

# **UUSIS NEWS & VIEWS**

***The Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford***

## **JUNE 2010**

### **In this Issue:**

**UUSIS Calendar (p. 2)**

**Ron's Report, Parish  
Minister's Office (p. 3)  
Hours for June**

**President's Message,  
First Sunday Food (p. 4)  
Collection**

**Cinco de Mayo First  
Friday, Religious  
Services,  
Membership, Ladies  
Who Lunch, (p. 5)  
Understanding  
Magickal Energy and  
the Observer Created  
Reality**

**Above & Beyond, A  
Final Thought, (p. 6)  
Contacts &  
Information**

*June's Pastoral Care  
on call person is*

**Ariel Sirocco  
at 203-588-9309**



*For emergencies, please contact the  
Community Minister,  
The Rev. ReBecca Ames Sala at  
203-219-4341 or  
[ramessala@yahoo.com](mailto:ramessala@yahoo.com).*

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

#### **6/6: Blessing of the Animals Intergen —The Rev. Ron Sala and the Religious Education Program**

If you have an animal friend, please bring them (or their picture, if they're shy) for blessing. All are invited to join us in celebrating the many species that make up life on our planet.

**6/13: End of Year Celebration/Annual Meeting—  
The Rev. Ron Sala and President Joe Gonzalez**  
We'll have a short service, featuring a recognition of our hardworking volunteers. ***If you received a vase on Homecoming Sunday in September, please bring it to hold the flowers you'll receive in thanks for your service this year.*** There will also be a musical recital by children from the Religious Education Program. After the service, we hope you'll stay for our Annual Meeting.

#### **6/20: Summer Solstice—Ariel Sirocco**

#### **6/27: SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN! Committee on Ministry, "A Congregational Covenant"**

The Committee on Ministry will lead a discussion about creating a behavioral covenant for UUSIS. Among ourselves we must ask the question of what it means to come together as a spiritual community, and what is the best way to engage with each other.

Childcare is available in the Religious Education Building.

# JUNE 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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		1 Green Team Meeting, Conference Room, 7:30pm	2	3	4	5 Rental, Sanctuary and Social Room, 2:00-4:00pm
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6 Budget Review, Sanctuary, 9:00am •Religious Services Meeting, Sanctuary, After Service •Care Team Meeting, Sanctuary, After Service	7 Social Action Meeting, Conference Room, 7:30pm	8 Membership Meeting, Conference Room, 5:45pm •Board Meeting, Conference Room, 7:30pm	9 Ladies Who Lunch, Zody's 19th Hole, 12:00pm	10	11	12
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**NOTE:** This calendar has all events as listed by the time of publication. Please check with the Administrator at 203-348-0708 or [admin@uuis.org](mailto:admin@uuis.org) if you wish to schedule an event.

13 2nd Sunday Hikers, Rye Nature Center, After Coffee Hour •Annual Meeting, Sanctuary, After Service	14	15 Sacred Circle Pagan Group-Presentation, Social Room, 7:30pm	16	17	18 Welcome Dinner, Social Room, 4:00pm set-up/6:30pm Dinner	19
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20 Committee on Ministry Meeting, Rev. Ron's Office, After Service	21 UUIS Office Closed for the Summer; the Office will reopen August 17	22	23	24	25 Rental, Social Room, 11:30am-1:00pm	26
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**June Anniversaries**

1 Amy and Ray McAndrew  
4 Marge and Paul Laurent  
7 Virginia and Joe DeRosa  
10 Dianne and Paul Daddona, Ron and ReBecca Sala

**June Birthdays**

3 Owen McAndrew, Cristina Romero  
4 Jaime Versanti, Kimberly Versanti  
6 Arun Kumanduri  
12 Marianne Pollak, Greg Chrzczon  
15 Paul Laurent  
16 Samuel Montgomery  
20 Caitlin McConoughy  
22 Courtney Lane  
25 Janis Stahlhut  
26 Spike Vrusho, Sylvia Rosenfield

**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-∞

### *Ron's Report*

“Come, Come, Whoever You Are,” in our hymnal, is from a poem attributed to Rumi:

Come, come, whoever you are.  
Wonderer, worshipper, lover of leaving.  
It doesn't matter.  
Ours is not a caravan of despair.  
Come, even if you have broken your vow  
a thousand times  
Come, yet again, come, come.

