



# The Quest

December 13, 2011

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT SHELTER ROCK BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**SUN. DECEMBER 18, 2011 - 11:00 AM**

**"Hanging of the Greens"**

**Revs. Johnson, Brower & Corletti**

This will be our traditional "Hanging of the Green Service" where we will all meet together in the Worship Room initially, for a play by our first graders and an anthem by our choir and then split into two groups- one staying to sing carols with Stephen Smith and our soloist, and the other to work on a garland of greens. The groups will then change places and when the garland is completed it will be brought in while we all sing "Deck the Halls."

**SAT. DECEMBER 24, 2011 - 5:00 & 7:00 PM**

**"Christmas Eve Family Service"**

**Revs. Johnson, Brower & Corletti**

**5:00 Service:** With seasonal music and the story of Christmas, along with the traditional candle lighting, this service will unite the congregation into a festive mood. This service is intended for children, their families, and the young at heart.

**7:00 Service:** Special music, Christmas readings, a homily and candle lighting are aspects of this festive and contemplative traditional service.



**SUN. DECEMBER 25, 2011 - 11:00 AM**

**"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"**

**Rev. Dr. Paul S. Johnson**

The sermon will tell the story of Unitarian poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's writing of this familiar carol in 1864 during the Civil War and relate it to our contemporary experience.

**SUN. JANUARY 1, 2012 - 11:00 AM**

**"A Sharing Service"**

**Revs. Johnson, Brower & Corletti**

Revs. Johnson, Brower and Corletti will lead this service where those present will be encouraged to share a reading or thought in Quaker-style fashion.

**SUN. JANUARY 1, 2012 - 12:30-2:30 PM**

**Annual Ministers' New Year's Day Reception**

**Revs. Johnson, Brower & Corletti**

Please bring a dish of food to share at this New Year's Day gathering!

## TOUCHSTONES

*Rev. Margaret E. Corletti*

While back in our congregations there was a very popular book/class that made the rounds around the holidays. *UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO PUTTING LOVE AND WARMTH BACK INTO THE SEASON* by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli, was first published in 1982 and helped many of our families and congregants have a more meaningful holiday. I do not know if it is still in print but I do know that every now and then when I am reading other congregations' newsletters I see a version of this workshop being offered. This tells me the idea of making Christmas more "family friendly" is still relevant and important to many of us today.

Two of the ideas from this book that have helped me along the way I share with you.

### **The Christmas Pledge**

Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:

- ★ To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
- ★ To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
- ★ To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
- ★ To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.

- ★ *To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.*

The book also has a chapter entitled: *The Four Things Children Really Want For Christmas*. I found this chapter to be fascinating for its wisdom and practical understanding of what works and doesn't work around the holidays. I quote:

From talking with children, parents and child specialists, we've learned that in addition to a few well-chosen gifts, children really want and need four basic things for Christmas:

- ★ Relaxed and loving time with the family.
- ★ Realistic expectations about gifts.
- ★ An evenly paced holiday season.
- ★ Strong family traditions.

Although this advice is aimed primarily at families and children, I think the ideas expressed are true for all of us no matter what age we are. Reminding ourselves about what we think is important about the holidays helps to make those things happen. May your holidays be filled with many happy moments doing all those things you love with the people who are important to you.

Happy Holidays!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**Childcare** for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers is available every Sunday during the worship service in Rooms 1 and 2 in the RE Wing.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

**The Hanging of the Greens**, a full-length family service, begins at 11:00 a.m. in the Worship Room. Children are invited to sit with their families. We will sing carols and watch the *Christmas in a Stable* play by the 1st grade class. The Young People's Choir will sing. Groups will take turns making garlands of the fresh greens in the main lobby and hallway. Please bring evergreen branches. To finish, all will be invited to help hang the garlands in the Worship Room.

**The Young People's Choir** rehearses at 10:00 a.m. downstairs in the Music Rehearsal Room.

**Mitten Tree Deadline:** Today is the last day to leave your (unwrapped) holiday gifts with mitten attached under the Christmas tree in the main lobby. Thank you so much for brightening the holidays for children in families under the care of the AIDS Center for Queens County. (ACQC).

**Guest at Your Table boxes** will be collected at this service and at the Christmas Eve services. This money supports the work of our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

**The Family Christmas Eve Service** begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Worship Room. The Young People's Choir will sing. There will be carols and candles. Childcare is available for this service but not for the 7:00 p.m. adult service.

