

BROOKLYN UNITARIAN

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



Christmas Eve Services 2014

Family Service at 4 pm
Candlelight Service at 5 pm

The 5 o'clock Candlelight Christmas Eve service at First Unitarian will feature several new arrangements of traditional spirituals and carols by our music director, Adam Podd, as well as other contemporary choral arrangers. These reimagined Christmas tunes will draw from styles including gospel, jazz, contemporary, and classical. There will also be two major choral works on the program – Hoggard's setting of *Personent Hodie*, and selections from Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*. Pinkham was an American composer and organist, who studied composition with Samuel Barber, and held the position of principal organist for forty-two years at King's Chapel, a Unitarian Universalist church in Boston.

Featured performers include Marielle Murphy (soprano), Melissa Paul-Perez (alto), Dominick Corbacio (tenor), and Jon Dendy (baritone), as well as a brass quartet.

This year First Unitarian will add a 4:00 pm family service featuring familiar carols and stories of the season. The service will be held in the chapel which will be decorated with holiday greens. It has been several years since we've offered a more casual service especially for families with children. We are planning a worship that will celebrate the Christmas season in a way that is approachable to children of all ages. Of course some people may choose to go to both services and that would be great.

Childcare will be available for younger children at the 5:00PM service.

From Reverend Ana Levy-Lyons



Dear friends,
It's a bittersweet time in this city and this country. We're celebrating the winter holidays with all the usual lights and decorations and good food, while we're also processing a growing awareness of grim and inescapable realities, among them violence against people of color and our persistent failure to take meaningful action to protect our natural world. Can and should people of faith meaningfully celebrate in the midst of such fear and loss? Can and should we make merry while having such misgivings about our collective future?

As I see it, we can enjoy the holidays in good conscience by observing them, not as saccharine profusions of candy canes and reindeer, but as multifaceted traditions that already contain within them stories of suffering and oppression, triumph and hope. At this time of year, we engage the marbled complexity of our world through these stories. Thanksgiving contains within it the contrast of abundance with food scarcity around the world. Christmas contains within it stories of family poverty and perseverance and the vulnerability of a newborn infant who carries the seed of great power. Kwanzaa contains within it a people's struggle for community and identity in the midst of a wider culture of violence. Hanukah contains within it tales of oppression and liberation – a people's refusal to relinquish their faith. And then comes the New Year, which gives us all

the chance to rededicate ourselves to things we cherish most and collectively pledge to do better. In a similar spirit of connecting our faith traditions to our cry for justice, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has selected as the Common Read for this year *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square* by Paul Rasor. Congregations across the country will be reading and discussing this book, which challenges us to explore and claim our contribution as religious liberals to the pressing moral and ethical debates of our world. I invite you to read it and join me for one of two discussion sessions: Wednesday, January 7 at 11am or Sunday, January 11 at 12:45pm. You can order the book online, buy it at our Book Table at Coffee Hour, or just read it in our Servetus Library where we will leave a couple copies.

Lastly, I want to offer a reminder that the holidays can be a hard and lonely time for people. I ask you to be especially attuned to one another over the next month: invite members of the community to join you for meals even if you think they probably already have somewhere to go. Ask people how they are doing and be open to hearing a real answer. Rather than avoid the hard conversations this season as if they were unwelcome elephants under the Christmas tree, I invite you to engage them through the lens of our traditions and the compassionate spirit of the season.

Many blessings for a wonderful holiday season and beyond,

Rev. Ana

From the Music Director, Adam Podd

GRATITUDE

Hello First U members and friends! I'd like to extend a few words of gratitude to all of you who have individually and collectively made my arrival and first few months as your new music director so enjoyable, exciting, and artistically nourishing.

First, to the choir and section leaders who have already shown so much dedication and passion for the music we make each week: thank you! It is a joy to lead you all in singing the great choral repertoire of the past, as well as some brand new musical creations we've

brought to life for the first time this fall.