Shaykh Faraz Rabbani writes, “This verse is not authentically ascribed to Mawlana Rumi. The meaning is sound, [however] if we understand the ‘coming’ mentioned as the coming of repentance ... a return to Allah Most High. Allah has called all His creation to ever-return to Him, from whatever state they are in to a higher state....”

“Repent” comes from a Latin root meaning “to regret.” In this time of leaving, I’ve had my share of regrets. What could I have done differently, better? I’ve asked myself. Members have come to me to express regrets of their own, wondering what they could have done to make our common mission more successful.

The call we feel as people of faith is a lofty one. We do well to remember the words of the poet, acknowledging our human imperfection and calling us back again to our Highest Good (by whatever name). As of Aug. 31, by our own decision, ReBecca and I will leave our ministries here with you. Though I regret hopes not fulfilled, I celebrate the many that were. I wish this caravan good travel as you come again to the best the Spirit of Life is calling you to!

In order to aid transition, standard practice is to not have the outgoing minister take any part in the life of the congregation during the interim period. If you would like to talk with me, I would welcome that and encourage you to be in touch between now and my last office hours on June 17.

*Rev. Ron*

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## **PARISH MINISTER’S OFFICE HOURS FOR JUNE**

### **PARISH MINISTER’S OFFICE HOURS FOR JUNE:**

Mon., Tues. and Thurs.: 2:00 – 6:00PM  
Weds.: Day off. Emergency calls only.  
Other times available by appointment.

Last office hours: June 17

You may call the Rev. Ron Sala on his mobile phone at 203-559-9620 between 9:00AM – 9:00PM on remaining days of week. Emergency calls any time.

E-mail: [ron.sala@uuisis.org](mailto:ron.sala@uuisis.org)

Direct Office Phone: 203-348-0758 to leave a private message.

*Rev. Ron*



## *President's Message*

As we approach our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 13, I've been reflecting back on how much we have accomplished over the last year and the challenges that we face ahead of us. It has certainly been an active year here at UUSIS. We have gone through the processes of rewriting our Mission Statement and completely overhauling our Bylaws. To be sure, these were very labor-intensive tasks, and I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone involved with both of those efforts for your time and commitment. Both of these efforts will go a long way toward helping to shape our future here at UUSIS. As it turns out, the timeliness of their completion ended up being more important than we had realized.

By now I'm sure most if not all of you have heard about Rev. Ron and Rev. ReBecca's impending departure from UUSIS. We now face a challenge that we haven't seen here in 9 years...the search for a new minister. The Board of Trustees held an emergency meeting on May 18 to become familiar with our options going forward, and their potential impact on our Society. We decided that a part-time interim minister would best suit our needs for the next year as we begin our search for a new full-time minister. Whether we get a 1/2 time minister or 3/4 time minister will now depend on you. At our Annual Meeting on June 13, we will be discussing allocating most of the funds for the interim minister's salary from our Endowment Fund. Because of the low turnout in pledges this year, it is the only way we will be able to afford to pay an interim. The Board and I strongly feel that a ministerial presence during the search process is an absolute necessity to our Society. This minister would be a trained advisor to our Search Committee, on top of being a guiding presence for our congregation. Many congregations also experience some membership growth during an interim period, and a minister would help encourage that growth. We have already submitted an application for interims to start checking us out. Once the congregation votes on how much money to allocate at the Annual Meeting, the Board will hopefully begin interviewing candidates with the goal of hiring an interim to be here for our September homecoming.