**The Young People's Choir** rehearses at 10:00 a.m. in the Music Rehearsal Room.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 & SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

**There will be no RE Classes and no childcare** on these holidays.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

The regular RE program resumes, with a multigenerational service followed by RE classes. The first activity of the day is an RE Staff and Family Breakfast and Worship with Rev. Margaret Corletti in Room 15 of the RE Wing. The Young People's Choir rehearses at 10:00 a.m. in the Music Rehearsal Room.

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Midnight Run needs your help!** Once again, our Senior Seminar youth group is coordinating this beloved service/outreach project to Manhattan's homeless. We need donations of clothing and toiletries (see complete list by the Midnight Run box in the lobby), adult drivers, and folks of all ages to prepare meals and sort supplies on the evening of Friday, January 6th. For more information, contact Betty Jeanne.

**Winter Young Adult Gathering:** All young adults (ages 18-35) are warmly invited to attend – special invitation to any Religious Education program alumni, and to young

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## ADULT PROGRAMS

**For more complete descriptions please see the booklet Shelter Rock Center for Spiritual Growth, Fall, 2011. Please register in advance for programs at extension 160.**

**DRUM AND RHYTHM CIRCLE:** Tuesdays: Series 1 ends Dec. 13. Series 2 will be Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14 in the Music Rehearsal Room. The instructor is Glen Fittin, professional percussionist. Participants made a donation of \$120 in advance for the six lessons. Register with Sharyn Esposito on extension 160, or email her at sesposito@uucsr.org.

**GROUP MEDITATION:** Wednesday, Dec. 14, and NEW DATES: Thursdays Jan. 12 and Feb. 9, in the Veatch House Terrace Room, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Group Meditation is an informal, self-led group, evolving in form and practicing different kinds of meditation. Participants are encouraged to bring spiritual and insightful readings as well as appropriate meditative music (CDs) to share with the group. For more information please call the group's facilitator Aileen Cox at 516-466-5851.

**TAI CHI EASY:** Series 1 ends Friday, Dec. 16, 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in the Art Gallery. Fern Cameron helps participants strengthen their bodies, calm their minds, lift their spirits. The moves are gentle and easily adaptable. The suggested donation is \$100 for the series of 10 classes for members, \$120 for non-members. Maximum registration 20.

**YOGA:** Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in RE Wing Room 10: Series 3 ends Dec. 17. Series 4 is Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4. Jennifer Hall, a professional yoga teacher, leads these classes. The suggested donation for series 4 is \$50 in advance for the 5 classes. Minimum class size is 6.

**THE NECESSITY OF VIRTUE:** Mondays: Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Art Gallery. How do you clearly articulate your beliefs as a Unitarian Universalist to someone completely unfamiliar with the religion? How do you determine what you ought to do? This course of eight sessions helps us to find answers to both questions. The group will view DVDs of the program on virtues presented by The Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich at GA in 2010. At the remaining five sessions discussions after the viewings will be led by Shelter Rock members: Jan. 9: **Compassion** with Ken Snyder; Feb. 6 **Justice** with leader TBA; Mar. 5: **Temperance** with Herb Waldren; Apr. 2: **Transcendence** with Mary Lardner; May 7: **Hope** with Jean Judd

**THE EMERSON CIRCLE AT SHELTER ROCK:** Mondays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in RE Wing Room 18: **NEW DATE Jan. 16**, Feb. 13, Mar. 12 and once monthly through June, 2012. This is a group devoted to Emerson, his writings, and his relationships and relevance to other thinkers, writers, poets, and scientists of the 19th and even of the 20th Century. The group is self-led, with active participants taking turns choosing topics and facilitating the sessions. See the booklet for more information, or speak to Herb Klitzner.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM THEN & NOW:** Saturday, Jan. 7, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Art Gallery. This presentation will deal with the historical development, principles, and mission of our religious movement and of our own congregation. Newcomers as well as long term members are invited. The Rev. Dr. Paul S. Johnson, Senior Minister here at Shelter Rock, is the presenter.

**THE HISTORICAL JESUS:** Continues Wednesdays Jan. 11, 18, 25; Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Art Gallery (No meeting in December.)

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**UUCSR TO WELCOME NEW COA:** The Board of Trustees is excited to announce the hiring of our new **Congregation Operations Administrator, Adam Barshak**, who will be joining us January 9th, 2012.

