

# The Quest

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County

APRIL 2025  
VOL. 60, NO. 8



## PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR APRIL

Sunday services are both in-person and online, and they start at 10:30. (Religious education classes are in-person only.) Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs are online at [meet.google.com/kss-abvh-ipw](https://meet.google.com/kss-abvh-ipw) or by phone at 478-308-5688, PIN 921 793 045#.

**Apr 6. Project Self-Sufficiency.** Since its creation in 1986 (with the involvement of our late member Sonya Hulbert), Project Self-Sufficiency of Sussex County has grown into a multi-faceted nonprofit agency meeting a wide range of community needs, including employment, health, parenting, food, domestic abuse counseling—and even Christmas gifts and prom dresses! Their programs truly support “the inherent worth and dignity of every person.” Come learn the many ways they meet the challenges faced by their clients.

**Apr 13. There’s a Poem There.** In honor of National Poetry Month, two of our favorite, established local poets, with whom most of us are familiar, will present a reading. Led by Jane Ebihara and Elaine Koplow.

**Apr 20. Margaret Fuller.** Margaret Fuller was a brilliant writer, activist, and journalist. Megan Marshall’s Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Fuller describes the author of *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* as a superb thinker and conversationalist, who was Henry David Thoreau’s editor and Ralph Waldo Emerson’s best friend. Led by Dr. Linda Watkins-Goffman.

**Apr 27. The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s.** The Alzheimer’s Association® has a series of caregiver skill-building courses. Each course includes questions to check existing knowledge and exercises to apply new learnings to personal caregiving situations. Today, we’ll learn how caregivers can recognize common early signs of Alzheimer’s in themselves and others, and identify steps to take, including how to talk to their doctor. Led by Mary Beth Lewis of the Alzheimer’s Association.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.*
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.*
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

**SAVE THE DATE FOR SPRING  
FLING 2025—MAY 3, NOON!**

See pages 5-7 of this issue.

*The Quest* is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For the most up-to-date information, go to our website, [www.uunewtonnj.org](http://www.uunewtonnj.org). Our phone number is 973-579-7210.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



## ICE: Seeing through the Lies

The Trump administration is barreling ahead with its plan to deport thousands, or even millions, of undocumented migrants. And the politicians behind it tell the same story—the current targets are the murderers and other extreme criminals among those migrants.

Funny thing, though. If you were looking for murderers, where would you expect to find them? They would typically be in prison or at least under indictment. Yet, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are ignoring the prisons and, instead, are pulling people off the streets and out of homes.

So, apparently, ICE has identified thousands of very serious criminals among us, unknown to the police or local prosecutors. ICE has not shared this crucial information with the police, otherwise all these killers would have been apprehended a long time ago!

If this is what's happening, the ICE officials themselves should be arrested for withholding critically important criminal information. And ICE should be required to show the proof it has about all these alleged, unpunished crimes.

The alternative is that ICE is wildly exaggerating, or even inventing, the criminal allegations. Where are the names of the deportees? What are the dates and details of their supposed crimes? What are the reasons that ICE has kept this information to itself rather than sharing it with police? Why are none of these supposed criminals in jail when ICE picks them up?

It's time to end this charade. Our leaders in Washington are playing an old card. You scare people into agreeing with you. You tell them they are surrounded by terribly threatening, violent criminals, and you expect most people to be relieved when you attack the supposed problem. Then, you simply claim that everyone you arrest is one of the criminals.

It was the same story in Springfield, Ohio, late last year. Our current president, in a debate with rival Kamala Harris, declared that Haitian immigrants were eating other people's pet cats and dogs. There was no proof at all of that claim, not a smidgeon of evidence. But it had shock value. Lots of people believed it.

Certainly, in every population, there will be a smattering of criminals. But only in fantasy land would thousands of murderers exist among migrants (or any other group), unknown to the police or the rest of the justice system.

**We are hearing lies, told by people who know better, to justify the racial and ethnic hatred that is actually at the core of the deportation plan.**

Stu

# THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Dear families and friends,

With the arrival of April, we embrace the energy of spring—a season of renewal, growth, and action. Our *Powers Within You* curriculum invites children to explore how they can create action of their own to spark change in the world. This month, we continue learning about the power of fire and begin to welcome the power of water.

Through the power of fire, we'll shine our light by recognizing the gifts we bring to others, follow our passions and discover what inspires us, turn passion into action to make a difference, and reach out to build connections and strengthen our community.

As April showers bring May flowers, we also begin exploring the power of water—a force of gathering, persistence, and healing. Just as water carves through stone over time, small acts of kindness and justice can shape a better world.

I encourage you to find small ways to talk with your children about these values every day. Thank you for your continued support in helping them bring these lessons to life!

Warm regards,

Sharon and Pin, Religious Education Teachers

Below is a preview of our RE classes for April.

**Apr 6.** This session focuses on immigration and the power of coming together to take action on the side of love. Then, we play viral tag to demonstrate the impact of uniting for a common cause. Finally, we discuss how to write an effective petition to make change in the world.

**Apr 13.** We begin making a tool or a game that is powered by wind or solar energy. We brainstorm in the weeks prior and start working today.

**Apr 20.** Today, we continue our wind/solar-powered project from last week.

**Apr 27.** We discuss the power of water. We add water symbols and the action words Persistence and Gathering to the Elements Mural.

Warm regards,

Sharon and Pin, Religious Education Teachers

***Mission Statement of the  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County***

**We seek to nourish the spirit;  
to foster peace, justice, diversity and understanding  
in our community and the world;  
and to cherish and sustain the earth and the web of life.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Discussion Group

The Discussion Group's topic for April 18 is *Taking Care of Things as You Age*.

