

# The Quest

SEPTEMBER 2024  
VOL. 60, NO. 1

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Sussex County

## PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER



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, which are the same every week, are online at [meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj](https://meet.google.com/kww-ugyh-spj) or by phone at 413-679-2794, PIN 139 523 137#.

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

**Sep 8. Freedom.** The sounds, the symbols, the roots, and the many meanings of *freedom* have been everywhere recently. This has been due to the presidential campaigns, as well as to the fears and yearnings of Americans everywhere. We'll take a wide-ranging analytical look at the word, its meaning(s), and its relevance to us today. There will be several speakers, and we hope to elicit your ideas through give and take with the congregation. Led by Richard Goffman, Stu Feldstein, and others.

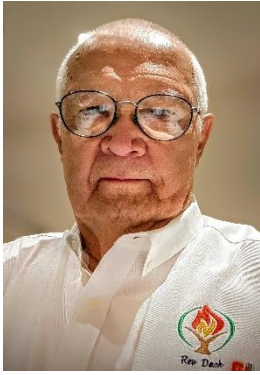
**Sep 15. Annual Water Ceremony and Homily on Community.** Please bring a small amount of water to represent summer significance, be it from the River Rhine or your tap. Words of meaning are an option. Rev. Doak will also offer a short reflection on community. Led by The Rev. Dr. Doak M. Mansfield.

**Sep 22. President's Service: Living through the Death of Facts.** The advent of the Internet has resulted in an explosion of information sources, and a similar explosion of alleged facts that often aren't checked and aren't true. The problem is peaking now, in an election year. Reality itself is becoming more uncertain. We'll look at how this has come to pass and what can be done about it. Led by Stu Feldstein.

**Sep 29. Unsung Heroes.** Linda Watkins-Goffman, a former flight attendant, remembers when her "glamorous" job took a dark turn and she found herself on flights into an active war zone. Operation Babylift was a desperate effort by unsung heroes in the days leading up to the fall of Saigon. Led by Linda Watkins-Goffman

- 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.*

*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.



## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Turmoil, change, and uncertainty are but a few of the descriptive words for our day. I suspect ancestors have said the same, but it seems all is rushed.

The polarization on about every issue is acute. What does the spiritual person do in such a situation? By spirituality, I mean the ideas and actions that are our strongest inspiration, value, and meaning.

Vital elements of a life lived well and spiritually healthy are the stories we have and share about our adventures—joys, failures, and hopes. I'm so glad we have our Fellowship for that, and that I can help us share in the great stories. I feel by doing so we can reflect on our life's stories.

I began my "circuit-riding" to the Mattatuck UU Society in Southbury, CT (July 1). It's surely an adventure working with two very different congregations. I feel challenges can build creativity and deliver joy. That will be my goal. My faithful Jeep has had a good tune-up, new tires, brakes, etc., as have I.

I've been invited to lead the services of the Dublin, Ireland, Unitarian Church (St Stephen's) Sept 29, 2024. My plans are to fly out September 25-26 and return September 30.

If you need me, I'm available by email and text (and, of course, phone).

Love,

Rev. Doak

***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.**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



## The Gift That Helps Your Friends

Welcome back from a long summer break! It's great to begin another season of spiritual development and communion with friends.

This September will be like no other you've recently experienced at the UUFSC. You are returning to a more financially stable organization. Something happened.

One of our founding members, Clare Callender, passed away in July at age 100. In her will, Clare left us a bequest of \$20,000. Clare led a life of service to others, as a school nurse and Planned Parenthood leader, and in death she wanted to help the group she had aided in its infancy.

This is the first bequest we've received in years. We'll put it to good use. You'll notice, for instance, that the dangerously rotted staircase behind the building has been replaced by a new pressure-treated construction. We'll be painting it when the wood has dried. This is merely the first use of Clare's gift.

We put in a great deal of work and time on the rummage sale to earn a fraction of what Clare provided. And some other fundraisers—like the old soup-and-sandwich lunches—generated just \$5 a head. These things really put the size of Clare's bequest in context. We'll be erecting a plaque in her memory, in the building.

Personally, I'm going to follow Clare's example, and I've spoken to another member who is doing the same. I know that, when my own time comes, I'll be comforted knowing that my second family, the UU, will be a beneficiary.

## Improvements!

The new stairway was built in August. It's the latest in a string of capital improvements—the busiest period for such work that I can recall.

The new landscaping in front of the building survived a summer with serious dry spells, thanks to some members doing watering.

Inside the building, we have new audio-visual equipment and the ability to post sermons as videos on YouTube. Many thanks to Phil Schaming, Hal Cohen, and Jim Kasprzak for their work on this.