Another big thanks to anyone and everyone who has been so helpful as I navigate the systems, processes, and people of First U for the first time - especially the ever-wise Garnett Losak, who has a memory for detail like no other, and always points me in the right direction for whatever/whomever I'm seeking.

Lastly, I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for Reverend Ana, who has been an inspiring collaborator, a patient supervisor, and sets such a healthy tone for a

positive workplace. I am looking forward to the many more worship services we will design and lead together.

INVITATION

I have met many of you in conversation after worship services, meetings, etc., and I'm thrilled with the level of enthusiasm this congregation has for music.

Whether as listeners, performers, or both, I've met so many enthusiastic music-appreciators, which is an invaluable source of motivation for a church musician in my shoes.

I've also had a similar conversation with many potential, but not-yet-choir-members that usually goes something like this:

Me: "If you love music and singing so much, have you considered singing with the choir on Sunday mornings?"

Non-Choir-Member: "I'd love to sing in the choir, but sometimes...[logistical obstacle of some sort] makes it hard to be consistent, or commit to stuff long term."

At this point, I usually think to myself: "I should tell this person to just come whenever they can and not to worry about missing all the weeks that don't work out. I'd rather be able to involve anybody who'd like to sing, than have to lay down rules about how many choir rehearsals are acceptable to miss in a given season."

However, the truth is that's really not a great approach either, since whenever possible we're looking ahead at future weeks' music selections, and popping in and out week to week might leave some singers feeling out-of-the-loop or a little frazzled.

As a potentially less daunting, shorter term, and easier on your schedule solution, I'd like to invite anybody who's interested to try "Choir-For-A-Month."

Here's how it works: You pick any 4 consecutive weeks (doesn't have to be a full calendar month start to finish)

and let me know that you'd like to try "Choir-For-A-Month" starting on [date of first Sunday]. Then, you show up four times, and repeat as frequently or infrequently as you like. These slightly more organized bursts of participation will be mutually beneficial to everyone involved for a few reasons:

One reason is that with such a wide variety of music in the repertoire this year, putting in a whole month will likely give you experiences singing different kinds of music, and hopefully some that you really love. Getting in touch with the music that resonates with you, personally, is a powerful thing, and singing in the choir can be a very special way to do that.

Second, for logistical reasons, it's easier to keep things running smoothly if I have a general idea of how many people will show up in a given week. Whether I'm making copies, ordering scores, or programming a certain piece, having a good sense of the number of singers (and on which parts) can be a big help.

And third, the bite-size nature of this commitment will make it easier to follow through. We all have 'things' we'd like to do more of, or less of, and of course, sometimes we hit those goals, and sometimes we don't. I know, for some of you singing more is one of your 'things.' My objective is to find those of you who'd like to make music at First U, and help you set easy and attainable goals that allow you to do so comfortably and meaningfully.

If you have other brilliant ideas on how I might meet that objective, I'm all ears. I am ready to think and act outside the box to make music at First U Brooklyn a special experience for as many members and friends as possible.

Sincerely,
Adam

Spring FUUDGE (First Unitarian Universalist Dinner Groups Extraordinaire) Sign-Ups Begin Now!

FUUDGE Dinner Groups start up again on Saturday, February 7. Dinner groups are a great way to get to know other congregants while having fun over delicious meals. Dinners can be pot lucks at someone's home or at a restaurant or pizza at the church – group members decide. Dinner groups meet the first Saturday evening each month: Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2. Sign up at the Welcome Table or email Lee Pardee leepar@earthlink.net by Sunday, January 25.

From the Director of Membership and Communications

Happy Holidays! I unabashedly admit that I relish the winter holidays. Yes, I even enjoy the shopping and the gift giving. There are few things I love better than finding just the perfect thing for someone I love, wrapping it beautifully and setting it under the tree. The anticipation of Christmas morning continues to be joyful for me year after year.

Part of the joy of the holiday season is my family's Christmas Eve tradition. We attend the 5:00 PM Candlelight Service and then join as many old and new friends as we can round-up for dinner at a local Chinese restaurant. This tradition started many years ago when my children were small and has continued with more people joining (sometimes at the last minute) year after year. If you are so inclined, please feel free to join us. We gather in front of the church and walk around the corner to Montague Street. It's not fancy, but it's fun and all are welcome!

