

MORRISTOWN
UNITARIAN
FELLOWSHIP

August 2017

Volume 62, No. 8

From our Minister...



Rituals help us to creating meaning out of the chaos of our lives – the ever-changing nature of what it means to be alive and to experience great joy and great sorrow. They help us to honor milestones, including the person who we were before the event, the person we are, and the person

we are becoming. Rituals can be anchored in traditions that have been our companions for millennia, or they can be invented and adapted to suit new eras and circumstances.

Unitarian Universalists are well known for doing both and for the degree of freedom we have in choosing our rituals as communities and as individuals. The impulse to call our congregation may come at a time when someone wants to honor a significant transition, but they feel the faith rituals of their family of origin no longer work for them.

Rituals help us to be better prepared both spiritually and emotionally to meet the needs presented by unwanted and longed-for changes. Spiritual practices and ceremonies help us to mark our grief, to move towards acceptance, to celebrate, to resolve, and to commit. The circumstances that prompt the desire for a ritual are wide-ranging. I have worked with members of our congregation and in the wider community to honor the following: a birth, an adoption, a death, a marriage, a divorce, a new home or leaving home, a transition through illness or back to wellness, a new vocation, a tragedy, a coming of age or aging ceremony.

Rituals release us from the past and move us towards the future. Elizabeth Gilbert, author of <u>Eat, Pray, Love</u> writes, "We do spiritual ceremonies as human beings in order to create a safe resting place for our most complicated feelings of joy or trauma, so that we don't have to haul those feelings around with us forever, weighing us down." This doesn't mean that a ritual is a "quick fix." Rituals symbolize and connect to a larger process of healing and journeying from one destination to another often with physical, emotional, and spiritual dynamics that are interwoven with one another.

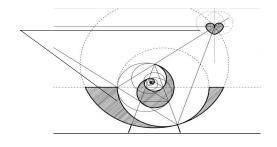
It is important to note that there isn't one type of ritual that works for everyone who goes through a particular event. First, we are diverse in our religious heritages, which offers certain resonances and revulsions. Second, people connect with the sacred in different ways and through multiple paths. One thing I love about being a Unitarian Universalist minister is that we are free to work with individuals, families, and communities to tailor what makes them feel most alive or connected. This is one reason I never wind up doing the same exact wedding twice.

Summer can be a time of creative play for many of us. Designing a ritual is a form of art. I invite you to create a ritual this month that honors a transition you are going through or hope to go through. Please, don't hesitate to reach out to me if you'd like a partner to think through how to create something meaningful.

In faith,

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Morristowa Unitarian Fellowskip 21 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown NJ 07960

Sunday Services: 10 am

Service Auction November 4, 2017 "More Fellowship, Less Stuff!"

Our annual service auction is coming sooner than you think! Our slogan for this year is "More Fellowship, Less Stuff!" What does that mean? It's built into our name - Morristown Unitarian Fellowship – that what defines us is how much our members share in the work



of our congregation.
This fall, the service
auction is focused on
having every member and
friend reach out in
fellowship to every other
member and friend. Start
thinking about what kind
of offering you can
provide "in fellowship"!

Ideas?

- Home gatherings, such as dinners, game nights, popcorn & movies, family nights
 - Excursions such as hikes, trips to New York City Museums
- Services such as offering landscaping/yard work, decorating, painting
 - Food such as baking cookies, breads, soups, dinners "to go"

Fellowship Activities: For those that don't have homes large enough, our building can be reserved for your service auction event.

Note: We still want creative things you make that you'd like to offer, but we're focusing on activities that bring us together in fellowship as our theme for this year!

Need help refining your offering idea? Please contact the idea coaches: Donna Perch or Dan Cohen.

Have general questions about the Service Auction or want to help organize?

Please contact Barbara Stasiak.

