

The Quest

OCTOBER 2024
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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Sussex County

PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER



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 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:

Oct 6. Hearing with the Heart. Many UU congregations in October will use “Deep Listening” as the theme for worship services. That provides congregations and ministers with a creative prompt. Rev. Doak will review spiritual resources available to seekers. Ralph Waldo Emerson stressed intuition as an aid to recognizing truth. Was he onto something? Led by The Rev. Dr. Doak M. Mansfield.

Oct 13. Good Habits for Your Brain. Science has identified several lifestyle activities for brain health. What are some of the key points from recent recommendations? Join us to discuss good brain habits that are easy to put into practice and can make a difference in our daily lives. Led by Dr. Gabriela Höhn, Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Neuropsychologist, New York City.

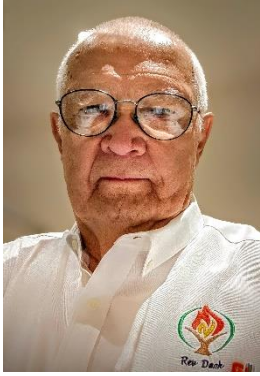
Oct 20. Masks We Use. Rev. Doak will observe Halloween, or Samhain in the Celtic spiritual tradition. For the Celts, the season was the recognition of the new year—the harvest was in, the hibernation of nature was beginning, and the seemingly dominant time was ahead. Led by The Rev. Dr. Doak M. Mansfield.

Oct 27. Rescuers. Our own Michael Bengis and his daughter Andea will present the story of ordinary citizens in Europe during World War II who risked their own lives and those of their families to keep as many Jews as possible from the clutches of the Nazis. This program is taken from the 1992 book *Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust* by Gay Block and Malka Drucker, who interviewed dozens of these courageous people. Led by Michael Bengis.

- 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.

MINISTER'S MUSINGS



Seasonal change for me is most powerful in autumn. September 21 is the official change date, but the living experience for our area is October, serving as the time of speedy observable change—leaf colors, daylight length, and cooler temperatures. Jackets, gloves, scarfs, and head coverings become required for warmth. And darkness comes too early and stays too late.

Fall ties with spring as my favorite season. Life feels so vivid in both. I like four-season places, but, in truth, such places are not that available. Cold or hot? My body has become very susceptible to the hurts of the cold. I hate that development, but my health review over the summer and the resulting tune-up revealed acute arthritis in several places—hips, ankles, lower back, neck, and shoulders, as well as my left hand.

(I'm left-handed, of course.)

I'm trying to renew and improve my drawing. I even have a gig as a cartoonist for a religious magazine, *The Universalist Herald*. I have a cartoon series, "Sayings of Friar Doke."

And the 2024 elections are super significant. It's being written and broadcast that this election is a history-shaping one that will determine what type of government we choose—democratic or oligarchical. In the 2020 election, 67% of eligible citizens voted. Of course, historically, elections have contributed to the evolution of the "idea of the US." How shall the USA be governed, through a representative or autocratic system of government? As a devoted amateur historian, I understand there has been a broadening of eligible voters since 1776, from very limited (white men with property) to broadly inclusive (age, gender, and status). Please encourage participation! I am volunteering to work at the polls.

See you at the Fellowship! Be in touch.

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 Rise of Bigotry

A small sign on the first floor of our building declares, “Hate has no home here.” It’s a timely message. Unlike most election years, this one seems to hinge on hate and bigotry.

As a nonprofit organization, we cannot take sides in political contests. But we can, and should, express ourselves clearly, and publicly, about the moral principles that underpin Unitarian Universalist thought. We believe in diversity, inclusion, and respect for the dignity of every person. That rules out bigotry. And it seems obvious that everyone should endorse these beliefs.

If only that were true. Instead, in this election cycle, we’ve all heard that:

- Immigrants are “polluting the blood” of Americans.
- Haitian immigrants need to be expelled, even if they’re here legally.
- Nearly all immigrants are murderers, rapists, or drug couriers, or are mentally defective.
- Those streaming over the southern border are not only Latinos, but also criminals from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.
- One candidate said that if he loses, you can blame it on the Jews.

