect, with 20 years of work experience in traditional residential, commercial and mixed-use projects. He is currently working at CWB Architects, restoring Brooklyn Brownstones. Gate is a third-generation UU and is happy to be raising the fourth generation. In addition to Architecture, Gate is a musician and songwriter, and plays the guitar, accordion and saxophone. He enjoys exploring New York and getting to know its varied neighborhoods, food and culture. While he was in New Orleans, he met some members of First U who were assisting in rebuilding the New Orleans church. He is happy to be a part of the First U family.

### **Alex Gecker**

Alex is from Richmond, Virginia. She studied economics at Princeton University, spent a year on a tutoring fellowship in Boston (where she attended Arlington Street Church), and now lives in Park Slope with her roommate Zach and cat George Costanza. She works as an assistant and data analyst for a nonprofit that runs public charter schools. Alex is working with the Small Group Ministry program facilitating our Thursday night group.

### **Ben Eisenstadt**

Ben has lived his whole life in Cobble Hill (he was born at LICH!). He is currently in the 10th grade at the all-boys Collegiate School on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, and is especially interested in English and History. He is a volunteer at the GO Project, a tutoring organization for children (and the beneficiary of our February Split the Plate program). Ben has attended First U since two days after he was born, and hopes to be a life-long member!

### **Emily Fisher**

Emily majored in Religious Studies at Brown University, which introduced her to Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Eastern religions, Judaism, and the history of the early Christian church, counter-balanced by courses in semiotics loaded with Freud, Karl Marx, and Michel Foucault. She moved to Brooklyn and became a fervent agnostic and a fan of Brooklyn. She pursued a career in documentary films and programming that led to assignments for PBS, Channel 13, Sundance Channel, and the US Centers of Disease Control about everything from self-taught sculptors to harm reduction for HIV positive injection drug users. After having children Emily segued to the less travel oriented and very locally based career of green building, renovation, and real estate brokerage. Her daughters, Sarah, 8; and Rebecca, 16, and husband, Rolf, live in nearby Boerum Hill.

## Weaving The Fabric of Diversity Annual Haitian Dinner

Weaving the Fabric of Diversity will host the 4th Annual Gala Dinner with Entertainment to Benefit Haitian Reforestation

The funds raised at this event, to be held on Saturday, **March 29th** from 6:00-11:00 PM and part of an ongoing mutual relationship, will be used to build hometown projects in communities in South East Haiti. This year the projects will have special emphasis on reforestation in Haiti. Both dinner and entertainment are a joint effort of the First Unitarian community and

FEDADSE\*. Sponsored by Weaving the Fabric of Diversity. Suggested donation \$25. Tickets are available during Sunday coffee hour at the First Acoustics Table.

\*FEDADSE (Federation of Associations for the Development of the South-East) is an umbrella organization of 8 Haitian "hometown" groups that give direct aid to South-East Haiti, many of which were hit by the January, 2010 earthquake. Projects include building and rebuilding schools, roads, clinics, libraries and bringing computers and computer skills to the community.

## Women's Alliance Film Series Continues this Spring

The Women's Alliance is proud to continue its film series this spring following a successful winter.

**March 21st - Calendar Girls** 2003 comedy based on a true story, starring Helen Mirren. In a small town in Yorkshire, England, Annie Clark's husband has just died of leukemia. Inspired by his speech to the local Women's Institute, in which he compared the flowers of Yorkshire to the women of Yorkshire, Ann's best friend, Chris Harper, decides to raise funds for the leukemia treatment wing of the local hospital. The Women's Institute chooses to publish a calendar with twelve of their middle-aged members posing in the nude. The calendar is a huge success, leading to an appearance on the Tonight Show.

**April 21st - Wadjda** : The first feature film shot entirely in Saudi Arabia and directed by a woman, Haifaa al-Mansour. Wadjda, an 11-year-old Saudi girl living in the capital, Riyadh, dreams of owning a green bicycle that she passes in a store every day on her way to school. She decides to participate in a Qur'an recital competition to try to win the money to pay for the bike. According to Rotten Tomatoes, a film critic's website, 99% of critics gave the film a positive review based on 68 reviews, with an average score of 8.2/10. The critical consensus is: "Transgressive in the best possible way, Wadjda presents a startlingly assured new voice from a corner of the globe where cinema has been all but silenced."

