

OCTOBER 2011



**A Welcoming
Congregation**

UUSIS News & Views

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN STAMFORD

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Worship Services

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

Sunday, October 2

You Were Loved Before You Were Born -- Rev. Dawn Sangrey

You might think of yourself as an independent agent who is making your own way in the world. But you have inherited everything you have and everything you are. Our bodies, our language, our religious faith are legacies, not personal creations. What would change if you saw your life, your beliefs, and your accomplishments as gifts from your ancestors? With Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout the nation, we will celebrate Association Sunday by taking a special collection to support all our ministries.

Sunday, October 9

What is Spirituality? Part Two

Norris Wakefield & Maureen Ferrara Higle

Everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens by mistake. There are no coincidences. The service will explore this spiritual foundation and how we can choose to build our spiritual path upon it.

Sunday, October 16

1493 and the Creation of the New World -- Rev. Sangrey

The second voyage of Christopher Columbus changed the entire planet and all subsequent history by bringing together the cultures and ecologies of two worlds that had been, until 1492, entirely separate. According to the book *1493* by Charles Mann, "Columbus' voyage did not mark the discovery of the New World, but its creation." Our service will focus on the spiritual implications of this world-creating event.

Sunday, October 23

Women Hold Up Half the Sky – Jay Fountain & the Rev. Sangrey

Our United Nations birthday party, focusing on the UN's projects to empower women for a better world. Gender inequality has many forms, subtle and obvious, and remains a challenge in every nation. We will hear stories of activist women who have changed their worlds through their courage and commitment.

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Change and Renewal



The grasses are turning to gold. Asters and goldenrod toss their bright blossoms along the roadside. The trees are preparing to burst into flame. Earth turns away from the Sun. Autumn has come. It's a beautiful and melancholy season, a time when we savor each warm, sunny day. Soon enough it will be cold again.

The golden heads of the grasses are full of ripening seeds. They will blow about in the wind and fall to the ground to plant more grass. Fat slow bumblebees meander from flower to flower, mixing the pollens for next year's crop. Squirrels bury acorns, forget where they lie; oak tree sprouts. What looks like dying in the fall is sometimes an ending; sometimes it's another birth. Earth is replenished in fallow times, made ready for the new.

So it is with the congregation. Here in your second interim year, much has already changed with more change to come. The leadership and the membership will be making some major decisions this month not anticipated a year ago. You have come to another turning point, a time for transparency and honesty. Once again you will be wrestling with the fundamental questions: Who are we? What do we want? How can we best use our resources to serve the mission of this congregation?

The Rev. Phyllis Hubbell, an Accredited Interim Minister of many years experience, has recast the Five Developmental Goals of Congregations in the Interim Year into a simpler and more compact form. According to Phyllis, a congregation in the interim needs to

- come to terms with its history,
- discover its new identity,
- allow needed leadership to emerge,
- renew denominational linkages, and
- commit to new directions in ministry.

Let us continue together on your journey toward these goals.

I am glad to be walking with you.

Blessings.

The Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Interim Minister

President's Thoughts

Dear Members and Friends,

It has been a busy month as we start our new year together. Volunteers are coming forward to help with cleaning up the Sanctuary and Social Room, to staff the office and to tackle the many tasks required for UUSIS to function. Norris Wakefield's sign on the front lawn has attracted a number of calls for short-term rentals and Cristina Romero has been doing a great job of responding. Hopefully, we will also get a long-term rental or two as well to reduce our shortfall in the budget. Bright Minds is taking the classroom vacated by the International Institute of Connecticut, and our RE program will be able to make use of that classroom on Sundays.

Our Homecoming Service was a wonderful occasion, with the sharing of waters brought back from our vacations (I loved the water in the vase turning all blue from just a few drops of "faith"). Rev. Dawn challenged us to come together with new energy for this very important year in our history. And we will do it!