Mission and Covenant Statement

We, the members of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives. This is our pledge:

- ◆ To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal
- ◆ To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence
- To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian Universalist movement
- ◆ To work for social justice and the wellbeing of our planet Earth

Staff

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Judy Donovan-Lifschulz re@muuf.org

Custodians: Sergio Lopez-Rojas, Marili Quintos

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 2 pm

973.540.1177 www.muuf.org

Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/morristownunitarian

We are seeking a full-time Acting Director of Religious Education (DRE)

Do you know the person who we would want to interview to be our next Director of Religious Education? Please visit and share this Lifespan DRE Job Opening.

Details and Job Description at:

www.muuf.org/dre-search



Do you know someone we may want to pull in as our next DRE?



Ice Cream Social & Games

That will include a

TOAST & ROAST of Tim Atkins!

Saturday, August 19

from 1:30 - 4:30

Join us to celebrate our DRE, Tim and to wish him well in his new position at Cedar Lane.



INGATHERING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH!

We will participate in our annual

Water Communion

Bring fresh, clean water from a place that is connected to you... home, a swimming pond, a special place, etc. Following this Multigenerational Service, we will have a potluck and Fall Festival with activities for all ages.



Network
Meeting
& Taco
Night!

Our first network meeting of the 2017-18 year will be on **August 31**, 7 pm. Committee chairs, chair elects, and liaisons are all encouraged to attend.

We will discuss the new format of the network meeting, participating in leadership development, making introductions, and begin a mentoring type program. Dinner will be provided. RSVP required, log-in to Realm, click on "Community," select "Events," and scroll down to August 31st. Or go to:

https://onrealm.org/MorristownUnita/Registrations

Membership Engagement Opportunities

Looking for ways to "plug in" with like-minded people, and to apply your talents and build new skills to strengthen our Beloved Community? Here are some volunteer opportunities for engagement, along with the names of the contact people who can help you with more information.

Welcoming (Membership Development)

Cintra Fricke - Serve as Sunday morning Welcoming Ambassadors; staff the Sunday welcome table; help with events to welcome and orient newcomers.

Caring (Membership Development)

Tricia Armstrong – Volunteers will issue and track meal and ride requests; deliver flowers after Sunday services; call and/or visit a member or friend in need of more connection.

Fun Ministry (Membership Engagement)

Jerry Weinstein – Committee members will help create opportunities for folks to interact with one another in fun, relaxed, informal low-cost events; help develop/gathering ideas for events and ongoing activities; find volunteers to run events and ongoing activities; encourage and promote participation; and develop and organize larger scale efforts such as Meals with UU friends.

<u>Publicity</u> (Membership Development) - Dan Reidy – Looking for new committee members: with marketing experience or an interest in marketing and be creative and resourceful; to be a liaison between other UU congregations, to leverage our knowledge, expertise, resources; have writing skills for announcements, promotions, and general informational content to keep our social media streams active; with graphic artist skills who can relatively quickly generate material for social media; who can do video editing to generate social media clips from service recordings. Recording or video production experience a plus. May involve producing some short videos.

UU Denominational Affairs - Carolyn Luken -

Committee members need to: share information from Central East Regional Group (regional UU information) & from UUA (national) with our congregation via bulletin board, newsletter column, or what's happening; be good at researching and organizing information, dependable dissemination in agreed-upon fashion; generate interest among the Fellowship about UU affairs at regional & national levels, along with excitement about attending the UUA General Assembly.

Realm Training

Our new database Realm is an amazing tool that all of our members and friends have access to. As we get close to the new program year, we will use Realm to: communicate, process payments, and even for you to get access to your end of year tax statements!

Need some help learning how to use Realm?

We will have a training session on Monday, August 21, 4 - 6 pm. Bring your laptop if it is easier to learn on your own computer. Please RSVP.

For a personal training session, contact the office to schedule a time with a Realm "expert" volunteer!

Bocce Mondays - Don Preziosi and Toby Tyler are having bocce events in August. Sign up and come out for this low level competitive experience.

We play at the Morris Township bocce court, behind the Hillside Hose Co., 132 Western Ave, 6:30 pm, on Monday August 7 and 21. Park on Brookfield Way, parallel to Western off Molly Stark Drive.