I am so pleased that we will have a family Christmas Eve worship service this year starting at 4:00 PM in the chapel. Meagan will lead with support from Religious Education chair, Becky Huffman. There will be familiar carols and stories of the season concluding with hot cocoa, cider and holiday goodies. If the earlier event seems right for your family, please join us. The tone will be right for children of all ages. Or, if you're a worship geek like me, go to both. That's what I plan to do.

When was the last time you brought a friend to church? While most people find our congregation online, they regularly report to me that they heard about Unitarian Universalism from friends or colleagues. Spread the Good News of our vibrant community to everyone you know. One day, when the time is right, they may just wander in.

Wishing all of you the happiest and healthiest of Holidays,
Garnett

Joining First U Brooklyn

Have you been attending worship services at First U for awhile? Are you feeling like you've found a spiritual home that nurtures your quest for meaning? Are you ready to give as you receive by participating fully in our community? If so, you are ready to be a voting member of our congregation. The next two New Member Sundays are: January 25 and March 15.

Before you join, we encourage you to:

- Meet with Rev. Ana (ana@fuub.org) or call the office to make an appointment - (718-624-5466)
- Attend one or more of our introductory classes - Generally the 3rd Sunday of the month
- Participate in one or more congregational activities

When you are ready to join, please let us know by filling out an "Intent to Join" form at the Welcome Table or emailing Marty Bernstein (MartyB@fuub.org). A Stewardship representative will then arrange a meeting to help you decide your pledge of an annual financial commitment. Once you have made your pledge, you are ready to sign our historic membership book.

Note: March 15 is the last chance to become a voting member before the congregational annual meeting in May. However there is another New Member Sunday – June 7.

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact our Director of Membership, Garnett Losak (garnett@fuub.org) or 718-624-5466. You can also read more about membership and download an Intent to Join form at www.fuub.org/home/community/membership/

The Time to Become a Member of First U is Now!

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Lauri Apple

Lauri is the technology evangelism specialist at Gilt.com. In this role she's responsible for editing and creating content for Gilt's tech blog (tech.gilt.com); running Gilt's public tech education initiative; serving as the tech team's community manager, public relations strategist, and employment branding strategist; and ~50 other things. She has a background in print and online journalism, public relations and the visual arts, and received her juris doctor from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Lauri came to First Unitarian for the first time in July 2014 after thinking for months about checking it out and was won over by all the friendly, warm people she met. It seemed like the perfect place to call a spiritual home, and to date it has been. She's been co-facilitating a small group ministry with Garnett, been attending TNT events, and even co-hosted the pre-Unifair fashion show with David Garvoille, and looks forward to contributing even more of her time and energy to this great community.

Judy Boals

Born and raised Catholic in Parma Heights, OH, a suburb of Cleveland, Judy always loved liturgical music, the rituals of worship and the beautiful stories of the saints. Jesus always seemed like a really cool guy and she continued to be drawn to Christian beliefs throughout her years as a student at Kent State University and even married in the local UU church. After an introduction to several 12-step programs in her mid-20's (she's 53 now), divorce, coming out and having a child (who's 15 now), she's happy to have found First U and the wonderful,

inclusive and loving community here. When not working obsessively as a talent agent, she tries to do good things for her family, friends and community on a daily basis. Judy, her partner, Dr. Elizabeth Lorde-Rollins and their son, Matthew Boals, live in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

Alison Derevensky

Alison is currently a 17 and a half year old youth group member. She has grown up in this congregation and you can ask her anything about any of the RE classes because she went through the entire RE program! (Not that she remembers everything though) She loves music and plays piano, guitar, clarinet and ukulele. Alison loves to sing (hence you'll see her in the choir every Sunday!). She writes her own songs sometimes and goes to concerts a lot. Alison especially loves First Acoustics here at First U. She also loves working with kids and learning from them because she think kids are pretty cool. She loves baking and listening to music of all kinds. Alison goes to LaGuardia High School for clarinet and is currently on her journey into college. Talk to her anytime about youth group, being a lay leader, or just being part of this Congregation! She's always around and in search of a good conversation.