Both films will be screened at 7:00PM in the chapel.

## Mother Theatre Project Plans New Program

The Mother Theatre Project launched their spring project in February, a theatrical exploration of the Mind/Heart connection/disconnection. Through theater improvisation, movement, music and storytelling the group is co-creating a performance piece which will be presented on June 14th in the Chapel at First Unitarian. It is our hope to bring awareness to the separation of the Mind and the Heart and show how this separation permeates our culture. Using theater as the forum for expression allows for a variety of techniques

to experience this separation and also learn about modalities that are reconnecting the Mind and the Heart. A core group of members is meeting weekly to play and share their stories of disconnect or connection. We are open to other members and would welcome both men and women who have interest in this topic. Please contact Dawn Brekke at 516-924-4924 or dawn.brekke@gmail.com if you would like more information.



## Share The Plate Committee Goes To Work

For many years, First Unitarian has shared a portion of its collection with non-profit organizations that work for justice in our local community and throughout the world. Since our Share the Plate program was initiated, we have given away more than \$70,000.

In an effort to create a more inclusive process for selecting Share the Plate beneficiaries and in the spirit of our mission to fulfill our responsibility to the larger society by promoting justice and peace, the Board of Trustees formed a Share the Plate Committee (SPC) which has been charged with soliciting nominations from the congregation and selecting, from those nominations, an organization for the month.

An online and paper nomination form were created and shared with the First U community at the end of February. The SPC is excited to begin working together.

er. Additionally, in the coming months, the SPC will be setting up service opportunities with the organizations selected, when possible. Being able to support local non-profits financially and through service will further extend the impact of the Share the Plate program and give members of First U, the opportunity to see first-hand how their contribution impacts the community.

Oliva Nunez, for the Share the Plate Committee  
Andrew Bongiorno  
Jocelyn Smith

The on-line nomination form can be found at [www.fuub.org/home/justice/share>the>plate>2/](http://www.fuub.org/home/justice/share%20the%20plate%20/)

Paper forms can be picked up at the welcome table or contact Garnett Losak in the office to have one mailed to you.

## It's Never too soon to think about Summer

The Worship and Music Committee invites you to begin thinking about the summer service you've always wanted to lead. Each year, beginning with the third Sunday in June through the first week in September, services at First Unitarian are held in the chapel and are led by members of the congregation. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the spiritual ideas and experiences that hold great significance for you and that you would like to share with the community.

Summer worship is a departure from the rest of the church year. It is a time a experimentation and creativity. In recent years attendance at summer services has increased dramatically.

Need an idea? Last summer's service titles included,

- *Expressions of Faith; Zombies*
- *No!*
- *Universalism and the Gradebook*
- *The Interdependant Web of All Existence; Friends and Stories*
- *I Was Board President and All I Got Was...*

If you have a great idea, but still feel overwhelmed, be assured that The Worship and Music Committee will provide you with all the help you need including:

- a worship assistant to work with you
- a music accompanist/music director
- help organizing your order of service
- set up, sound, distribution of hymnals and programs, ushering

You may also choose to work with a friend or a small group. Some of our best services have been led by two or more people.

People who have led services have found it to be deeply rewarding. But don't just take our word for it. The following people have all led one or more summer services and are more than happy to share their experience: Julie Bero, Tasha Gerken, Rose Schwab, Sean Fischer, Ari Hoogenboom, Mark de Solla Price, Brian Dauth, Garnett Losak, Paige Carlson, Kirsten de Fur, Claire Sexton, Marquette Drakes, Catalina Bertani, Dawn Brekke, Stephanie Gannon, David Meadow, (and you?)

If you are interested in submitting an application, please e-mail Bob Bero at [robert.bero@gmail.com](mailto:robert.bero@gmail.com), or talk to any member of the Worship and Music Committee.