We supply the equipment and know how; you bring snacks or beverages. Stephanie's deli on Western is open till 7 pm. Playground available for children.

We have room for 16 players and loads of cheerleaders. Contact Toby Tyler.



Tim Atkins Director of Religious Education

As many of you know, I am finishing up my tenure as your Director of Religious Education (DRE) in early September to become the next Director of Lifespan Religious Education at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, in Bethesda, MD. It's an immense honor to be called to serve in this historic religious education program, but I am also incredibly sad to leave all of you here in Morristown.

August will be my final month here in Morristown, and we have a lot to accomplish together this month. I want to make sure your program is ready to go, so that your next religious educator can hit the ground running and have an entire program ready to go. I will need your help in getting the program ready for your next religious educator.

What are ways you can help set your next religious educator up for success right now?

Volunteer to teach in the children's/ youth RE program for the next year. By the end of August, every teaching team should be filled with folks excited to make a real impact in your children and youth. Teaching changes lives – not only our children and youth, but also your own. You don't need to be an expert teacher, you don't need to be an expert Unitarian Universalist – you just have to have a positive attitude and enthusiasm. Contact me at dre@muuf.org to talk about what class might be best for you.

Interested in offering an Adult Learning (AL) Program? We are putting together our Fall courses right now – if you are interested in doing so, contact myself or Susan Oxman, Adult Learning Chair adultlearning@muuf.org

Serve on one of our RE Committees! We need a couple more folk to serve on both the Children's RE Committee and the AL Committee. The AL Committee specifically needs one or two folks who are comfortable creating graphics on the computer, technology in general and our new database program. The Children's RE Committee needs a couple folks excited about creating the children's and youth program of your dreams, with an eye towards family programming and family ministry. If interested in either, reach out to me! Committees meet monthly with about 2-5 hours of work between meetings.

Finally, when your next religious educator arrives, greet them with the same open arms and loving heart that you greeted me with, and when they ask for your help offer it! Realize going in that they aren't going to be perfect, just as I'm not perfect, just as none of us are. Trust that they are going to continue to help you create the religious education program of your dreams. Trust that they will grow to love you just as I have.

It has been a joy and an honor serving you these past four years. Thank you for all you've done and all that you will continue to do to change the lives of our children and youth. Thank you for being a congregation that takes its commitment to its children and youth seriously and that honors the work of religious education. And thank you all for changing my life too.

Sunday Morning Volunteers Needed!

Looking for cheerful, welcoming volunteers to help with Ushering, Welcome Table Staffing, and be Welcome Ambassadors. The commitment is one Sunday service a month beginning in September. All ages and families are welcome to help! Email Mandi at admin@muuf.org, for more information or to sign up!

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

The fellowship has a thriving young adult group for folks in their 20s and 30s.

Along with a monthly lunch-out, the group often participates in a variety of other events. In August, the group will meet for our monthly lunch in the great hall immediately following the 10am Sunday Service on **August 13**.

On Saturday **August 26**, Brooke Donaldson welcomes all young adults to enjoy a Campfire and Potluck Dinner at her home, starting at 6 pm.

Please contact **youngadults@muuf.org** for directions and more info.



CHANGES TO THE GIFTS OF CONSCIENCE HOLIDAY FAIR

Having Our Gifts of Conscience Holiday Fair this year is at a cross road. *Ten Thousand Villages* has changed their procedures regarding their merchandise and it is no longer feasible for us to sell their products. We have not yet been able to identify another, comparable fair trade vendor to order from.

We have nine local and global organizations that partner with us in this event each year. Last year these groups raised over \$12,000, mostly in sales to our members. These proceeds help them support their missions. We do not make a profit from this event and it takes about 35 volunteers to make it happen.

