

First Universalist Church of Southold
PO Box 221 Main Road
Southold, NY 11971



The Free Spirit

Church Office: (631) 765-3494
Office Hours: Wed., 11:00-5:00

Church Web Page – <http://FirstUniversalistSouthold.org/>, e-mail address: SoutholdUU@optonline.net

January 1, 2018

Services

January 7, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“Immigration: Family & UU Values”

Ceil Loucka, lay speaker

January 14, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“Martin Luther King: His Legacy”

Sonia Spar, Co-Chairperson, Anti-Bias Task Force

January 21, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“Quaker Ethics”

Bill Funke, lay speaker

January 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

“Who Am I?”

Eric will share more about his Hindu journey.

Eric Heacock, lay speaker

Coming Attractions !!!

Jan. 2nd – Covenant Group. Southold Library, 4:00 p.m. Topic: “Courage”

Jan. 8th – Theology on Tap. North Fork Taps & Corks, 7:00 p.m. Topic: “Courage”

Jan. 16th – Board Meeting. Parsonage, 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Covenant Group

We will meet January 2nd, 4 p.m., upstairs at the Southold Free Library. Our discussion will be “Courage.” Bring a high and a low to share for the month.

All are welcome.

In Peace,
Ginny Cornell

Theology on Tap

We will be meeting Monday evening, January 8th, 7 p.m., at Taps and Corks behind Michelangelo’s Restaurant in Feather Hill, Southold.

Bring a friend. The topic will be “Courage.”

Ginny Cornell and Susi Young
Membership and Outreach Co-Chairs

Fund-Raising Update

Mark Sisson and Susan Pond have joined Bill Funke and Cheryl Schneider, Co-Chairs, on the Capital Fund-Raising Team. The team met, via video conference, with a fund-raising specialist from Cause Effective, and next will be contacting other members to form a steering committee.

For the fund-raising campaign to be successful, we will need participation from all of our members and friends. Event announcements will be coming soon – get ready to mark your calendar!

Now I Could Try

to give you an account of how
the cheap, machine lace

curtains caught my attention,
as they were, glowing
in the midwinter after

noon light, a gift of
hope and praise, when suddenly

the window became

two faces, looking back in
my room, another

mix of yin, and yang woven
in the pain, and grief
of the resigned glance that fell

when the clouds parted,
and the sun filled my eyes, like

the presence of god

Mary James

Notes from the Building Team

We report our ongoing progress in the Free Spirit every month.

On a positive note:

In 2017, our architect, Peter Marren, and Site Planner/Landscape Architect, Stacy Paetzel, met with the Southold Town Boards (Planning and Zoning Boards...etc.) several times. We are awaiting approval for a Variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals – to put the church back where it was since 1836. We need a variance due in part to the fact there is a residential rental property on the site. We hope to have this resolved in spring 2018.

As previously reported, we have had good progress with the Southold Town Historic Preservation Commission. They are pleased with the design of our church and parish hall buildings.

We expect to have two watercolor renderings – of the church building – completed in January 2018. We will bring the drawings to church on Sundays. They will be used in our fundraising and publicity efforts as well.

The Building Team, architect Peter Marren, and builder Eugene Burger will meet with a LEED consultant early in January to learn what it will take to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Designing and building a LEED building will be a commitment: financially, and also philosophically, politically and environmentally. Costs vs benefits, etc., to be determined.

2018 will be a pivotal and BIG year for our Church! We look forward to resolving any remaining open issues, obtaining final Town approval, with building ("groundbreaking") to begin in the fall of 2018.

We will keep you posted.

Irene Stewart
Building Team Chair

We Are a Giving Congregation

For the past several years, our church has given the plate collection from the first Sunday of each month to a worthy cause. In 2017 we made donations to Eastern LI Hospital for three months, to C.A.S.T. for six months, to Honoring the Hands for two months, and to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) hurricane relief fund.

We also participated in the Guest at Your Table collection, which will be sent to the UUSC to support its many programs.

We want to thank all of our members and friends for their generosity.

Giving and Receiving

Giving (open-minded and open-hearted)
puts a smile on every person's face.

Thoughts on Spirit

Respect

A 65-year-old comedienne from Brooklyn recently riffed on "sexual harassment," "When I was a girl just starting out, we called it 'going to work.'" The audience roared. It's a quip chock-full of the history of gender relations, which gives us all much to consider.

We are living in a time of seismic power shifts. The once powerless are being increasingly heard. Whether the imbalance in power has a cultural (e.g., gender inequality) or a financial (e.g., income inequity) basis, it is now being confronted all over the world.

As has always happened under such conditions, people who feel entitled dig in, get creative, and fight back as they strive to yield as little power as possible. It's the story of the world ... and this episode is taking place in our lifetime!

If we look at the sexual harassment news-making stories in this context, we might feel that we are riding a wave of progress, even as we may rue a lack of due process. That too is the way of the world. (Think Kevin Spacey and Marie Antoinette!)

It's a good time to take stock of history and current events and to observe that **respect for each of our fellow human beings is what is missing in all power struggles** including the current ones.

The dictionary describes **respect** as **due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, and traditions of others**. It is a major element of the love we must have for our "neighbor"... I don't truly love another if I don't respect them.

Respect for others cannot be legislated; it must be cultivated in our guts and minds and souls. If we cultivate attitudes of respect for others, regardless of their relative position on any so-called power scale, we will go a long way toward resolving our current struggles peacefully and creating better balance in our societies.

This cultivation begins with how and what we teach children. It requires adults to develop radical listening skills. It requires mediating in good faith, compromising, and yielding. And it requires recognizing our common human bond with the weakest and poorest among us... and with the most obnoxious and despised we can think of.

Meditate on these things as 2018 unfolds and we write a new chapter in the history of human relations!

Happy New Year!

Joe Mc Kay
January 2018