

The Quest

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County**

1 West Nelson St., Newton, NJ 07860

Programs for April 2026

Sunday services are both in-person and online, and they start at 10:30.

Google Meet codes/phone numbers and PINs are online at

meet.google.com/kss-abvh-ipw or by phone at 478-308-5688, PIN 921 793 045#.

April 5 - "The Spirit Returns"

The Passover and Easter stories are woven into our celebration of the human spirit and of the new life that surrounds us, sustains us, and calls us to keep the faith. Led by Mary Tiebout.

April 12 - Language and Identity in the Age of Trump

Expanding on her 2001 book *Lives in Two Languages*, Linda Watkins-Goffman revisits its themes a quarter century later finding them more fraught than ever as political forces threaten to reverse hard-won progress. Led by Linda Watkins-Goffman, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics, and author.

April 19 - "Born of War, Yearning for Peace"

"The shot heard round the world" on this day in 1775, marked the beginning of the American Revolution and the sharpening of divisions among people, both on these lands and abroad. One of the divisions concerned the moral issue of war itself. And perhaps it still does. Led by Mary Tiebout.

April 26 - The Fate of Poetry

Inspired by Derek Walcott's words "The fate of poetry is to fall in love with the world in spite of history" - local poets Elaine Koplou and Jane Ebihara return to UUFSC to share poems celebrating ordinary life. Led by Jane Ebihara, Local Poet, published author and Elaine Koplou, Director of the Sussex County Writers Roundtable, Assistant Editor of the *Stillwater Review*

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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.

The Quest is the monthly newsletter of the UUFSC. For the most up-to-date information, go to our website, www.uunewtonnj.org. Our phone number is 973-579-7210.



Dear Fellowship Friends,

Last week, when I saw this simple scene of kindness in the grocery store parking lot, I had to take a picture. Kenny, the man in the bright colored jacket, is the person who collects the shopping carts and pushes them through the automatic doors into their neat rows inside. In the past, he would say hello to my dogs if they were making a lot of noise. We always say hello, acknowledging the cold and wind, or the heat, or the beautiful day.

Not far from where I parked, I saw Kenny helping this gentleman with his grocery bags, and I waited until I was far enough away to take this photo. I don't usually photograph people who are just going about their day, but this scene touched my heart. Even without knowing the words of thanks, perhaps of friendship, perhaps of joy or concern from either of them, what I saw and wanted to remember was what appeared to be a simple act of kindness.

We have opportunities every day to make similar small offerings to people whom we may or may not know. I hold the door open for someone entering the hardware store. That person or someone else offers to transfer the 40lb bag of bird food from the cart into my car. A few days ago, I stopped to move a "Road Closed" sign that the roadway sign company forgot to remove, and a woman pulled over in her pickup truck to help. This was on my road. It was the first time we'd met. She helped me, as we were helping others.

I continue to hear of phone calls made by so many of you to our friends who deeply appreciate staying connected. I admire the true fellowship spirit during and after coffee hour and in support of our larger gatherings. It's a lot of work for our group, and thankfully it can be joyful and rewarding. We have some big events on the horizon (hosting the Indivisible event, our Spring Fling, and Summer Rummage Sale), and I'm grateful to all who will be able and willing to help.

The other big event is the March 28th No Kings Day gathering on the Newton Green. It might be too cold for us to wear our beautiful t-shirts, but we'll have our signs, and we'll have the support that we offer each other and our neighbors, and that, too, will warm our hearts!

With great love and thanks, I wish you all a very Happy Spring!

Mary T.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



The **"Bring a Friend to The Fellowship"** project is officially underway, and we're off to a promising start! Two of our members have already answered the call and brought guests to join us. That's 8% of our fellowship who are stepping up to share what makes this community so special. But we still have work to do, and we need YOU to help us grow!

We have until **May 31** to fulfill our mission, so now is the time to consider who in your life might benefit from what our fellowship offers. A neighbor, a coworker, a family member - anyone in your circle who is looking for community, connection, and meaning? Extend the invitation. You might change someone's life.

