

UUSIS News & Views

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY IN STAMFORD

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Worship Services

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dawn's Message 2

Sunday, September 11

Homecoming -- the Rev. Dawn Sangrey

Come home to a new year in our liberal religious community. We will share stories from the summer as we bring water from our adventures for the Water Ceremony. We will lift our voices in song, light candles of care, knit together the fabric of our common life. The sermon, "Sensing the Enemy" reflects on the meaning of the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

An intergenerational service for people of all ages.

President's Thoughts 3

Sunday, September 18

White Mountains Meditation -- Rev. Sangrey

Each summer for more than 30 years, our interim minister has spent a week at hiking camp in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. This summer she found herself meditating about the camp community, how it works, how it resembles a faith community. People come to hiking camp to climb mountains. What brings people to our sanctuary on Sunday? We will explore the similarities and differences between Cold River Camp and UUSIS.

Religious Education 4
UUSIS Information

Sunday, September 25

Celebrating Seven Banners

Rev. Sangrey and the Sacred Circle Pagans

Our Sacred Circle Pagans will unveil and dedicate our new Pagan Banner. This service marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of religious diversity, symbolized by the seven banners hanging in our sanctuary. One of the sources of our Unitarian Universalist faith is "wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life." How can we more deeply encounter the wisdom of the world's religions? "People don't learn by staring into a mirror. People learn by encountering difference." --Ronald Heifetz.

Music in the Air!
Monthly Calendar 5

Dawn's Message

The Storm Is Passing Over

This morning on my way to the office I drove past a utility truck pulled over to the side of the road, guys in hard hats sitting in the truck and standing nearby with coffee cups. They looked a little worse for wear—grubby and unshaven, coming off a long shift perhaps or just coming back on.

My electricity had finally been restored the night before. What a relief! We all cheered when the lights came on. I thanked the guys as I drove past. "You're terrific," I said. "Thanks for the good work."

Losing anything we have come to count on is deeply unsettling. We expect the lights to go on with a flip of the switch, the roads to be clear, our computers and phones to connect us instantly with others. Losing these essentials is more than just inconvenient. It touches our human vulnerability. We all feel some level of disruption and helplessness.

Irene has blown herself out. Our lives are returning to normal. Still, that brush with our vulnerability leaves a mark, a sense of uncertainty, the bad taste of our impatience and fear that lingers after the power has been restored. We realize how dependent we are, how much we rely on things beyond our control for comfort and safety, how much we take for granted.

Our congregation is facing some shifts in leadership this fall. The interim years between settled ministers is often a time when people step down from their roles and others step up. These changes are unsettling. They remind us of how dependent we have become on certain individuals to play certain roles, how much we have taken for granted.

Healthy congregations establish rhythms of responsibility where people step down when they need to and others step up to fill the need. Be sure to express your appreciation to those who are moving on, acknowledging their contributions and thanking them for their service.

The Board and I are working with a host of new volunteers to continue the congregation's vital functions. These transitions always have their rough spots. We'll need to be patient and generous while things get sorted out. Together we will move toward filling these roles in new ways. Be prepared to offer your time and talents, and let the Board know what you can do to help.

An old gospel hymn "The Storm Is Passing Over" celebrates those days in our lives when we have weathered a tough time. It begins, "Courage, my soul, and let me journey on..." As we journey on together this year, let us support and encourage each other. If you lost power during Irene, I hope it has been quickly restored. If you're still feeling the after effects of the storm as you read this, I encourage you to call me so we can talk about it. If you're worried about the changes in UUSIS leadership, share your concern with me or someone else in our community.

I can't wait to see you. We will gather as one congregation for our Homecoming on September 11. Bring some water from your summer adventures for our new Water Ceremony. It will be good to be together again.

Blessings.



The Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Interim Minister

President's Thoughts

Dear Members and Friends,

As the summer winds down and we gather to begin a new year together, I want to thank those who provided our summer programs. The services were interesting, informative, spiritual, amusing, amazing and generally awesome. Janis Stahlhut, Rolf Maurer, Bob Nixon, Leslie Weinberg, Maureen Ferrara-Higle, Joe Gonzalez, Debbie Schmidel, Norris Wakefield and Julie Punishill, along with the poets of PoemAlley and the Sacred Circle Pagans gave us a varied series of talks/sermons/music that was consistently excellent. Thank you Religious Services Committee for your efforts.