Linda King, Gaby Pareja and I met with a group called the Stamford Small Congregations Collaborative (SSCC) sponsored by the Interfaith Council's the Rev. Kate Heichler. There were representatives from four other local small congregations and we hope to share ideas, partner in social outreach projects, and support one another. While this starter group was predominantly Christian, we will also be inviting small Jewish and Muslim congregations to join us. Gaby will be exploring our first potential project – Family Night at the Neighborhood Link, a community center for day laborers in Waterside. We will be hosting the next meeting of SSCC on October 13th. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know.

The Board had its first meeting and got off to a good start, with Board members accepting "portfolios" for our various areas of responsibility. While No Vet Left Behind will not be moving in when St. Luke's leaves Metcalf House, Bob Hawley and Joe Gonzalez will be working with St. Luke's on a possible alternative. Stay tuned! The Board minutes are posted in the Social Room.

We are all saddened to learn of the death of Virginia Streitfeld, a long-time member and friend of so many of us. We extend our sympathy to her family and share with them in this loss.

On a personal note, my daughters are taking me to Prague and Vienna for a special birthday present, so I will be away from October 1st to October 8th. Can't wait!

Bonnie Currie
President, Board of Trustees

Above and Beyond

Homecoming Cleanup – September 10th YES, it's true! Just look at our Sanctuary and Social Room carpets and chairs now! Remember all those ugly stains? On the day before our Homecoming Sunday, a group of volunteers organized by Jay Fountain gathered at the church to create a welcoming environment for the new church year. Bob Sanders was on his knees going from stain to stain on our Sanctuary carpet pre-spotting, while Bob Nixon performed the same function for the Social Room. Karen Davis helped with the pre-spotting except for a time-out when she went to the First Congregational Church to help with their free lunch program. Jay pushed and dragged the carpet shampooer over almost every inch of both the Sanctuary and Social Room carpets. Christie emptied the dirty water and filled with a fresh solution each time and did her own pushing and dragging. Ann Preston tackled the coat closet, where, to our horror, we discovered a leak and mold. She had to throw everything out. Shelly Chase vacuumed the Social Room prior to the carpet treatment. Ann Rustici organized the supplies for First Friday. We are grateful to David Hoskins for his meticulous advice on the use of the carpet shampooers. On Sunday, after the service, Jay and Christie, along with David Rasekh, Tony Allam, Norris Wakefield and Rolf Maurer worked on cleaning the chairs in the Sanctuary. Thanks to all of you who made this minor miracle come to pass!

Book & Tag Sale – September 17th & 18th Our annual Book & Tag Sale was held in conjunction with the Downtown Special Services District's Arts & Crafts on Bedford, which always brings out a large crowd. After a successful Pizza & Sort party on Friday evening where we got set up, we opened our doors early Saturday morning for the day and then again after services on Sunday. The weather was perfect, cool with bright sunshine.

Rev. Dawn commented that it was like an Open House for UUSIS, and that describes it perfectly. So many neighbors and visitors flowed through our Sanctuary, admiring our lovely old building, asking about the banners and about Unitarian Universalism that it did seem like an Open House. Again and again, I heard people say, "I always wondered what was inside this building that I walk by so often." All those who volunteered found themselves spending time chatting and working together seamlessly to make the Sale a success. This event is always a "win-win-win" situation!

But the greatest credit goes to Helene Devin and her friend Audrey Parkinson. Their tag sale, along with donations from others, brought the people in and netted the most for UUSIS. Thanks to those who contributed books and items to the sale, including (but not limited to) Maisie Kahnstamm, Jay and Christie Fountain, Karen Versanti, Jeff and Linda King. The tag sale contributed to UUSIS over \$560 dollars and the book sale netted the balance for a total of \$825.00 to UUSIS coffers.