Linda Downs

Linda moved to New York in 2006 to take the position of Executive Director and CEO of College Art Association, an international academic learned society for art historians and artists based in NYC. She was delighted to have the opportunity to move to New York on both a professional and personal level because it brought her closer to her

son, Justin, who had moved to New York ten years before to attend the School of Visual Arts and then graduate school at NYU. She lives in Park Slope. Linda has an M.A. in the history of art from the University of Michigan, post graduate study in cultural history at American University and a Ph.B. from Monteith College at Wayne State University. Her research centers on academic visual arts issues, museum studies and modern Mexican art and she has published on the work of the Mexican artist Diego Rivera including a monograph, *Diego Rivera: The Detroit Industry Murals*. Linda has been a Unitarian since the 1960s as a member of the First Unitarian Church in Detroit, Michigan; the River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, Maryland; and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities in Davenport, Iowa. She has attended several Unitarian churches in New York since moving here and was attracted to the First Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Brooklyn because it provides a spiritual and moral challenge for me, is a diverse community and maintains a welcoming and open atmosphere.

Emily Mathieu

Emily was raised in a loosely quasi-Catholic family with lots of leeway to find her own spiritual path. Before finding First U, for many years she had no spiritual community, although her interest in religion, philosophy and social justice have always been part of her life. Emily had been aware of Unitarian Universalism since she was a child, but it didn't click the few times she encountered it. She discovered First U during the winter holiday season

in 2013; looking for a Christmas Eve experience that was "spiritual but not (too) religious," She found so much more. Emily is very grateful to everyone at First U who has been so welcoming to her family. She loves the friendliness, the values, the thought-provoking sermons and discussions, the huge variety of activities and ways to get involved in the congregation, and the beautiful music every week. She is inspired, soothed, and energized--or some combination--every time she comes to First U. Raised in Rutherford, New Jersey, Emily has lived in New York City for most of the past 20 years and in Brooklyn for 9 years. She now live in Crown Heights with her husband and five-year-old daughters, Opal and Penelope, who enjoy the RE programs.

Sam McElvie

Sam moved to New York 4 years ago from Oakland, CA where she worked in progressive politics and climate science education. She lives in Brooklyn Heights with her sweet terrier, Ted. Sam works for a software company in DUMBO that runs text message marketing programs for political candidates (like Obama and Al Franken), nonprofits (like the Humane Society and the People's Climate March), and government agencies (like the National Cancer Institute and the NYC Dept of Health). Sam was born and raised on a sheep farm in central IL and got her undergrad and Master's pretty close to there, where she studied how people talk (or don't) about race. She's excited to get more involved with the Weaving the Fabric of Diversity group and loves the community here at First U!

Denise Wharton

Denise grew up in a Catholic household that was very involved in church..Everyone had a role in her family's congregation, from leader of song to altar boy to lectors. She loved the community aspect of it: the songs and the ritual and the belief that the group was her second family. As she got older, like many others, she came to realize that the teachings weren't reflecting the life she was leading so she ended up not going at all. As a young woman, Linda couldn't practice her faith in a place that she couldn't even serve at the altar, let alone ever have the possibility of leading the mass. Service to the community was a big part of her faith growing up and she continued to do that in her career, first as an RN in med/surg and prison health and then as a midwife within the city hospital system. Once Linda became a mother, it was very important for her to find the community aspect of church in a setting that incorporated a message she believed in. She wanted her daughter, Sonja, to have the religious education that helped shape the person she am today without the modifiers that she always needed to discuss her faith. Linda is very happy to have found these things within this congregation and without hesitation, she travels down from a faraway land, "The Bronx," every Sunday to be a part of it.