Adam comes to UUCSR with over 10 years of managerial experience in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, with an extensive background in programs and operations. Most recently, Adam acted as Executive Director for ResCare Inc., (New York, NY) where he oversaw NYC WeCARE, an employment and training program that services 25,000 Brooklyn and Queens customers annually. In this position, Adam was responsible for the management of the program operations, business development, quality assurance, finance, human resources, facilities management and technology departments – with a collective staff of 250. **Please join us in welcoming Adam on January 9th!**

**HONORING REV. JENNIFER L. BROWER:** *The following is a speech give by Barbara Grosmark on the celebration of Rev. Brower's ten years of service at UUCSR on December 11, 2011:*



Revs. Johnson, Brower, Corletti & Barbara Grosmark

Today we are honoring our Minister for Pastoral Care, Jennifer Brower. Jennifer has been with us as one of our ministers for 10 years. She has been a vital part of our community in those ten years.

As your congregants we have watched, as you became an integral part of our lives and the life of this congregation. You have given so much of yourself to this congregation's pastoral care needs. We have all benefited from this

care and your caring words from the pulpit. We value your efforts, and appreciate your care and concern for us.

During this time we have watched you become a mother and have been witnesses to the maturity and spiritual deepening that this has manifested in you. We love to watch your face when you talk about your family, particularly your son Nathaniel. You light up a room with your smile.

You have given so much to us and we want to honor your giving by giving you something to commemorate this wonderful occasion in the life of this congregation.

With all of our best wishes, and deep appreciation for these ten years together, we give you this stole crafted by Unitarian Universalist artisan Pat Taylor. May you wear it in good health and happiness, remembering the care and love from us, your congregation, that is given with it. Our best wishes for many, many more years of ministry.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!** The Board of Trustees and I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season!

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

(from pg. 2)

adults who are newer to our community. Wed. December 28th - 7pm in the UUCSR lobby – we'll have dinner (pay for your own) at a local restaurant, and return to UUCSR for a brief worship.

**Young Adult / Campus Ministry** Will Continue this Spring at CW Post Students, as well as other young adults, are welcome to attend. Contact Amanda-Beth a for complete information.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

(from pg. 2)

Participants view and discuss DVD's of lectures by an expert, Bart D. Erhman, Ph.D. in which he examines the life of Jesus from a historical perspective. Discussion facilitators are the Rev. Paul Johnson, Senior Minister at Shelter Rock, and Bob Nuxoll, retired history professor and Shelter Rock member.

**SOULFUL SUNDOWN:** Friday, Jan. 13 in the Social Hall, the Worship Room and the Art Gallery. A light supper at low cost at 6:30 p.m. is followed by worship for all ages with live music, readings, even some dancing for the young at heart. Afterwards there are activities for all ages, including knitting and cooking.

**DRAMATIC READINGS:** Saturdays: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 5, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. in the Art Gallery. The play for Jan. 14 is: *House of Blue Leaves* by John Guare Shelter Rock member Mary Lardner will facilitate. Please RSVP with Sharyn

**FINDING YOUR PLACE: AN INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM:** Saturday, Jan. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Begin in the Art Gallery with a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Meet with the ministers and some of our lay leaders to learn all about our religion and the people and customs of this particular congregation. Includes lunch and a tour. Register with Ben Bortin.

**COFFEE AND CONVERSATION:** Continues on Sunday, Jan. 15, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in the Staff Lunchroom (No meeting in December.)

**SPIRITUAL MASTERS, MENTAL HEALTH AND MEDICATION:** Continues Mondays, Jan. 23, Feb. 27, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in RE Room 18. Learn what the spiritual masters have taught about anxiety and depression. We combine their concepts of the cause and amelioration of mental suffering with our biological knowledge. The facilitator is Shelter Rock member Arthur Rifkin, MD

**IMMIGRATION AS A MORAL ISSUE:** Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Art Gallery: Jan. 31, Feb. 28, Mar. 27, Apr. 24. Session 3 on Jan. 31: **Economics of (Im)migration**. Session 4 on Feb. 28: **Security, Enforcement and Human Rights**. See the booklet for more information. This six-session study is co-facilitated by Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche and UUCSR Member, Carol McHugh who recently visited the US-Mexican border.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012 - JUNE 20-24, PHOENIX, AZ:** will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations. -*Latifa Woodhouse, Chair of DAC*