Aside from Helene and Audrey's tireless efforts, thanks go to Rolf Maurer, John Nolan, Ann Preston, Ann Rustici, Gaby Pareja and friend Ellen, Lynne Lane, Ann Scheps, David Hoskins

(for bringing a much-needed dolly!), Bob Sanders, Karen Davis, Will and friend Damion, Alfa Drent, Virginia DeRosa, Michaela Dockendorf and Ellie DeRidder (our star cashiers!), Debbie Schmidel, David Rasekh, David Devin and friend Byron, Nikki Barstow, Don Currie, Leslie Weinberg. I know I have forgotten someone and my thanks go to the unnamed as well as the named. It was a lot of work for everyone concerned and it was totally awesome how all of us pulled it off. *Congratulations!*

Bonnie Currie

Ministerial Search Committee

As you all may or may not know, we are ALL scrambling to see in which direction to go from here! Although our committee (your committee!) has been on schedule, if not ahead of schedule, we have been thrown a wrench! We will certainly know much more after this weekend when we can all meet and see just where our congregation can reasonably go in terms of a settled minister. Where we were at our Annual meeting is not where we are as we speak. Because of our finances, the Board will have to take a long hard look as to what we can actually afford moving forward. That will certainly be what guides us as YOUR voice in this process. Please, plan to attend any and every meeting going forward. As I have Always told you, we are only as good as the information that you feed us. Keep your fingers crossed that we can turn this around. I can assure you that we will keep you abreast of all that we are doing, as we have attempted to do in our first year. Feel free to contact any one of us if you have any questions.

Daniel Beltran
[dalexb4291@gmail.com](mailto:dalex4291@gmail.com)

Religious Education

During the 2011-2012 Religious Education year, the RE program for school aged children of U.U.S.I.S. will focus on the Tapestry of Faith **Moral Tales** Curriculum. The **Moral Tales** curriculum attempts to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools needed to make choices and to take actions reflective of our Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. **Topics that will be addressed in October include: Conscience-hearing the inner voice; faith, hope, and prayer; and empathy.**

The first Sunday of each month will be devoted to planning or working on community service. In October the RE program will coordinate the Coffee hour on October 30, 2011. The children are invited to wear their costumes and will be able to Trick or Treat for UNICEF during coffee hour.

Ellen Garcia, Religious Education Chairperson

Obituary

Longtime UUSIS member and friend to many, **Virginia Volcker Streitfeld** died on September 16th in her Stamford home of 45 years. The cause was respiratory failure related to breast cancer. She was 86.

Virginia was president of the Wellesley College Class of 1945 and remained active in the Unitarian Universalist Society of Stamford until her illness this year. Born in Lebanon Pennsylvania, Virginia grew up in Cape May and Teaneck, New Jersey, where her father was city manager.

After graduating from Wellesley, she taught the Navaho Indians at Crown Point, New Mexico. She went on to receive her Masters in Education at the University of Chicago. Living at International House, she met her husband, Harold Streitfeld, obtaining a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

After arriving in Stamford in 1963 with five children, Virginia collaborated with her husband to establish Aureon Institute. An East Coast counterpart to Esalen, it served as a laboratory for the Human Potential Movement, with growth-centered workshops in a TriBeCa loft and Wainright House in Rye, New York.

The marriage ended in 1970. Virginia received her Masters in Social Worker from Fordham University in 1973 and subsequently worked as a caseworker for Cardinal McCloskey Services in Rockland County, NY.

Since her retirement in 1989, she has pursued her love for gardening, travel and reading. Her passion for history found a focus in her genealogy project, tracing her family's history back to Germany for several generations. She had a special love for Cape Cod, where she began annual summer retreats with Wellesley chums in 1982, initiating family reunions there in 1992.

She is survived by five children: Lisa Streitfeld, David Streitfeld, Andrew Streitfeld, Susan Streitfeld and Victoria Streitfeld and four grandchildren: Rachel Streitfeld, Daniel Streitfeld, Steven Streitfeld and Lily Streitfeld and her brother, Paul Volcker.

A memorial service to remember Virginia will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford on October 22 at 1:00 PM.

Association Sunday 2011:

A Message from the Unitarian Universalist Association

We're Celebrating the Fifth Annual Association Sunday!