If you're interested, join our email list ([ufdiscussion@gmail.com](mailto:ufdiscussion@gmail.com)) to get pertinent info about what we're discussing. Anyone who wants to join the group is welcome. Not all members are UU, and we encourage people of the community to join. Our web page URL is <https://www.uunewtonnj.org/index.php/discussion-group>.

## Social Action

UUFaithActionNJ is now offering Action Hours 12-1 pm the **first and third** Fridays of every month on Zoom. Increasing the frequency of the action hours will enable UUFaithAction to double their impact and be more responsive to emergent needs. The Zoom link, which is the same every month, is <https://zoom.us/j/94863677375?pwd=ckd2VVZJcDdwZDg3RHBBRzNxK1JpZz09>.

## A Farewell from Your Treasurer

As many of you have already heard, I am stepping down from my position as treasurer, and I am pleased to announce that Ned Hamilton will be taking over. It has been a true privilege to serve in this role and to volunteer for our Fellowship over the past few months. The time spent here has been incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such a wonderful community.

While my current commitments have made it necessary for me to step back, I look forward to being able to lend a hand again in the future, when my schedule allows. In the meantime, I will be working closely with Ned to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

A heartfelt thank you to Ned for stepping up and volunteering for this important role. I have no doubt he will do an excellent job, and I appreciate his commitment to supporting our fellowship.

Wishing you all the best, Mary

## Member Feedback on New Minister

The Minister Search Committee (Barbara Kelly, Jeff Wallis, Susan Felsen, Linda Watkins-Goffman) would like to thank everyone who took the time to either attend the in-person feedback session on March 23 or who emailed their responses. Your comments will be very helpful, both in recruiting a new minister and in setting the overall direction of UUFSC. Following is a summary of the major themes that emerged from your comments.

- The importance of being with like-minded people.
- The fact that services should focus on UU values and initiatives, and on moral/ethical issues. The importance of a spiritual (vs. religious) focus.
- The desire for more social activism, both because it reflects our values and it's a way of getting greater visibility in the community.
- The importance of RE.
- The need to attract new members.
- Greater visibility of UUFSC in the broader community.

Spring Fling 2025

# Fiesta de Mayo



**SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**NOON-3:00 P.M.**

**Mexican Lunch & Live Auction**

~50/50 ~Sign-up and Go ~Silent Auction

**\$20.00 Donation at the Door**

**No Siesta. Let's Fiesta!**

# Whatcha got?

Spring Fling is the annual FUNdraiser where you can use your skills, talents, and creativity to bring us together and bring in financial support for the Fellowship. It's easy to participate:

1. Mark your calendar.
2. RSVP that you're attending by signing up at the Fellowship or emailing Andi by April 27.
3. Think about what you might contribute to the auction.
4. Complete an auction donation form and return it to Anne by April 20, as indicated on the form (next page).
5. Come ready to eat, drink, bid, and enjoy!

If you are stumped for what you can contribute.....

- Creatives can offer items or lessons in their specialty.
- Cooks can offer to supply a meal (take home/delivery/host?).
- Bakers can offer to make their specialty/ies for ordering ahead or fresh baked for the event.
- Share an experience you enjoy (e.g., hike, a favorite restaurant, tickets to the theater, game night, movie night, sightseeing).
- Contribute your skills—writing, repairs, help with chores. (I'd love someone to help me fix my screen door!)
- Items you've made or an item of interest. (Not something you'd put out at a garage sale. Save that for our upcoming rummage sale.)

Contributing an auction item is not required, but I bet you have something to offer. Come show us what you've got!

Andi Randall  
Spring Fling Chair  
[alsrandall@yahoo.com](mailto:alsrandall@yahoo.com)

## SPRING FLING 2025 DONATION FORM



Please complete one form for each offering. Fill in all sections, and type or handprint legibly. If all sections aren't filled in or we can't read it, the form will be returned to you for completion. This form must be received by no later than **Sunday, April 20!**

Donor(s)		
Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		Email:
Service/Event/Object Title:		
Date:	Start and End Time:	Rain Date for Outdoor Events:
Max. People:	Min. Bid:	Date:
Category (check one below):		
– Education	– Entertainment	– Excursions
– Meals and More	– Miscellaneous	– Services Offered
– Signup and Go	– Artwork/Jewelry	– Services Needed
Description of service/event/object:		

Please send your completed form to **Anne Bouchenoire** so that it is **received by no later than Sunday, April 20, 2025**. Please email it to Anne at [abouchenoire@gmail.com](mailto:abouchenoire@gmail.com) or mail it to her at 15 Mountain Spring Drive, Sparta, NJ 07871. Feel free to reach out to Hal Cohen or Anne with any questions.

**KEY NOTE:** We will need a photo (in.jpeg format) for the Fling Catalog of all hard items that will be auctioned off at the Spring Fling. Please email a clear photo of each item to Anne.



# RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

RaiseRight, formerly known as ShopWithScrip, continues to offer the Fellowship a wonderful way to raise needed funds as you shop. UUFSC gets rebates of up to 13% on gift cards that you purchase from among more than 750 well-known merchants. You can buy gift cards by going to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). Please contact Sue Weiner or Hal Cohen if you have any questions about this program.

## UUFSC SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Please call or email Hal Cohen for your \$100 supermarket gift cards each month. Help the Fellowship earn 5% of each card purchased directly from the store, at no cost to you. Thanks!



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

**President: Stu Feldstein**  
**Vice-President: Phil Schaming**  
**Treasurer: Ned Hamilton**  
**Secretary: Richard Goffman**  
**Quest Editors: Susan Weiner, Richard Goffman**