Bringing a Friend to the Fling counts too! The beloved Spring Fling is coming up on May 16, and bringing a friend to the Fling absolutely counts toward the **"Bring a Friend"** challenge! The Fling is one of our most joyful events of the year - and it's also a **major** fundraiser for our fellowship. It's the perfect low-pressure, high-fun way to introduce someone new to our community. Be sure to check out the flyer for details.

A few important reminders to make sure the Fling goes smoothly:

- Register in advance to attend the Fling Luncheon, no later than April 30 - so Jeff knows how much food to order. Don't leave him guessing!
- Auction contributions are due by April 24, so don't wait. Pick up a contribution form at the fellowship, check your email for it, or find it online. Fill it out, listing what your auction item is, and be sure to include a picture or image to indicate what the auction item is. Every donation makes a difference!

As guests come to our building, a warm welcome makes all the difference.

We need you at the Welcome Desk! We're looking for volunteers to staff the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings. Here's the good news: it only takes about 20 minutes of your time, just 15 minutes before service and 5 minutes into service. With 10 Sundays remaining before we end for the summer, it only takes 10 volunteers to staff the Welcome Desk every day for the season. Don't underestimate the impact of a greeting with genuine hospitality! I'll make sure you know what to do; it's so easy. Are you interested in volunteering? Reach out to me by phone at 973-903-7823, via email at alsrandall@yahoo.com, or catch me after service.

The earth is awakening — buds are breaking, birds are singing, and the air hums with new life. Let's channel that ****Springtime energy**** into our Fellowship. This is our moment to move from **struggling** to **thriving**. Every guest you bring, every hour you give, every smile you share - it all adds up. Let's grow together. Bring a friend. Bring joy. Bring on the Fling. Let's bloom!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion Group

Our topic for April 17, 2026 - **Optimism, Reality and Pessimism**. If you are interested, join our email list (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.uunewtonnj.org/index.php/discussion-group>.

Fellowship Space Available

If you or a group is looking for a space to meet, please consider the availability of the Fellowship building, which can be reserved for a donation. Please contact Phil Schaming to inquire about available dates.

Lunch Bunch

Our next Lunch Bunch will be on Wednesday, April 15, 12:30pm, at "Stonewater" at Lake Hopatcong. RSVP to Mary.

UU FaithAction NJ - Join Us

We invite UU FaithAction NJ supporters and friends to gather for just one hour on the first and third Fridays of each month to take action and experience the joy and power of community.

Charles Loflin will prime us on the issues of the moment, and then we will make our calls at this critical time.

Join us on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94313960594?pwd=OTFDdUdocmY1ckZnZFRyemp6V2NiZz09>

For more information about UU FaithAction NJ, visit our website: ufaithaction.org

Contact Chris Dunbar for further insights into 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.



RaiseRight 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.

Please contact Sue Weiner or Hal Cohen if you have any questions about this program.

Act Now! Currently, the RaiseRight Gift Card purchase program is not being used by members of the Fellowship and may be discontinued due to a lack of interest.

UUFSC SPRING FLING



Back to the 60s
SATURDAY, MAY 16th
NOON-3:00 P. M.

Groovy Lunch & Live Auction
\$20 Donation at the Door

Bring a friend!

Sign-up sheet in Community Room

Please respond by April 30th

Tie dye optional-- Far Out!!

***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.**



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

President: Andrea (Andi) Randall

Vice-President: Phil Schaming

Treasurer: Stu Feldstein

Secretary: Christine Dunbar

Quest Editor: Phil Schaming



SPRING FLING 2026 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 Friday, April 24.

Back to the 60s, Saturday, May 16th

Donor(s):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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 (Fill In):

Send your completed form to Sue Weiner so that it's received no later than Friday, April 24:

Please email it to Sue at susanweiner01@gmail.com or mail it to her at 648 Route 10 West, Randolph, NJ 07869. Feel free to reach out to Sue or Hal with any questions. **KEY NOTE:** We will need a photo (in .jpeg format) for the Fling Catalog of all hard items to be auctioned off. Please email a clear photo of each item to Sue.