Since 2007, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has asked congregations to participate in annual Association Sundays to recognize and support, both spiritually and materially, the national work of the Association.

Association Sunday is a special opportunity for thousands of UUs across the nation to simultaneously celebrate our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism.

Our congregation will celebrate Association Sunday 2011 on **October 2**. As part of our service, we will take a special collection to affirm our common bonds and purposes as Unitarian Universalists.

The theme of this year's Association Sunday is Celebrating Excellence in Ministries, and funds raised from special collections at participating congregations will support the UUA, Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA), Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN), Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA), and other professional organizations. Grants to these organizations will support a range of projects, including scholarships, continuing education, an assessment of our ministries, and other projects that help religious professionals get the ongoing training they need to support thriving congregations.

We ask that each member and minister contribute individually as part of a special collection during services on Association Sunday. We suggest a recommended donation of \$20 per member.

UUSIS Information

PERSONNEL & CONTACTS:

Interim Minister – The Rev. Dawn Sangrey
(dawnsangrey@gmail.com)

Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Stan Aronson
President – Bonnie Currie
(curriesboth@aol.com)

Vice President – Linda King
(lindapking@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Robert Sanders
(treasurer@uusis.org)

Clerk – Diane Montgomery (203-918-1285)

Historian – Dorothy Sonn
(zoesgrandmasonn@aol.com)

Religious Education – Ellen Garcia

Membership – Jay Fountain
(fountain@optonline.net)

Ministerial Search Committee – Daniel
Beltran (Dalex4291@gmail.com)

Transition Team – Tony Allam
(antonio.allam@citi.com)

Music Consultant – Maureen Ferrara Hagle

Cleaning Crew – Juliet Ess

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

To submit an article or calendar event to
News & Views for the October issue, please
e-mail jstahlhut1@aol.com **no later than
October 15, 2011.**

Interim Minister's Schedule

Interim Minister's Office (203-348-0758);

E-mail: dawnsangrey@gmail.com

Office Hours: **Sundays** 12 – 2 pm, **Mondays** 10
am – 2 pm; and **Wednesdays** 2 pm – 7 pm. You
are welcome to make an appointment or simply
drop in during these times. Occasionally a
meeting will take Rev. Sangrey out of the office,
so it's best to call first.

When not in the office, Rev. Sangrey can be
reached at home at 914-666-6398. Except in
emergencies, please call between 9 am and 9
pm. **Thursday is her day off.** Routine calls
made and e-mail sent on Thursday will be
answered on Friday. For pastoral emergencies,
please call at any time.

UUSIS Office Hours

UUSIS Office (203-348-0708)

Volunteers will staff the church office on

Mondays and Fridays from 10 am to 1 pm;

Wednesdays 2 – 4 pm. The office phone will be
monitored daily.

October Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 Sunday Service: You Were Loved Before You Were Born, Rev Sangrey • 11:30 Religious Services Meeting	3	4	5	6	7 1 st Friday Potluck	1 8
9 Sunday Service: What is Spirituality? Part Two, Norris Wakefield • 2 nd Sunday Walkers	10	11	12 Board Meeting	13	14	15 Annual Chili Cookoff
16 Sunday Service: 1493 and the Creation of the New World, Rev Sangrey	17	18	19 Membership Meeting	20	21	22 1 PM Virginia Streitfeld Memorial Service, Rev. Sangrey
23 Sunday Service: Women Hold Up Half the Sky, Rev. Sangrey	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday Service	31	NOTE: Please check each week's Order of Service for other scheduled events or call the office, 203-348-0708. To schedule an event, please call the office.		Recurring: Mon – Fri: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 7:30-8:30AM Sat: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 9:00-10:00AM		

Second Sunday Walkers: Walk with Congregationalists in Pound Ridge, NY. Meet in the Social Room to get to Congregationalist new parking lot by noon. Contact ROBERTHAWLEY@aol.com.

Annual Chili Cook off: Contact Joe Gonzalez (flegon@netzero.net) for more information and to volunteer.