That's not all. We have two new steel doors with inside push bars, improving our security and fire safety. And, we have a new Bosch dishwasher, replacing the old one that died.

Our building is an old one. Our work to upgrade it is going well.

Best,

Stu

# THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Welcome back friends!

Greetings! As we embark on a new Fellowship year, we're filled with excitement and gratitude to welcome you and your children back to our religious education program. I hope that the summer months have been a time of rest, renewal, and growth for your families.

This year we've chosen the unit titled *The Powers Within You*. This unit uses the metaphor of the four elements—earth, air, fire, and water—to explore different forms of power we each can express. Young people will be given opportunities to use their power as agents for positive change.

The program begins with a unit on earth and the powers associated with it—connection, roots, growth, and place. The second unit features the powers associated with air—stillness, presence, silence, and listening. The third unit centers on the powers of fire—shine, passion, action, and reaching out. The program concludes with three powers of water—flexibility, persistence, and gathering. The final session honors all of the elements' power to transform.

Our hope is that we can work together to foster a strong sense of community and faith that will inspire our children to live lives rooted in compassion, service, and love. We invite you to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you all on September 8th. Blessings and peace!

Sharon (Director and Teacher of Religious Education) and Pin (Assistant Teacher)

Below is our RE calendar for September.

**Sep 8. and Sep 15. The Power of Earth.** In these first sessions, the children will explore the concept that the power of earth is the power of grounding and connection. Activities will help participants get to know one another better, as finding their connections deepens their sense of earth power. Participants will create a graphic image of the four elements as four quarters of a circle to use for the duration of this program.

**Sep 22 and Sep 29. The Power of Roots.** In these sessions, the children will learn to develop a connection to our origins and to honor the diversity of our roots and heritages. Participants will learn that we're grounded in all that has shaped our lives, from our own memories back through the experiences of our ancestors, including the features of the place in which we live—its geography, ecology, and history.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Discussion Group

The Discussion Group has been active throughout the summer months. Both “Economic Inequality” and “Ageism and Aging Population” were discussed.

Join us on September 20th for our topic "Religious Freedom." 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 group web page URL is <https://www.wantage.us/unitarian-fellowship-discussion-group>.

## In Remembrance of Deborah Rice

On Saturday, September 14th at 11am, a small service in loving memory of longtime member Debbie Rice, who passed away on January 22, 2024, will take place upstairs at UUFSC. Debbie's daughter, Meghan, and husband, Pete, and Debbie's two grandsons, Edan and Drew, will host. Lunch will be available downstairs afterwards, at noon. If you're planning to attend, kindly text Meghan, at 845-323-9549, just for an idea on the food.

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### NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Welcome back to a new season. I hope you all enjoyed the summer.

On behalf of the Fellowship, I want to thank those who have already submitted a pledge form. If you haven't submitted one yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. It's helpful to receive a form even if you're a longstanding pledger. Receiving these forms allows us to properly plan for the 2024/2025 year. Remember, you don't have to send a payment right away. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

**A blank pledge form appears on page 6.**

Thank you, and best wishes for the year ahead,

Mary Jones-Schaming

# PLEDGE FORM

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UUA, UUCER, AND UU FAITH ACTION

For the new year, the Board will be paying about \$100 in dues per member to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), UU Central East Region (UUCER), and UU FaithAction NJ on your behalf. You will receive a copy of each edition of *UU World* magazine and can access other programs and resources from each organization by going to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), [www.uua.org/central-east](http://www.uua.org/central-east), and [www.uufaithaction.org](http://www.uufaithaction.org). Please consider reimbursing the Fellowship for these dues, if possible.

Please complete the Annual Dues/Pledge Form below and return it to Mary Jones-Schaming. You can elect to pay your pledge as a single, quarterly, monthly, or weekly payment.

### ANNUAL DUES/PLEDGE FORM July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

Please retain this portion for your records:

Total Dues/Pledged (2024-25) \*        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Includes \$100 UUA, UUCER, and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for an adult Member couple, which will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monthly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this portion to: Mary Jones-Schaming, 11 Grandview Avenue, Newton, NJ 07860  
or email this page to [mjschaming@gmail.com](mailto:mjschaming@gmail.com).

Member Name(s): First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Dues/Pledged (2024-25) \*        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*includes \$100 UUA, UUCER, and UU FaithAction dues for a single adult Member or \$200 for an adult Member couple, which will be paid by the Fellowship on your behalf.*

Payment Schedule: Annual Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monthly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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!



# RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

ShopWithScrip is now called RaiseRight and 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.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

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