Sadly, polls indicate that millions of adults either agree with these wicked thoughts or at least are willing to vote for someone who promotes them.

The first Americans were those who crossed over the Bering Strait and became our indigenous nations. Everyone else here today has descended from immigrants. Everyone else. Yet, every large prior surge of arrivals, by ethnicity, has encountered prejudice, the Irish and Italians being notable examples.

Why? Must we remain tribal forever, ready to fight with anyone we perceive as different?

I hope not. We are Unitarian Universalists. We do not hate.

Best,

Stu

THIS MONTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Hello friends,

Happy Autumn! As the days and nights turn cooler and more refreshing, we're settling into a nice routine with our RE curriculum, *The Powers Within You*.

We're making progress in the first unit, "The Power of Earth," beginning with *connections*—interviewing each other and using what we learn to forge connections—by making a human web with a very long piece of yarn and finding symbols of earth to decorate our elements mural.

Coming up, we'll be exploring our *roots* by making a human map of our origins, creating a floor plan of our homes tied to our memories, and writing a poem inspired by the story *Where I'm From*.

Toward the end of October, we'll work on *growth* by learning about a man who planted a vegetable garden in a neglected urban neighborhood and who inspired a song. Then, we'll examine Miss Sharon's groceries to find out their origins and how our food choices impact the farmers, suppliers, and even ourselves—our bodies and our spirits. Finally, we'll plant herbs to give as gifts, to experience the magic of helping something grow and to symbolize our own growth by offering the gift of growth to others.

See you in RE!

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

Below is our RE calendar for October.

Oct 6. The Power of Roots (Continued). Children learn that we're grounded in all that has shaped our lives, from our own memories back through the experiences of our ancestors, and including the features of the place where we live—its geography, ecology, and history.

Oct 13, Oct 20, and October 27. The Power of Growth. The story of Mark Covington, who created a community garden in his economically depressed Detroit neighborhood, illustrates the link between earth power, personal growth, and community growth. The children consider the sources of their food and acknowledge how easy it is to become disconnected from the earth as the source of our sustenance. By decorating pots and planting herbs, children reconnect with the earth and the concept of growth. They'll create their potted herbs as a gift to share with someone else, to remind them that part of their own growth is reaching out to others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion Group

Our September discussion of religious freedom was well attended, with good dialog.

Join us on October 18th for our topic “Traditional Values.” Join us to explore the importance of traditional values, such as family, religion, and patriotism in modern society.

If you’re 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.wantage.us/unitarian-fellowship-discussion-group>.

Yahya Kamate Performance to Benefit UUFSC

Join us on Saturday, October 19th, at 3:00, for an amazing performance of African dancers and drummers. There will also be children’s dancers, a professional female dancer, and a world renowned drummer from France. Plus, a surprise!

This will be a big show you won’t want to miss. Please bring your family and friends. After the show, coffee and snacks will be served for a meet-and-greet with the performers. Price of tickets is \$25/adult and \$5/child.

A flyer is on the next page.

October Food Pantry

UUFSC will support the Pet Pantry for Sussex County Food Bank for the month of October by collecting dog and cat food. Desired donations are dry or canned (shelf-stable) food in the smaller sizes (e.g., 15-20-pound bags), although 50-pound bags will be accepted. Bins will be provided downstairs. See Susan Felsen with any questions.

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!



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County
is proud to present...



YAH'YA KAMATE

of the National Ballet of the
Ivory Coast & the Ailey
School of Dance

Join us for an exciting
afternoon of West African
music and dance
to benefit UUFSC!

October 19th 2024

3:00 PM, doors open at 2:30

Donation of \$25 per adult,
\$5 per child

The Unitarian Fellowship
1 West Nelson St., Newton NJ





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



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF SUSSEX COUNTY**

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