Save the Date:  
**VEATCH SUNDAY 2012**

THE NEW BOTTOM LINE

*fairness • economic security • democracy • people*

**Sunday, January 8, 2012**

11:00 AM – Worship

1:00 PM – Panel

Featuring Veatch Program grantees:

*National People's Action Alliance for a Just Society  
PICO National Network*

## CARING COMMITTEE



CARING COMMITTEE

Our committee tries to coordinate Caring within our religious institution -- we send cards, flowers, visit the sick, provide food. Our goal is to touch any member who needs a helping hand or, perhaps, just a reminder that he or she is part of a larger community who cares about them. But we can't do this without you -- (yes, you!). If you know of someone who needs a loving touch, let us know. It may be someone who is ill, suffered or loss, or perhaps someone who can't get out of the house and would like to talk to someone. We have several members who have volunteered to simply call someone on the telephone -- and what a difference that can make to a person who is alone.

So let us know what you know...you can e-mail [caring@uucsr.org](mailto:caring@uucsr.org) or call Betty Gold at 718.805.6929. Yes, we are a Caring Community -- but it only happens if we work at it!

**ATTENTION RE PARENTS:** A new monthly **Spirituality Circle** will be forming in January 2012. This circle will provide a safe and sacred place for people to discover, explore and deepen their spirituality. More details to come! - *Caring Committee*

## MILESTONES



Claire Deroche, Rev. Johnson & UUCSR Members on December 3.

Members of the UUCSR wish to offer a heartfelt congratulations to **Claire Deroche**, our Social Justice Coordinator! On December 3rd, she received a **Kairos Award** in recognition of her leadership and advocacy for immigrant rights, peace and interfaith dialogue!

## UU VEATCH PROGRAM AT SHELTER ROCK

**Dear Ned: I've heard that the Veatch Program supports "community organizing" groups. Could you tell me what these groups do?**



Most people are a little bit familiar with "community organizing" because it came up during the 2008 presidential campaign. President Barack Obama had at one time worked as a "community organizer" in Chicago. "Community organizing" is a broad term that describes methods of engaging citizens in collective efforts to improve their neighborhoods. These methods are practiced by professional "organizers" who work with local volunteer "leaders" to grow membership organizations large and powerful enough to pass laws and policies that expand equity and fairness, as well as challenge unfair practices of corporations. Because a substantial number of these organizations focus on religious congregations as the primary organizing unit, this type of social change work is sometimes referred to as "congregation-based community organizing." Because many also partner with labor unions and other non-faith community organizations, this work is also referred to as "institution-based community organizing."

Community organizing grew out of the work of Saul Alinsky in poor ethnic neighborhoods of Chicago beginning in the 1930s. He recognized the power of voluntary associations, including religious congregations, labor unions, homeowners groups, schools and others. He founded a number of neighborhood-based organizations that all used the same approach. They belong to a "network" that he called the Industrial Areas Foundation or IAF. The network provides training for the organizers and members in such areas as conducting a listening campaign, creating an organizing committee, identifying community issues where people want to see something change, and carrying out a campaign to put pressure on public officials to effect that change.

Since the late 1960s, three new national networks of community organizations have sprung up—the PICO<sup>1</sup> National Network, DART<sup>2</sup>, and the Gamaliel Foundation—plus a number of regional networks. Over 250 community organizing entities are working throughout the U.S. in affiliation with these networks. Each network has its own training programs and strategic priorities. Some community organizing groups work on their own, and others partner with a variety of social change organizations. For example, three community organizing leaders will join us on January 8, 2012, for our Veatch Sunday presentation on "The New Bottom Line," a collaborative campaign to hold the banks accountable for their part in the current economic crisis.

Community organizing is a way of building power for social change that has a demonstrated track record of producing significant community improvements throughout the country. The UU Veatch Program is proud to support community organizing as an important long-term method of bringing about lasting social change.

<sup>1</sup>PICO stands for "Pacific Institute for Community Organizations," the name of this network from its founding in California in 1972 until 2004, when it adopted the name "PICO National Network."

<sup>2</sup>DART stands for "Direct Action and Research Training" Center, founded in Florida in 1982.

The UUCSR Veatch Program provides support for efforts within the religious and spiritual mission of the Congregation where their purposes are best served by outside agencies acting under the Supervision of the Veatch Program and the Congregation.