Brad Young

Brad was born in California, grew up in Colorado, but considers Tacoma, Washington home. After living in the Pacific Northwest for 11 years, Brad moved to New York in 2010 to pursue a Master's degree at the New School for Social Research. He spent the past four years searching for a spiritual home,

an openminded and openhearted place offering spiritual growth, fellowship, and opportunities for service. It was abundantly clear from my first Sunday at First U that he found what he was looking for. Brad lives in Flatbush and is a PhD student studying Political Science at the CUNY Graduate Center. Brad teaches at Brooklyn College.

From the Director of Education Ministries, Meagan Henry

The Religious Education Program at First U is off to a fantastic start this Fall! Our overall attendance is up and I've noticed an increase in regular attendance by several families. This is a great thing because we know that regular attendance increases children's sense of belonging and enables them to build friendships that will last. When we feel a connection to the sacredness of our faith community, we become deeply engaged in ways that last for the rest of our lives. And as we've experienced, this holds true for their parents as well.

Even with the increasing attendance in our classes, we still have room for more! Our space is not quite maxed out yet and some of our classes have a lot of room to grow. If you are thinking of inviting a friend or if you know of a family who is interested but just hasn't made that move to come visit yet, please let them know I am happy to meet to discuss our philosophy and program.

It is exciting to see the children and youth preparing for the Winter Holiday Celebration: Festivals of Light. They take their roles very seriously! One of the things I like about this particular holiday service is the way it gives children an opportunity to learn about the season and holidays while having fun. What a wonderful way to do Religious Education!

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality program is going strong, thanks to our OWL planning team. We will offer three separate classes this Winter/Spring (see announcements for details).

First U's Comprehensive Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education Program For all Ages Begins this Spring

Elementary OWL - Mandatory Meeting, Sunday, January 4th, 12:30-2:30PM - for all Parents of K-1 and 4-5 OWL Students. OWL for Kindergarten-1st grade will take place Jan 11-Mar 15 and OWL for 4th-5th grade will take place Apr 12 - Jun 7. There is a suggested donation of \$40/child (\$50 for non-members) for each program.

Spring 2015 - Adult OWL, Sexuality education is not just for youth- it's a topic we can continue learning about and exploring our whole lives. Join a six-session series open to adults ages 21 and up this spring: April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, and 17, 12:30pm-2:30pm. To register, contact Kirsten deFur (kirstendefur@gmail.com). There is a suggested donation of \$25/participant (\$35 for non members) for the program series.

Call for OWL facilitators of all levels- Are you interested in teaching sexuality education at FUUB? Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive sexuality education program implemented throughout the lifespan. The six age levels include Kindergarten-1st grade, 4th-5th grade, 7th-8th grade, high school, young adult, and adult. We are currently recruiting teachers for the 4th-5th grade class for April-May 2015, and the 7th-8th grade class for the 2015-2016 church year. Please contact Kirsten deFur (kirstendefur@gmail.com) for more information.

Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. Our Whole Lives covers topics and skills that both parents and students want to have available, but schools are less likely to cover. It is exciting that we have so many OWL offerings for our community.

Both our Coming of Age class and High School Youth Group are going very well this year. The COA youth have been meeting this Fall and are now matched with their mentors. They had a weekend spiritual retreat at the church, and even had a holiday "gender-bread" cookie decorating party. The High School Youth Group offered a wonderful worship service of their own creation in November. They are planning for their pilgrimage to Boston in the Spring and their pie sale raised over \$600 towards the trip!

I enjoyed offering the Spirit in Practice class for adults this Fall, and I am looking forward to holding more sessions soon. Religious education and spiritual growth are a lifelong exploration and I am happy to be on the journey with this loving faith community.

Many Blessings and Happy Holidays!
Meagan Henry

Religious Education Calendar

Winter Holiday Pageant: Festivals of Light, Sunday 12/21 at 11:00am, This multicultural and multigenerational holiday service features five festivals of light: Yule, Hanukkah, Christmas, Santa Lucia Day, and Kwanzaa.