Your Board of Trustees and various committees have been hard at work addressing the new challenges of this coming year. We have asked for volunteers for a number of projects and have been truly gratified by the prompt response to our requests. The spirit of pitching in is alive and well at UUSIS! Our two major areas of focus in the past month have been office coverage and responding to the needs of tenants and our buildings. We are making progress and we will keep you posted.

September will be a busy month with a building and grounds cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 10th, from 10: 00 to whenever we're done, and a Book and Tag Sale scheduled in conjunction with the Downtown Special Services District "Arts & Crafts on Bedford" on September 17 and 18th. The cleanup will ensure that we put our best foot forward on Homecoming Sunday, September 11th, and the Book and Tag Sale will allow us to clean out our own bookshelves and basements, add to our coffers, and bring the public into our buildings to view our lovely banners and learn more about UUSIS. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available in the Social Room after services.

On September 11th, in addition to our own Homecoming Sunday, there will also be a special service in the evening at Temple Beth El on Roxbury Road to commemorate September 11th, 2001. There will be flyers available at UUSIS with more information. I hope UUSIS will have a strong presence at this event.

This year will be an important year in our church history. The Board is meeting for the Annual Retreat at the end of August and will be setting some goals and seeking consensus on how we attain them. This is hard work and I'm glad that our leadership team is strong and dedicated. We invite your participation and guidance as we tackle the difficult issues ahead.

Our coming together in the fall always seems to bring new energy and renewal to our spirits. I look forward to greeting you all at Homecoming Sunday.

Bonnie Currie
President, Board of Trustees

Religious Education

During 2011/12 Religious Education year, the RE program for school age children of UUSIS will focus on the Tapestry of Faith **Moral Tales** Curriculum. The Moral Tales Curriculum attempts to provide children with the spiritual tools needed to make choices and to take actions reflective of our Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. Each of the 16 sessions of the curriculum has a central story in which real and fictional heroes and heroines display moral courage and spiritual greatness. Each session will include a combination of rituals such as the chalice lighting, sharing of joys and sorrows, and age appropriate hands-on and interactive activities to reinforce the content of the central stories. In conjunction with the curriculum we plan to involve the children in community service on congregational local and global levels. One Sunday per month will be devoted to planning or working on community service.

Mark your calendars! A parent orientation for the RE program has been planned for September 11, 2011 following the service. The children will be treated to lunch while the parent orientation is taking place.

Ellen Garcia, Religious Education Chairperson

UUSIS Information

PERSONNEL:

Interim Minister – The Rev. Dawn Sangrey
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Stan Aronson
Music Consultant – Maureen Ferrara Higle
Cleaning Crew – Juliet Ess
Newsletter Editor (volunteer):
Janis Stahlhut

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

If you would like to submit an article or calendar event (meeting, event, etc) to News & Views for the October issue, please e-mail jstahlhut1@aol.com no later than September 19, 2011.

Interim Minister's September 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, Wednesdays, and Fridays** from **10 am to 1 pm**, beginning September 7, and will monitor the office phone every weekday.

Music Is Always In The Air at UUSIS!

This summer's hymn-sing service was a success. Maureen thought so because she heard several comments like "I was surprised to find out I *knew* so many of them!" Hymns from both the fat and thin books were sung well by a nice gathering.

The UUSIS choir will perform on **October 23, November 20** and at our **Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24**. We hope to see a few new faces (and hear new voices) this year! . If you would like to join the choir please contact our Music Consultant, Maureen Ferrara Hagle (maureenfh@optonline.net).

Once again we will open our lovely sanctuary to the community of music lovers for a special organ concert this year. Watch the newsletter for more information on this!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5 Labor Day Holiday	6	7	8	9	10 Bldg & Grounds clean-up, 10am-??
11 Sunday Service: "Homecoming," Rev. Sangrey • RE Parent Orientation • Special evening service at Temple Beth El to commemorate Sept. 11 th , 2001	12	13	14	15	16	17 Book & Tag Sale in conjunction with the DSSD "Arts & Crafts on Bedford
18 Sunday Service: "White Mountains Meditation," Rev. Sangrey • Book & Tag Sale	19	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>NOTE: Due to short timing and Hurricane Irene, we were unable to gather and receive other events that are scheduled in September for publication. 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.</p> </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Recurring: Mon – Fri: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 7:30-8:30AM Sat: Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Room, 9:00-10:00AM Sat: Igreja Do Evangelho Quadrangular, Sanctuary & Social Room, 6:00PM</p> </div>		
25 Sunday Service: "Celebrating Seven Banners," Rev. Sangrey and the Sacred Circle Pagans	26					27