## THANK YOU'S

To the Ministers & Congregation at Shelter Rock- Your basket of cheer was a very cheerful and unexpected surprise. Thank you for thinking of us, as I was reminded that we are not alone. - *Love, Maxine Dangler*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Holiday Food Donations:** Thanks to your generosity we were able to provide turkeys and trimmings for 200 families for Thanksgiving, with \$300 left over. For Christmas we would like to provide 100 hams for dinners for the guests of the INN Soup Kitchen in Glen Cove. Sunday, December 18 will be the last Sunday for donations. Please stop by the table in the lobby to help out with this project. You are also welcome to bring non-perishable food items: canned vegetables, potatoes, and sweet potatoes.

**Long Island Rallies Against Fracking 12/15!** If you are concerned about hydraulic fracturing in New York, you will be interested in this rally. Long Islanders will be directly affected by hydraulic fracturing. Fracking upstate will increase our air pollution and could send millions of gallons of toxic and radioactive wastewater to treatment facilities on Long Island. That is why Thursday, December 15th, at 3:30 p.m., Food and Water Watch, Grassroots Environmental Education and Reach Out America will be holding a rally to show that Long Islanders care about hydraulic fracturing. The rally will take place at the Mary Jane Davies Green in Manhasset-the small park right on Plandome Rd. Contact Claire Deroche if you can attend. Here is the website for the event: <http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/p/salsa/event/common/public/?key=72273>. And here is the facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/288318987873255/>. (See the Social Justice Coordinator's column on right for more information on fracking.)

*To register or for further information for any of the above, contact Social Justice Coordinator Claire Deroche at 516-627-6560, ext. 177 or [cderoche@uucsr.org](mailto:cderoche@uucsr.org).*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

*Claire Deroche*

Life in the 21st century needs abundant, renewable sources of energy. Our modern, technological society is greedy for it, and at the same time, this energy must be renewable because the life sustaining processes of our earth are being ravaged by our continued dependence on fossil fuels. In spite of the scientific evidence that continued dependence on fossil fuels is harmful to us and our planet, oil and gas corporations continue to invest in technology to produce more and not less fossil fuel. Hydraulic fracturing or fracking is one such technology.

Hydrofracking is a process by which a mixture of water, sand and chemicals is drilled deep into rock formations that contain deposits of oil or natural gas. The high pressure of the drilling loosens the rock, and the oil or gas can then be brought to the surface. The water, contaminated in the process, returns to the surface and has to be contained until it can be treated.

The oil and gas industry claims that this process is safe and poses little or no threat to the environment. Opponents of the process point to the problems now evident in areas like Wyoming, where drilling has gone on for two decades. Carcinogenic chemicals have been found in an aquifer and drinking water has turned black and smells of gasoline and other chemicals. Residents have developed severe neurological problems. The area is now a superfund site!

Because the Marcellus Shale, a rock formation containing natural gas deposits extends into NY State, a vigorous debate on the pros and cons of allowing drilling is going on. Currently there is a moratorium on new permits while a more comprehensive environmental impact study is completed.

Why should Long Island residents be concerned? Although we do not sit on the Marcellus Shale, according to Food and Water Watch, "Fracking upstate will increase our air pollution, and could send millions of gallons of toxic and radioactive wastewater to treatment facilities on Long Island." It seems to me that as UU's who covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, this issue deserves our attention. So if this issue concerns you, please come to Long Island Rallies Against Fracking 12/15! on Thursday, December 15th, at 3:30 p.m., at the Mary Jane Davies Green in Manhasset. I hope to see you there.

## LARGE GRANTS PROGRAM UPDATE

The Large Grants Advisory Group (chaired by Terry Bain) has recommended that the congregation be asked to vote at the **January 29, 2012**, congregational meeting to narrow down one of the three funding areas chosen in November. If this recommendation is approved by the Veatch Program Board of Governors, "Women's Empowerment and Justice" will be on the agenda of January's congregational meeting. The congregation will be asked to choose two subcategories to include in a "Request for Proposal" process (out of a total of seven subcategories compiled by the Large Grants Advisory Group). Details about this vote will be included in the meeting packet.

