

North Fork Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Jamesport, Long Island

Newsletter

Early Winter, 2024



Love radically, serve gratefully, wonder daily.

HOLIDAY CHEER

Much needed holiday cheer was in abundance on Nov 8 as we celebrated some of the delightful variety holiday traditions of our members. Thanks to all, and to Jay Chen who rounded out our service with the gift of his beautiful music.



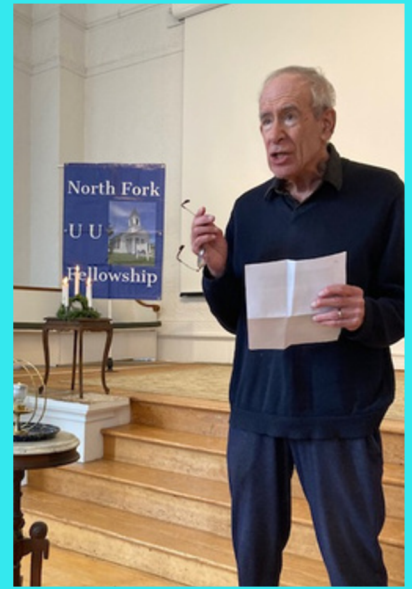
Thanks to Annika Shapiro, we learned about beautiful Swedish traditions including the lighting of St. Lucia's crown.

Our very own St. Nick, Bob Benish, talked about the origin, importance and uplifting joy of Santa Claus in today's sometimes scary world.





Marty Levinson spoke about the history and meaning of Hannukah while Betsy Kaplan lit the menorah candles.



We all enjoyed the Polish tradition of children facing the Christmas tree and singing carols while candy magically appears! It worked! Thank you Lyra Lord-Klug and Madison Tomaszewski.

NEWS FROM UU ASSOCIATION

The UUA has launched a free twice-a-month emailed newsletter, *Wayfinder*. This will provide you with the latest news and storytelling from the UU magazine, *UU World*. In their words, “expect moments of insight, inspiration, joy, spiritual nourishment, and more.”

Sign up at uuworld.org/newletter

A MESSAGE FROM REVERAND BEN

While we don't have a physical office at the beautiful Jamesport Meeting House, I want to announce a "virtual" office. Never hesitate to email me (Benbortin@gmail.com), text or phone me (917 733 1460), or even write me (464 Main St. #218, Port Washington, NY 11050).

You are welcome to be in touch if, for example, you have a question about Unitarian Universalism, or want to discuss some aspect of our (in my view, wonderful) congregational life, or to talk about something more personal. I will certainly treat anything that is confidential accordingly.

Wishing you well on the holidays ahead!

BookCorner

Looking for a light and funny read? I suggest Simon Rich's *Hits and Misses*. Reviewers say it is "a hilarious collection inspired by a former SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE writer's real experiences in Hollywood, chronicling the absurdity of fame." I found it a hoot! Recommended by the editor.

Do you have book recommendation? Just let me know.

Community Outreach

We continue to collect donations for local food pantries. Please bring any items to the next service.

The Ukranian Catholic Church in Riverhead is asking for donations that will be sent to Ukraine. Please bring items to the next NFUUF service on December 8. The complete list of requested items can be found on their website:

www.sjbucc.org

A Reflective Service

**“NOT FOR A
MOMENT SHOULD WE
CEASE TO REMAIN
STEADFAST IN OUR
COMMITMENT TO
TRUTH-SEEKING,
SOCIAL JUSTICE,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY.”**

REV. BEN BORTIN



These post election days have found many of us reeling with disbelief, anger and worry, all the while wondering where do we go from here? Thanks to Mary Ellen, the service of November 8 gave us an opportunity to express those feelings while in the company of our supportive congregation. Our individual expressions gave rise to comfort and inspiration and the many burning candles were an indication of our warmth and strength.

Some of the words that day gave us some direction in which to move in order to put Reverend Bern's words into action.

Louise and Jon Hansen plan to renew their vigorous commitment to an organization that is headed by their daughter Christine called Part of the Solution (POTS). This is an organization that offers a variety of comprehensive and personalized services to fight poverty and hunger in the Bronx. Although the number of people they serve keeps growing, for example, in 2023 POTS provided 2.8 million meals to over 34,000 people, government funding at the federal, state and NYC level has been decreasing. POTS has a very informative website : www.potsbronx.org

Betsy Kaplan strongly believes that a free press is vital for democracy worldwide and in the U.S. and plans to support the Committee to Protect Journalists. This organization denounces press freedom violations, meets with heads of state and high-ranking officials, advises on diplomatic efforts, and works to provide comprehensive, life saving support to journalists and media support staff through up-to-date safety and security information and rapid response assistance.

For more information.....<https://cpj.org>

\SPECIAL THANKS to Reverend Kim Wildszewski and to Washington Crossing UU congregation for welcoming us to their Zoom Vespers service on the evening of November 6. It was truly a comforting and calming service.

Another Famous UU...


ROD SERLING



“Someplace between apathy and anarchy is the stance of the thinking human being. He does embrace a cause, he does take a position, and can’t allow it to become business as usual. Humanity is out business.”

Rod Serling is best known as the creator of *The Twilight Zone*, as well as the screenwriter for live television dramas such as *Requiem for a Heavyweight*. He also wrote the screenplay for *Planet of the Apes*. Winner of three Emmy Awards, Serling used his talent to write against racism, censorship and was an anti-war activist.

SPECIAL THANKS



VanKamenade Paint Store has graciously given our congregation members permission to park in the 6 parking spaces in their parking lot. This is on Manor Road, directly across the street from the Jamesport Meeting House.

NFUUF is an open-minded, open-hearted spiritual community. We are ever grateful for the guidance of our Reverend Ben Bortin. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Jamesport Meeting House, 1590 Main Road, Jamesport, NY www.nfuuf.org

Editor Betsy Kaplan