So we are interested in your ideas on how to proceed. Possible options might be:
Host the gift fair for just our partner groups on the first Sunday in December.
We could try to get additional charitable/mission driven organizations to partake.
Identifying another anchor merchandiser and continue the gift fair as in previous years.
Or, we can take a break this year while the congregation re-imagines a new holiday gift fair.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Congratulations to grandparents **Tanya Van Order & Beat Barblan** - Remy Tanya Mathew was born on May 26 to Susanna and Ankur and Claire Doris Barblan was born June 27 to Matthew and Jen.

Our condolences to **Linda DeLap** on the passing of her mother who was 100 years old! She was a kind, gentle person, who made friends wherever she went.

Wedding Anniversary Congratulations to:

Elbjorg and Rudi Berkenkamp Rudi who celebrated their 60 year anniversary **Ken** and **Nina Nemeth** who celebrated their 32 year anniversary!

Ron Corey has come home to continue his recovery. Help is very welcome - help with their transition and with moving Ron. Contact Catherine via email if you are able to volunteer.

Gratitude to Franklin Heller for stepping in and stepping up to serve as our new President-Elect.



MIND PRACTICE

Facilitated by Stefano Crema
We will begin meeting again in
September and will continue
every other week on Thursdays.
We will meet on September 7 and
September 21, 7 pm.

Meditation will be explored not only as a relaxation tool but as a technique to check and get rid of negative emotions before they have a chance to overwhelm our awareness and dictate our behavior. For information, contact Dan Byrd at adultlearning@muuf.org.



DINNER CHURCH

at the Fellowship, on Sunday,

August 20, 4-8 pm

Facilitated by Jamie Boyce, Ministerial Intern.

Join a group of 12 to 15 people who will practice the sacred tradition of breaking bread as a form of worship and reverence. More than a potluck, we will cook a vegetarian meal together and share a table of love and fellowship.

Participants will be invited to create the menu.

Please sign up with Jamie by August 13 at intern@muuf.org.



Our SIX ACRE SEVA group will meet on August 2 and August 15

Do you have a green thumb? Love nature? Looking for a wonderful way to be outside and bond with other members? Then come and join our crew!

Stylish attire might include: your favorite work clothes, gloves, bug spray, and a sun hat! Don't forget to bring water and a hat!

Questions? Contact Steve adultlearning@muuf.org.

FILMS & SCREENINGS

YEARS OF LIVING PRICELESS DANGEROUSLY

"Priceless" Screening Tuesday, August 8 at 7 pm, presented by Green Earth Ministry (GEM) in collaboration with Put a Price on It and Citizens' Climate Lobby. This episode of the Emmy award-winning National Geographic climate documentary series Years of Living Dangerously describes the personal effects of climate change and how it can be mitigated through political will. Actress Nikki Reed highlights efforts in the US to solve climate change by putting a price on carbon pollution. Former "Daily Show" correspondent Aasif Mandvi demonstrates the need for immediate action to save endangered species. This 50 minute film will be followed by a panel discussion to engage us in dialogue about carbon taxes, climate change, and local activism. The event will be open to the public, so bring friends and family members! No reservations required, optional donation to benefit GEM and the Fellowship. Contact Linda DeLap at greenearth@muuf.org.



Film "Dear White People"

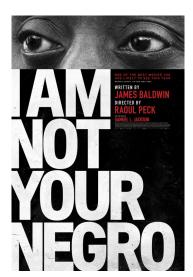
will be shown on Thursday, **August 24**, 7 pm facilitated by Jamie Boyce, Ministerial Intern.

Come for a screening and discussion of the important questions raised by this film. It's part of our continued work of consciousness-raising around the issue of white supremacy and the anti-racist work within our congregation and the world.

All are welcome and snacks are welcome, too. No registration required.

For more information, contact Jamie at adultlearning@muuf.org.

Thinking of offering an Adult Learning Program? Please send your course proposal to Susan Oxman at adultlearning @muuf.org.