The other two funding areas, "Mental Health on Long Island" and "UU Theological Education," are already narrow and specific enough to allow an RFP process to go forward in early January. Here is a listing of groups to which an RFP will be sent:

### Mental Health on Long Island

1. Concern for Independent Living
2. Glen Cove SAGE Foundation
3. Hands Across Long Island
4. Mental Health Association of Nassau County
5. Mercy Haven

6. Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
7. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Queens)
8. North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center
9. Transitional Services for New York, Inc.

### UU Theological Education

1. Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA)
2. Meadville Lombard Theological School
3. Starr King School for the Ministry
4. UUA Panel on Theological Education
5. UU Ministers Association (UUMA)

**Additional suggestions of possible grantees in either of these two categories should be passed along to Ned Wight at [ned@veatch.org](mailto:ned@veatch.org) or by phone at 516-627-6576 x125, no later than Friday, January 6, 2012.**

Also, the Advisory Group is sponsoring a second annual "Large Grants Fair" on **Sunday, February 12**, after the 11 a.m. service. Representatives from the nine Large Grants recipients chosen last spring will be in the social hall to present information and answer questions about their work. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## WOMEN'S GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Newest Efforts to Overturn Roe v. Wade Now Include the "Heartbeat Bill"** Backers of personhood measures to give legal rights to embryos are now upping the ante by pressing to ban abortions once the "heartbeat" is detected (usually six to eight weeks into pregnancy). Although some anti-choice groups are opposed, a bill before the state legislature in Ohio is the newest effort to force a legal assault on Roe v. Wade - the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion. The groups that support the "Heartbeat Bill" are convinced that it has a more visceral public appeal and that many more states will adopt similar bills to sweep the country. It is important to express your views to our own U.S. and State legislators. Visit [Congress.org](http://Congress.org) to write U.S. senators & representative; NY State Senate and NY State Assembly -- enter your address & zip code. – *Pat Luciano, Women's Issues Chair of UUCSR Women's Group*

**WOMEN'S GROUP BOOK SERIES** - *Caucasia* by Danzy Senna. Birdie and Cole are the daughters of a black father and a white mother, intellectuals and activists in the Civil Rights Movement in 1970s Boston. The sisters are so close that they have created a private language, yet to the outside world they can't be sisters: Birdie appears to be white, while Cole is dark enough to fit in with the other kids at the Afro-centric school they attend. For Birdie, Cole is the mirror in which she can see her own blackness. Join discussion leader Dotty Prunhuber, in the Veatch House Library, on **December 16th**, at 7:30 p.m. as we discuss this book.

**WOMEN'S GROUP – T.G.I.F. SAVE THE DATE:** Women in the Arts – January 6th, at 7:00 p.m. See ad on right for more information.

**WOMEN TALK DAYTIME** – Wednesday, December 21st at 12 Noon in the Art Gallery. Subject: "It was my LUCKY day when...?" Bring lunch - Beverage & Cookies provided. - *Annette McMahon & Doris Miller, co-chairs*

## MEN'S GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS



**MEN'S GROUP HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG** - Saturday, December 17th, 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. Art Gallery. Caroling, dessert tasting & holiday beverages. All **adult** UUCSR members and guests welcome. Bring a dessert to share! Suggested donation: \$5.00. Proceeds to benefit the United Veteran's Beacon House.

**MEN'S GROUP POKER & PIZZA NIGHT** – Wednesday, January, 4 – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. – Oval Room. Open to all Adult UUCSR Members & their guests. Attendance capped at 8. **YOU MUST RSVP** with Sharyn at ext. 160

**BLUEBIRD CAFÉ – SONG CIRCLE** - Friday, January, 20 – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. – Art Gallery. Are you really a soloist? We've organized a small audience for you on Friday night. Are you really a harmonizer/accompanist? Or maybe just an appreciative listener? Please join us at our next Blue Bird Café. We will provide soft-drinks and wine, snacks and dessert. \$5.00 for UUCSR Members and \$8.00 for Non-Member Guests. Proceeds after expenses will be donated to Literacy Nassau. RSVP to Sharyn at ext. 160.

**COME TO THE MEN'S GROUP PLANNING MEETING** – Be a part of the planning committee for the rest of the year's Men's Group events. Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22 in the Veatch Conference Room at 12:30 – Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Sharyn at ext. 160.