Winter Festival: Holiday Party, Sunday 12/21 at 12:00pm, Chapel. Celebrate the season with delicious food and fun holiday crafts. Rumor has it we'll have a visit from a very special guest. Ho, Ho, Ho! All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Family Service, Wednesday 12/24 at 4:00pm, Chapel. Join Meagan Henry, Director of Education Ministries, Becky Huffman, Chair of the Religious Education Council, and others in the chapel for this family-friendly worship filled with stories, carols, and candles. There will be much singing and merry-making! Enjoy hot cocoa, cider, cookies, and fellowship after the service.

Frozen Sing-Along, Saturday, January 31st, 5PM. Do you want to build a snowman? Save the Date!

Adult Religious Education

Newcomers Introduction to Unitarian Universalism - Sunday 12/21 following worship

Yoga - Our resident Yoga instructor, Stephanie Gannon, leads an all-levels class every Thursday from 7-8:30PM in the chapel. Bring your own mat.

Common Read Discussion - Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square by Paul Rasor. - Sunday 1/4, 12:30PM

Sabbath Sundays - January 11th, March 8th and May 31st. Save the dates

Thomas Merton Centenary - January 22nd, 7:00PM (Brooklyn Central Library)

From the Forward First Brooklyn Planning Team

The Forward First Team that is working to plan for the congregation's future has been busy this fall. We met with congregational leadership (clergy, staff, board, committee chairs) in September, and held six focus groups in October and November to get input about a draft congregational purpose statement. Many thanks to all who participated. The Team is still at work, using your input to create the final purpose statement to be presented to the congregation for endorsement.

The Forward First Team was appointed by the board to study and plan for the future of the congregation with special attention to membership growth and leadership. We are working with Congregational Consultant, John Wemberly, and are also using your input to start the process of identifying goals and drafting strategies. We will share all of this to you in the new year, and look forward to getting more feedback and ideas from you then.

Lee Pardee
Chair

The Mother Theater Project

In cooperation with the V-Day project, the Mother Theater Project of Brooklyn First Unitarian is excited to be producing *The Vagina Monologues*, by Eve Ensler on March 13th and 14th at 7:30PM in the Chapel. Hailed by The New York Times as "funny" and "poignant" and by the Daily News as "intelligent" and "courageous." *The Vagina Monologues*, which was first performed off-Broadway by Ms. Ensler, dives into the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage and excitement buried in women's experiences.

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright / Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play and other artistic works.

The Mother Theater Project will begin rehearsals in January and will provide a safe space for exploring our own experiences as well as the traditional work of preparing for performance. A major part of the event is fund raising, and we are looking for people to help both on stage and off stage. Please contact Dawn Brekke to participate, and mark your calendars to attend.

dawn.brekke@gmail.com, subject: TVM
or call 516-924-4924

Weaving the Fabric of Diversity

On the 8th of November, WFD held its 14th annual interfaith friendship supper with the local Muslim community. We began the meal with large Medjool dates, tasting the sweetness of this ancient gift from the earth. At the tables, Muslims and UU's, Christians and Jews sat together and talked together. The small seeds so carefully nurtured over 14 years have brought forth the fruit of community. Board President, Michael Alcott spoke for our congregation – simple words of welcome and thanks. Sheik Abdul Malik (a philosopher of advanced years) stood, and with only a few words brought forth humor and caring. Dr. Adhmed Jaber, President of the Mosque, provided historical background.

Some attendees who came to this dinner for the first time were happy that it was a light event with community as its primary purpose. Three local politicians attended, as well as a contingent from Jewish Voice for Peace. This was an evening that brought laughter, wonderful food, and a little tear to the eye.

The wife of the Imam of the Dawood Mosque on State Street expressed her appreciation for our continuing friendship since 2001. Debbie Almontaser, a prominent member of the Muslim community thanked us and spoke movingly of the struggles ahead for the Muslim community in New York.

Thanks to all who and participated in the evening. And special thanks to those who cooked and made the tables so beautiful.

UniFair United!

Our congregation outdid itself at Unifair this year. We were able to repurpose an amazing amount of clothing and household goods that would have otherwise ended up in landfills, served a delicious and nutritious lunch of locally grown and sustainable foods, baked and distributed a mountain of holiday and goodies, and we raised over \$10,000 in support of our congregation's mission to work for social justice and help each other in our spiritual quests. Just as important, more than 100 members and friends pitched in to create a most memorable community event. Many thanks to all.

Nancy Welles, UniFair '14 Chair

FORUMS

Saturday, January 24th - Forum on Ferguson

“Ferguson - Events, Causes - What Now?” 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Speakers will include Reverend Clinton Miller of Brown Memorial Baptist Church, Vince Warren of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Anita Neal, and two young people who were arrested in Ferguson.

Sunday, February 1st, 12:45 in the Chapel -

Discussion on Haiti “How We Can Help in a Real Way?” with Meagan Henry discussing her experiences in Haiti and a representative from the FEDADSE (Federation des Associations pour le Developpement du Sud Est)

Sunday, February 15th, 12:45 in the FWR - Forum on Homelessness and Supportive Housing

with guest speaker Rita Zimmer of Housing+Solutions, an organization that offers community based housing for low income families.

We are also working with Jewish Voices for Peace to present films and speakers on issues around Israel and Palestine.

Tuesday, January 13th, 7PM in the Chapel - Forum “From Staten Island to Palestine: The Connections Between the NYPD and the Israeli Military.”

Tuesday, February 3rd, 7PM in the Chapel - Film

“Voices Across the Divide”. This is a powerful documentary and oral history project exploring the Israeli / Palestinian conflict through rarely heard personal stories.

Rita Pearl

Ushers and Greeters for December Holiday Services

Our holiday services are a festive time for many people. With lots of visitors, we particularly need additional help ushering during this time. Please consider signing up for one or more services during the month of December. There is a Signup Genius form on line:

www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0944a9ad23a46-ushers (link available through our website) Or contact Dawn Brekke at dawn.brekke@gmail.com subject: Usher/Greeter or call 516-924-4924

Worship Schedule and Religious Education Calendar – Winter 2014

DECEMBER

- 21-Dec-14 Winter Festival/Multi-Generational
24-Dec-14 Christmas Eve Family Service (4 PM, Chapel)
24-Dec-14 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (5 PM)
28-Dec-14 Vespers (4 PM) Led by Adam Podd and lay leaders

JANUARY

- 4-Jan-15 Rev. Ana/Parable Series
11-Jan-15 Rev. Ana
18-Jan-15 Meagan/Multi-Generational - MLK Weekend
25-Jan-15 Rev. Ana, New Member Sunday

FEBRUARY

- 1-Feb-15 Rev. Ana
8-Feb-15 Rev. Ana/Parable Series
15-Feb-15 Denny Davidoff, President's Weekend
22-Feb-15 Rev. Ana & Meagan/Multi Generational

MARCH

- 1-Mar-15 Rev. Ana/Stewardship Kick-Off (tent.)
8-Mar-15 Rev. Ana/Parable Series
15-Mar-15 Rev. Ana/New Member Sunday
22-Mar-15 Meagan/Multi-Generational
29-Mar-15 Rev. Ana/Palm Sunday Music Service

All Worship services begin at 11:00AM in the Sanctuary unless otherwise noted. Calendar is subject to change. Please check the weekly e-news or Website for weekly updates.

Welcome New Members

Please join the clergy, staff, and board of trustees in welcoming our newest members to First Unitarian:

Lauri Apple
Judy Boals
Alison Derevensky
Linda Downs
Emily Mathieu
Sam McElvie
Denise Wharton
Brad Young

Please see the online version to read their bios:
www.fuub.org/home/community/newsletters/

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

PHONE/FAX 718-624-5466/718-797-2916

E-MAIL Office@fuub.org

CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons *Senior Minister*
Meagan Henry *Director of Education Ministries*
Robert F. Petrillo *Dir. Congregational Services*
Adam Podd *Music Director*
Garnett Losak *Dir. Membership/Communications*
Bert Eisenstadt *Children's Music Director*
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