Bob Bero, Worship and Music Committee

## Spring Worship Calendar

- March 8 – Stewardship Kick-off, Rev. Ana Preaching,  
Welcome our new members, guest musician
- March 16 – Multi Generational Service, Rev. Ana Preaching
- March 23 – Rev. Ana Preaching,  
The Ten Commandments Series
- March 30 – Meagan Henry Preaching, Teacher Appreciation
- April 6 – Rev. Ana Preaching
- April 13 – Palm Sunday music Service, Rev. Ana Preaching  
The Ten Commandments Series
- April 17 – Passover Seder, watch for additional information
- April 18 – Good Friday, 5:00PM
- April 20 – Easter Sunday, Rev. Ana preaching
- April 27 – Meagan Henry Preaching
- May 4 – Flower Communion, Rev. Ana preaching
- May 11 - Jazz service, Rev. Ana preaching  
Ten Commandments Series
- May 18 – Senior High Bridging, Service of the Living Tradition,  
Annual Meeting, Rev. Ana preaching
- May 25 – Memorial Day Weekend, guest preacher
- June 1– Rev. Ana preaching, Ten Commandments Series,  
Davor Bibles
- June 8 – Rev. Ana preaching, last service before summer program  
begins. Welcome new members

## Annual Auction - Save the Date!

Join us on **Saturday, April 26** at 6 pm for First U's annual live-and-silent fundraiser auction. It's one of our best yearly evenings of entertainment and fellowship! As usual, we're seeking donations of unique tangible items, as well as special services dreamed up by members and friends of our congregation. We hope our cadre of fabulous cooks will again step up to contribute dinners and other food services. And what else can you dream up? Can you lead a tour? Teach someone to sew, draw, use a computer, fix a lamp, give a manicure? Would you host a cooking lesson? No donation is too unusual to be considered, so let your imagination run wild! For more information, contact: [Koren\\_Manning@yahoo.com](mailto:Koren_Manning@yahoo.com).

## Congratulations!

Charlie King, member of our congregation for 50 years and a deacon, received the Unitarian Universalist Association's President's Award for Volunteer Service. UUA President Peter Morales presented the award at last June's General Assembly, calling King "a strong and tireless advocate for racial equality, for the rights of people with disabilities, for creating a culture of generosity to support Unitarian Universalism well into the future." Congratulations Charlie from all of us!

# FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY BROOKLYN

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

## MISSION & COVENANT

We strive to be an embracing and diverse community of all ages whose members nurture, strengthen, and challenge each other to grow. We gather to celebrate our shared Unitarian Universalist values while affirming our individual beliefs. A spirit of hope and possibility inspires us to fulfill our responsibility to the larger society by promoting justice and peace. Because the congregation is meaningful in our lives and we freely choose to be here, we commit our talents and resources to live this mission.

## OFFICE

The Lathrop House  
48 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201

HOURS Mon–Thurs, 9:30AM–4:00PM  
Friday, 9:30AM–Noon

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E-MAIL [Office@fuub.org](mailto:Office@fuub.org)

## CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons *Senior Minister*  
Meagan Henry *Director of Education Ministries*  
Robert F. Petrillo *Dir. Congregational Services*  
William Peek *Music Director*  
Garnett Losak *Dir. Membership/Communications*  
Bert Eisenstadt *Children's Music Director*  
Carl Davis, Eric Cherry *Custodians*  
Elizabeth Deterville *Nursery Coordinator*  
Rev. Donald McKinney *Minister Emeritus*  
Rev. Orlanda Brugnola *Chaplain Emeritus*

## OFFICERS

Mark Holloway *Trustee President*  
*Trustees:* Michael Alcock, Tom Check, Brian Dauth,  
Diana Lu, Elaine Macken, Rachel Michael,  
Jeff Muller, Jaye Nelia  
Darnell Dawson *Treasurer*  
Alfred Blanco *Warden*  
Seth Faison *Senior Deacon*  
Alfred Blanco, Thomas Check, *Deacons*  
Olive Hoogenboom, Charles King,  
Constance Newsom, Peter Norling,  
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