Save The Date

*Women in the Arts!*

January 6, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for an evening of celebration and exploration with local women artists. You will enjoy learning how they began their creative journey why and how they continue to create despite ever increasing demands on time and resources. Come and share their joy as they demonstrate their art. Featuring dancers, painters and fiber artists - just to name a few!

The Green Sanctuary and Social Justice Committees invite you to a presentation on

## THE TRUTH ABOUT FRACKING IN NEW YORK

Thursday, January 26, 2012

7:30-9:30 p.m. Veatch Ballroom

Guest Speaker:

**Adrienne Esposito**, Executive Director  
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

## GREEN SANCTUARY

*Elaine Peters*

**LONG ISLAND'S GROUND WATER:** Did you know "Ground water is Long Island's sole source of drinking water"? It supplies our rivers and bays with fresh water. However, it's being polluted by nitrogen "derived from land-based sources delivered by groundwater." This nitrogen produces harmful algal blooms that "negatively impact seagrasses and saltmarshes." These protect us from flooding.

How does this nitrogen get in our groundwater?? The largest source is wastewater- what goes down into sewers; the second culprit is "atmospheric deposition from burning fuels"; the third is fertilizer.

For example, The Nature Conservancy is engaged in a project to lower the nitrogen level in our bays and estuaries by spawning dwarf surf clams in Great South Bay. These clams, once matured, can rapidly clarify the water. But they can't do it all without addressing the other sources of land-based pollution, that are making our groundwater unhealthy. We need legislative acts for many other kinds of clean-ups and bans, but we also need to give assistance to organizations like The Nature Conservancy. It is up to us all on Long Island to keep our groundwater healthy, so we can stay healthy, too.

*(Adapted from "Dwarf Surf Clams Have Big Impact on Water Quality in Great South Bay," Carl LoBue, Nature Long Island, Conservation News from The Nature Conservancy, Fall 2011, p.7)*

## BI-WEEKLY PLANNER

### Tuesday, December 13, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 9:30 AM Memory Training  
 3:30 PM Adult Programs Committee Meeting  
 6:00 PM By Invitation Only - BOG Dinner  
 7:30 PM Senior Housing Board Task Group  
 7:30 PM Drum Circle  
 7:30 PM Nominating Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, December 14, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 10:15 AM Beginning Bridge Class  
 12:30 PM Reach Out America  
 1:00 PM Small Group Ministry Session  
 7:00 PM Group Meditation  
 7:00 PM Silver Bay Planning Meeting  
 7:30 PM Buildings & Grounds Meeting  
 7:30 PM DAC Meeting  
 7:30 PM FPNC Board Meeting

### Thursday, December 15, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, December 16, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 10:30 AM Tai Chi Easy  
 1:00 PM Bridge  
 7:30 PM Singles Meeting  
 7:30 PM Book Series

### Saturday, December 17, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 9:00 AM Quilting  
 9:30 AM I.N.N. Cooking-Saturday  
 11:00 AM Yoga  
 7:00 PM Holiday Sing-Along

### Sunday, December 18, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:00 AM Bagel Breakfast  
 10:30 AM Holiday Food Collection  
 11:00 AM RE Recess - Child Care Only  
 11:00 AM Hanging of the Greens  
 11:00 AM Holiday Family Worship Service  
 12:00 PM Holiday Food Collection  
 12:30 PM BOT Holiday Open House  
 12:30 PM Mental Health Sub Committee  
 1:00 PM Art Committee Meeting  
 1:00 PM SGM Coordinators Meeting

### Monday, December 19, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 12:00 PM Memory Training  
 7:30 PM SRI Committee Meeting  
 7:30 PM Large Grants Advisory Group

### Tuesday, December 20, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 9:30 AM Memory Training  
 7:30 PM Housing Board Meeting

### Wednesday, December 21, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 10:15 AM Beginning Bridge Class  
 12:00 PM Women Talk Daytime

### Thursday, December 22, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 7:30 PM BOT Meeting  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, December 23, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 1:00 PM Bridge

### Saturday, December 24, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service

### Sunday, December 25, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting

10:00 AM Bagel Breakfast  
 11:00 AM RE Recess - No Child Care  
 11:00 AM Worship Service  
 12:00 PM UU Cafe

### Monday, December 26, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting

### Tuesday, December 27, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 9:30 AM Memory Training  
 7:30 PM Shelter Rock Forum Meeting  
 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry Session