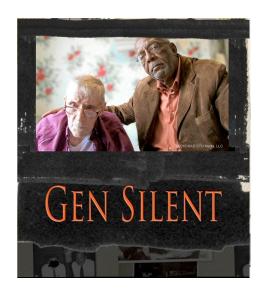
UPCOMING SCREENINGS
THIS FALL:

Screening of the movie "I Am Not Your Negro" and discussion afterwards, facilitated by Jeanette Clawson,

Screening of the documentary "Gen Silent"

and discussion afterwards, facilitated by Robin Schneider

For more information, contact adultlearning@muuf.org.



The #1 New York Times Bestseller

Dreams from

The **MONDAY BOOK GROUP** meets on the third Mondays of the month in the library. Newcomers are always welcome. Join us for lively discussions.

Reading the book helps but is not a prerequisite! Books are chosen by the members.

Upcoming books and meeting dates are:

August - summer break, no meeting

September 18 - Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race

and Inheritance, by Barack Obama

October 16 - Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison

November 20 - Between the World and Me,

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

December 18 - What Looks Like Crazy on An

Ordinary Day, by Pearl Cleage

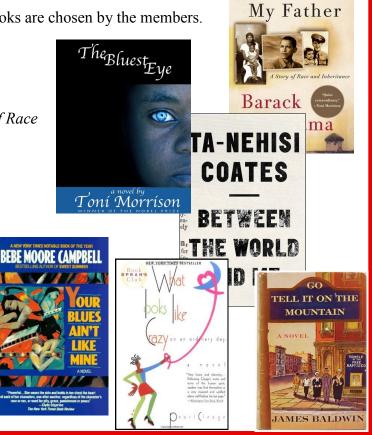
January 15 - Go Tell it on the Mountain,

by James Baldwin

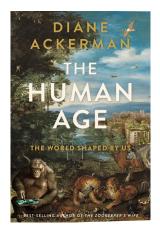
February 19 - Your Blues Ain't Like Mine,

by Bebe Moore Campbell

Contact Nancy Lee McLure for information



Nonfiction Book Club for Human Reflection



facilitated by Gloria Dyer will meet at 1:30 on Tuesday, August 22 This new, ongoing group will meet every two months.

Our August book will slant a little more toward science but is a very readable volume by Diane Ackerman called, "The Human Age: The World Shaped by Us."

Contact Gloria with any questions at adultlearning@muuf.org.

VEGETARIAN DINNER GROUP

You are what you eat - as people become more conscious about their health, vegetarian food has become a very popular and healthy alternative to the traditional foods we have been eating.

The Fellowship's Vegetarian Dinner group has been meeting monthly for many years.

We typically meet Sunday afternoons at 5 pm, sometimes at members homes and sometimes at restaurants.



On September 24, we will be meeting at Roxanne Hiltz and Murray Turoff's house on Shongum Lake in Randolph. They have six kayaks right on the lake and would like to invite those who might be interested in finding out more about our group to join us for dinner and if interested, kayaking. Kayaking would begin at 4 pm, dinner at 5 pm. Contact Roxanne Hiltz.

SOCIAL and ENVIRONMENTAL Action Council

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE: SEAC

will next meet on August 10, 6 pm. All are welcome.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE MINISTRY

Immigration Justice Ministry: IJM is pleased to announce that the fellowship has formally endorsed the Fair and Welcoming resolution under consideration by the Morristown Town Council. If passed, this resolution would offer protections to minorities in Morristown against unwarranted detentions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials.

For more information, contact immigration@muuf.org or Joan Belz

GREEN EARTH MINISTRY (GEM)

We understand that the continued release of carbon and other pollutants in the air will result in the greatest catastrophe that our planet has ever faced.

Many of us have participated in political actions, such as letter-writing campaigns and marches, to convince our government to change its policies. However, there are simple, inexpensive changes that we can make to our own lives that will reduce our carbon footprint. Although many of us cannot afford to purchase or lease a hybrid or electric car, there are other actions that we can take, such as:



- 1) switch to a green supplier of our electricity,
- 2) purchase or lease solar panels, or
- 3) offset our carbon footprint.

Our website provides details on how to do these things at: http://muuf.org/gem-reducing-carbon-footprint/.

Need help? Contact Bob Calafiore who will gladly work with you to help you pick the best plans for you.

TRANSYLVANIA TIDBIT - Visit in July 2018

In honor of the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda, the Transylvanian and American Unitarian churches have put together a program to allow partners to explore the other's beliefs and culture more deeply. Here is a summary of the Roots program. http://muuf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Roots 2018 summary.pdf

This experience will culminate in a program in Aranyosszék, Transylvania from July 11 – July 15, 2018. The minister of our Partner Church, Rev. Dénes Pálfi, has invited us to participate and sends his fervent hope that we will be able to. http://muuf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Roots program 2018.pdf

I had been hoping to do another trip to Sinfalva in 2018, and this is a perfect fit. Anyone who would like to visit our Partner Church next summer, please contact me. And please look at the Partner Church page on the Fellowship's website http://muuf.org/partner_church_committee/ For information, please contact Gabor Kiss

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Ongoing Weekly Events:

Sunday Mornings 10 am - Worship Service Coffee Hour after service

Mon - Sat Mornings 7:30 am AA

6:30 pm GAAMC **Tuesday Nights Monday Nights**

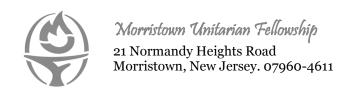
Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

7:30 pm Men's Consiousness Group

y Nights	Folk Project's Minstrel Concerts
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rid	8 pm
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6:15 pm Choir

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Upcoming	Upcoming Ingathering Sunday The Sent 17 - Children's		1:30 pm Adult Learning		10 am Gentle Yoga	9 am OWL Training
Events:		7 pm Sunday Services 7 pm Finance Committee	1:30 pm Immigration Just		5 pm OWL Training	
9	7	8	6	10	11	12
10 am Sunday Service 11:30 am OWL Training			:		10 am Gentle Yoga	12 pm CC w/ Tish
	6:30 pm Bocce	6:30 pm Film: Priceless 7 pm Endowment	6:30 pm CC w/ Andrew 7 pm Board Meeting	6 pm SEAC		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10 am Sunday Service		1 pm CC w/ Susan			10 am Gentle Yoga	1:30 pm Ice Cream Social
				7 pm CC w/ Diana West		
20	21	22	23	24	25	. 26
10 am Sunday Service		1:30 pm Non-Fiction Bk	10:30 am Cordial Conv.		10 am Gentle Yoga	
4 pm Dinner Church		7 pm GEM	6 pm CC w/Hazel Bell	7 pm Endowment 7 pm Dear White People		
27	28	29	30	31		
10 am Sunday Service 3 pm CC w/ Alice						
	7 pm CC w/Marjorie			6:30 pm Network		



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August 6 at 10 am

" Justice, Just US?"

We all hope and expect justice, equity and compassion in our human relations. But what about immigrants, refugees and minorities? Who is providing justice for them?

In this service, we will share our experiences as teachers, parents, lawyers and volunteers working to create a world community of liberty and justice for all.

- led by Joan Belz and Gloria Friedman

August 13 at 10 am

"A Rule to Live By?"

Reflecting on "The Golden Rule" we will consider how we might live more deeply into caring for each other, loving each other, even when it seems impossible.

- led by Jamie Boyce, Ministerial Intern

August 20 at 10 am

"A Theology of Not Yet"

We can't always get what we want, either in our personal lives or in our quest for a better world. Sometimes, it seems as if God or the Universe is just saying "No!" But Rabbi Harold Kushner proposes that He/She/It is simply saying "Not yet!" How can we learn to be patient, keep our sanity, and still work toward our goals in the face of delays and obstacles?

- led by Danelle Simonelli

August 27 at 10 am

" Summer's End Service for the Earth"

A celebration of creation in song, sermon, poetry, and prayer.

- led by Jamie Boyce, Ministerial Intern