In the meantime, the Board is also putting together a Ministerial Search Committee to begin work immediately after they are officially elected at the Annual Meeting. They will begin working through the summer to gather information from all of you about what you would like to see in our new minister. This is a unique and exciting opportunity for all of us to have a hand in shaping our future. I encourage all of you to participate in the survey process and be both thoughtful and honest in your replies. The Search Committee has a huge task ahead of them. Let's all commit to helping them out as much as possible. It will make the search process that much easier. Our goal is to have a new minister in the pulpit for September 2011. While I am admittedly nervous about the process ahead, I also see an amazing opportunity for us. This will begin a new era for UUSIS, and I am proud and excited to be a part of it. Let's make the most of it!

If anyone has any questions or concerns, as always, please contact me personally or at [trustees@uuisis.org](mailto:trustees@uuisis.org).

*Joseph Gonzalez, Jr.*

### **FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION**

***For May, UUSIS donated 54 lbs. of food to The Food Bank!***

**Most Needed Food Items:** Mashed Potatoes • Fruit Cocktail • Canned Tuna / Canned Chicken • Soups • Carnation Instant Breakfast • Breakfast Cereal • Peanut Butter / Grape Jelly • Juices • White or Brown Rice (2 Lb Bags) • Powdered or Parmalat Milk • Pasta • Jarred Spaghetti Sauce • Canned Stews • Canned Vegetables (Corn, Cut Green Beans) • Applesauce • Crackers • Dried Beans (Pinto Beans, Black Eyed Peas, Lentil, Kidney) • Macaroni & Cheese

**PLEASE NO BABY FOOD OR PERISHABLES!**

**Food collections are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.** We keep a basket in the kitchen for those who bring food on other days. Any questions, please see Janet Cory or Tara Fleck.



## **CINCO DE MAYO FIRST FRIDAY**

Thanks go to Dot Sonn for creating the sign-up poster and following up on the who-is-bringing-what, and to Lee Sullivan and Dot for setting up the Social Room for our feast. Thanks to Helen Devin and Michaela Dockendorf for taking charge of the kitchen during the heating-and-serving portion of the evening. Thanks to John Nolan and Debbie Schmidel for their Herculean efforts at the sink and dishwasher, and I will take credit for the laundry gig – 8 tablecloths, 3 dishtowels and numerous cloth napkins (we gave serious thoughts to our remaining “green” at future events!) And a final thanks to all who brought the delicious food and helped to take down the Social Room afterwards. Cinco de Mayo was well celebrated at UUSIS.  
*Bonnie Currie*

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## **RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

Each Sunday, we gather together for worship to find old and new friends, discover a connection to the world and look for some spiritual guidance for the week ahead. It takes a lot of people to make this experience a meaningful one. It takes greeters, people to ring the bell, volunteers to take the collection and people to take down equipment after services. It is only through our congregational community and eager volunteers that we can make this happen. If you are interested in becoming a greeter or ringing this summer or fall, please contact the Religious Services Committee to find out how you can help out for a few minutes before, during and after worship services. It is only through your time and effort that we can make worship a more meaningful experience. If anyone is interested in helping, please call or email Bob Nixon. Bob Hawley will be organizing summer services.  
*Bob Nixon*

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

If you are new to UUSIS, we have an event for you! We will have a Welcome Dinner on June 18 at 6:30pm in the Social Room. Come and make some new friends over a simple supper. The purpose is to sit with someone that you don't already know –established members, new members, visitors. Please RSVP at coffee hour or by Evite in your e-mail.

If you are new and would like to share your faith journeys, and learn about the congregation's mission and vision, we are in the process of scheduling a New to Stamford UU workshop. Please see Caitlin to learn more.

If you want to become an owner of our house of worship, please see Caitlin or Bonnie about becoming a voting Member.

*Caitlin McConoughey*

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## **LADIES WHO LUNCH**

Ladies Who Lunch will meet at Zody's 19th Hole on Wednesday June 9, at 12:00pm. Please contact Ellie de Ridder (203-637-2902 or [dutger@optonline.net](mailto:dutger@optonline.net)) and let her know if you will be there. The restaurant needs to know how many will attend. Thank you.

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## **UNDERSTANDING MAGICKAL ENERGY AND THE OBSERVER CREATED REALITY**

**Presented by: Ariel M. Sirocco**

How do we use our personal energy as a tool for manifesting our desires? What is the science of transfiguration? How exactly is it that prayer, spell casting, affirmations, and creative visualization work? In this lecture, we'll explore the science of raising and directing energy – from its potential uses in spell craft to energetic healing.

“We do not see the world as it is, we see the world as we are.” ~ The Talmud.



## ABOVE & BEYOND

A very large thank you to the four members of our Congregation who planned, organized and executed an excellent and creative fund raising event on May 1. **Neil and Yinan Danilowicz, Cristina Romero and Rama Kumanduri** should be congratulated for making the evening a success. It was a very wonderful gourmet dinner with cocktails in the Social Room and the main courses in the Sanctuary. We were treated to a four course dinner with a special wine for each course, ending with poached pears in champagne sauce and miniature fruit tarts. The tables were beautifully decorated and the hosts did all of the work themselves, as well as donating the food and wine. Neil worked especially hard printing up fliers and place cards, selling tickets, handling mailings and organizing so many details as well as doing a lot of cooking. It was a big undertaking and a lot of hard work but they raised a nice amount of money to help fill the gaps in our budget. Thanks again from all of your friends here at UUSIS.

If you want to recognize someone or a group who went "Above & Beyond", please write a brief paragraph and submit to Tara Fleck, Office Administrator, for inclusion in the next newsletter.

### A FINAL THOUGHT...

**"If you limit your actions in life to things that nobody can possibly find fault with, you will not do much."**  
— Charles Lutwidge Dodgson  
("Lewis Carroll")

### LOST AND FOUND:

**IF YOU HAVE LOST ANYTHING AT UUSIS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE. ALL UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO GOODWILL. CONTACT THE OFFICE ASAP IF YOU ARE MISSING ANYTHING.**

### SUBMISSION INFORMATION

If you would like to submit an article to UUSIS News & Views, please e-mail [admin@uuisis.org](mailto:admin@uuisis.org) or call (203)348-0708. Articles are due by the 15th of each month and should be fewer than 200 words.

**Parish Minister** – The Rev. Ron Sala  
**Community Minister** – The Rev. ReBecca Ames Sala  
**Minister Emeritus** – The Rev. Stan Aronson  
**Music Consultant** – Maureen Ferrara Hagle  
**Office Administrator/Newsletter Editor** – Tara Fleck  
**Cleaning Crew** – Goodwill Industries

**President** – Joseph Gonzalez  
**Vice president** – Neil Danilowicz  
**Treasurer** – Bob Sanders  
**Clerk** – Bonnie Currie  
**Buildings and Grounds** – Neil Danilowicz  
**Pastoral Care Lay Ministry Team** – Nancy Furnas  
**Committee on Ministry** – Bob Nixon  
**Fellowship** – *Open Position*  
**Finance** – Rama Kumanduri  
**Membership** – Caitlin McConoughey  
**Religious Education** – Jacqueline Carlsen  
**Religious Services:** Robert Hawley & Leslie Weinberg  
**Social Action** – Robin Gans  
**Publicity** – Jeff King  
**Green Team** – Linda King & Mike Berlinski  
**Denominational Affairs** – Diane Montgomery  
**Historian** – Dorothy Sonn  
**Photographer** – Ray Mosher  
**Rental Coordinator** – Diana Martinez  
**Director of Personnel** – Eleanor Dennis

### **The Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford**

*20 Forest Street, Stamford, CT 06901*  
*Phone: 203-348-0708 / Fax: 203-358-0029*  
*Email: [admin@uuisis.org](mailto:admin@uuisis.org)*  
*Web: [www.uuisis.org](http://www.uuisis.org)*

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**E-mail:** [ron.sala@uuisis.org](mailto:ron.sala@uuisis.org)  
**Direct Office Phone:** 203-348-0758 to leave a private message.

### OFFICE HOURS UNTIL JUNE 18:

**Tue., Thurs., and Fri.:** 9:00AM – 3:00PM  
**E-mail:** [admin@uuisis.org](mailto:admin@uuisis.org)  
**The office will reopen August 17.**