### Wednesday, December 28, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 7:00 PM Winter YA Gathering

### Thursday, December 29, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting

### Friday, December 30, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 1:00 PM Bridge

### Saturday, December 31, 2011

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 8:30 PM New Year's Eve Party

### Sunday, January 01, 2012

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 10:00 AM Bagel Breakfast  
 11:00 AM RE Recess - No Child Care  
 11:00 AM Worship Service  
 12:00 PM UU Cafe  
 Monday, January 02, 2012

### Tuesday, January 03, 2012

12:00 AM INN Toy Sorting  
 9:30 AM Memory Training  
 7:30 PM Senior Housing Board Task Group  
 7:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting  
 7:30 PM RE Committee Meeting

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

The **office** will be closed on **Thursday, December 22** from 12 Noon - 4 p.m. for the Staff Holiday Party.

The **building** will be closed on **Monday, December 26** in observance of Christmas.

The **building** will be closed on **Monday, January 2** in observance of New Year's.

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

*Ben Bortin*

"We bereaved are not alone," said Helen Keller. "We belong to the largest company in all the world." I can identify again, in the past few weeks, with those of you who have experienced a keen personal loss. One of my best and longest term friends died suddenly three weeks ago.

Scott Kennedy devoted his life to peace efforts, and was an activist in the best sense, turning his dreams into tangible ventures, programs, and realities. He was a "do-er of the word." He started something known as the Resource Center for Nonviolence, in Santa Cruz, California, where he lived.

He eventually became mayor of that city, 90 miles south of San Francisco, adjoining Monterey Bay, and developed affordable housing and greenbelt areas during his two terms.

His big priority was the Middle East, where he led no fewer than forty "peace delegations."

So I fly out there today, back by the time the *Quest* arrives in mailboxes.

Turn your grief into a means for sweetening someone's pain, concluded Helen Keller. Scott would have agreed.

Thanks for all your words of sympathy – *Ben*

## Shelter Rock Singles Holiday Social!

**Friday, December 16-7:30 PM**  
 UUCSR - Veatch House Ballroom

Great refreshments, discussion  
and dance!

Simply the best for less:  
\$10 includes all

**Featuring DJ Jerry Ricci of Trick Shot Band fame**

Contact Ben Bortin for more information!



*Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock*

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www.uucsr.org / uucsr@uucsr.org

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**Veatch Executive Director:**

Ned Wight

**Music Director:**

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**Director of Religious Education:**

Bonnie Mykel

**Membership & Volunteer Coordinator:**

Ben Bortin

**Social Justice Coordinator:**

Claire Deroche

**Youth & Young Adult Program Coordinator**

Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward

**Communications Director**

Kim Losack

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

**President:** Barbara Grosmark

**Vice President:** Nancy Baldwin

**Treasurer:** Jerry Jalazo

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Arnold Babel

Margaret Cibulsky

Verna Livingston

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Tom Murphy

Monica Schlichting

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**Quest Production:** Kim Losack, Editor

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**Next Quest: Tuesday, January 3 | Deadline for Content: Thursday, December 29**

Mark your calendar for a TRULY Rockin'  
New Year's Eve at Shelter Rock!

# ROCKIN IN THE NEW YEAR

**NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION 2012**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

8:30 p.m. 2011 until 1:00 a.m. 2012 - Social Hall

**NEW MEMBERS  
ESPECIALLY  
WELCOMED!**

Spend this spectacular evening  
dining and dancing!  
**ROCK** in 2012 and **ROLL** out 2011!

Cocktail hour to be followed by a delicious Mediterranean buffet which  
will include salads, Chicken Paprikash, Moussaka, Sirloin Kebabs and  
Roasted Salmon. Wine and dessert included.



**CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT!**

\$55 per person for members; \$60 per person for non members

Please reserve by December 18 for childcare.

Deadlines for reservations is December 27 to Sharyn Esposito at ext. 160

**MEN'S GROUP PRESENTS**

## Holiday Sing -a- Long!

DECEMBER 17, 2011

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. - Art Gallery

Please join us for this annual tradition!

Festivities include:

caroling, dessert tasting & holiday beverages!

**Come and make your spirit bright, share with us  
a cup of holiday cheer!**

All ADULT UUCSR Members & Guests Welcome  
Bring a dessert to share!

Proceeds to benefit the  
United Veteran's  
Beacon House

Suggested donation:  
\$5.00

... and we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne ...