

**UUSB NEWS**, the newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn, Connecticut  
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<http://brooklyn.ct.uua.org>

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Sunday meetings from October through December will be at the Meeting House in Brooklyn Center.  
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UPCOMING EVENTS (details follow)

*Note: This year there are three services in October, and the November services are in adjacent weeks.*

- October 3, Sunday, 10:30 am**, Transylvania discussion with Ann Barry & Dennis Landis
- October 3, Sunday, 1:00 pm, CROP Walk to raise money for hunger relief
- October 4, Monday, 7:00 pm, Book Club
- October 10, Sunday, 2:00 pm, "Spirits of the Brooklyn Green", a Walking Weekend event with Dennis Landis
- October 13\*, Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Executive Committee meeting (\*date tentative)
- October 17, Sunday, 10:30 am**, The Islamic Occupation of Spain, with Dr. Ronald Barks
- October 17, Sunday, 6:00 pm, "Candlelight Vigil for Family Peace", Federated Church and Brooklyn Green
- October 23, Saturday, Clara Barton District Fall Rally, Hartford, with keynote speaker Holly Near
- October 31, Sunday, 10:30 am**, All Souls Day commemoration with Pam Rosenlund

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- November 1 or 8, Monday, 7:00 pm, Book Club
  - November 4, Thursday, 6:00 pm, Steeplechase Auction to benefit the Meeting House Restoration Fund
  - November 14, Sunday, 10:30 am**, service with Bethany Bowen
  - November 21, Sunday, \*\*afternoon/evening\*\***, Thanksgiving service and potluck dinner with Rev. Paulette Harwood

\*(See also the *Bits and Pieces* section of this issue for events that do not directly involve UUSB.)

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SUNDAY SERVICES:  
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**OCTOBER 3: ""Living the Transylvanian Heritage" "**

Recently returned UUSB members Ann Barry and Dennis Landis will present "Living the Transylvanian Heritage" on Sunday, October 3, at 10:30 in the Meeting House. Ann and Dennis will report on impressions from a concert tour to Unitarian churches in Romania and Hungary this past August.

Ann auditioned last fall to join a 20-person chamber choir made up of UU church musicians from across the U.S. The group performed at

four churches in Transylvania (now in Romania) where the Unitarian Church began in the 16th century. In Hungary they performed in the Unitarian Templom in Budapest, and in the Baradla Cave in the Aggtelek National Park.

The singers will report on their personal exchanges with their fellow churchmen, still emerging from persecution under the Communist dictator Ceausescu. Venues for the concerts ranged from a 14th-century fortified church near the Carpathian Mountains to buildings erected in the 20th century. There were also unplanned performances in such places as a hotel restaurant, a new church still under construction, and the church where the Edict of Torda (guaranteeing religious freedom) was read in 1568.

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**OCTOBER 17: "The Muslim Occupation of Spain, 711 to 1492: Impact on the West Then and Now"**

On Sunday, October 17, at 10:30 in the Meeting House, our presenter will be Dr. Ronald Barks. He notes: "Spain was the first Christian European country to fall to Muslim conquerors. Islamic Spain significantly influenced Europe then and now, eventually giving rise to the emergence of Spain as a European power, the discovery of the New World, development of the Renaissance, and impacting current events. And most of this was the result of a historical fluke!"

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**OCTOBER 31: All Souls Day observation with UUSB VP Pam Rosenlund**

At our 10:30 am service in the Meeting House on October 31, Pam will lead us: "Last year we learned about Christian traditions surrounding All Soul's Day. This year let's explore what those traditions can teach us about honoring those who have died, and a brief thought about UU saints. We'll enjoy Day of Dead bread again, and as you wish, the placing of photos or mementos commemorating our own ancestors."

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**NOVEMBER 14: Bethany Bowen of Litha Hill Herbs & Flora**

Bethany Bowen of Litha Hill Herbs & Flora in Pomfret will lead our 10:30 am service in the Meeting House. Her preliminary comments: "I would like to speak about the healing energies of the gardens as they define the seasons of living. How to re-unite with the wellness and healing of these seasons; how we are as a garden as well."

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**NOVEMBER 21: Thanksgiving service and potluck dinner**

The Reverend Paulette Harwood of the Federated Church of Brooklyn will be our leader for our annual **afternoon** service. Following the service, we will adjourn as usual to the Federated Church hall for a potluck Thanksgiving dinner.

*Look for updated information on November events in the next UUSB NEWS, to be published on **November 10**.*

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**VARIOUS MEETINGS and EVENTS**

**@@ CROP Walk**, Sunday, October 3 -- Having injured her foot, walk-team leader Ann Barry will not be able to participate physically in this fundraiser for hunger-related projects. She hopes that you will either join with, or support generously, her gracious proxy, Elois McElroy.

The walk will take place again this year in downtown Danielson, stepping off from Davis Park at 1:30 pm. The 3-mile route is mostly flat and entirely on sidewalked streets. Tracing a rough figure-8, it allows those who need to make an even shorter walk to return easily to their cars.

Moneys donated to CROP go to Church World Service or a similar organization, to foster hunger-relief efforts and projects. 25% of the funds raised locally are returned to the community for the same purpose.

Please contact Ann [info at end] for further information on walking or sponsoring a walker.

**@@ The UUSB Book Club** will meet next on Monday, October 4, at 7:00 pm, with discussion leader and hostess Elois McElroy. The book chosen for this meeting is **Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington**, by Richard Brookhiser. Contact Elois McElroy or Ann Barry [contact info at end] for the location details.

-- The November book selection and date have not yet been determined.

-- Meetings are usually on the \*first\* Monday evening of the month. For further information, please contact Elois McElroy [info at end].

-- An email discussion list (AKA "listserv") for this group has been established. If you'd like to sign up, contact Ann Barry.

**@@ The UUSB Executive Committee** will meet face-to-face over supper this month; the expected date at press time is Wednesday, October 13. Items for discussion may be suggested at any time to any of the board or committee chairs. [Info at end.]

## BUILDING / RESTORATION NEWS

Planning for the **Steeplechase Auction** of goods and services continues apace! The date is Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the time is 6:00 pm, and the venue is our Meeting House. Phyllis Emigh and co-chair MaryBeth Leonard (from the Brooklyn Historical Society) have sent out hundreds of letters of invitation to Brooklyn folks, but even before they left the post office, the auctionable donations have been galloping in. Just to mention a few: if sports are what interest you, come bid on the basketball signed by the All-Star UConn men's team and coach. For the music lover, there are \*three\* personal concerts to choose from, donated by local professionals. Peter Cooper of The Harvest in Pomfret is in the stirrups as caterer, so you can be assured of palate-tempting fare as you peruse the items in the Silent Auction.

Please be thinking about what item or service \*you\* might donate.

**In addition, there are jobs aplenty available for "stablehands", before and during the auction.**

If you wish to just help by attending and bidding, tickets are \$25. (You are welcome to offer more than that and become a Sponsor!)

To make a donation of an item or service, to reserve a ticket or offer a sponsorship, or to volunteer to help on the evening of November 4, please contact Phyllis Emigh.

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## BITS AND PIECES

^^ The Rev. John Buehrens [past president of the UUA] will give the keynote address, "Living with Soul: the Intersection of Spirituality and Social Justice," at the **New Massachusetts Universalist Convention's** Annual Conference on **Saturday, October 2**, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, MA, 147 High Street. The day will run from 8:30 to 4:30 and include food (breakfast, lunch, snack), worship, small group reflection, workshops, and lots of good conversation. Full information is available on line--go to [www.nmuc.uua.org](http://www.nmuc.uua.org) and click on "Annual Meeting."

^^ Walking Weekend Event: **Spirits of the Brooklyn Green**

Learn what spirits may still haunt the Brooklyn Green, and find out about the role of local residents in 19th-century social reform.

On Sunday, October 10 at 2:00 p.m. Dennis Landis will reprise the presentation given on two previous Walking Weekends over the last several years. A talk in the Meeting House and a short stroll up and down Route 169 will emphasize the history of our congregation and the social movers associated with it. Hear about Samuel J. May, Prudence Crandall, William Lloyd Garrison, black children in the gallery, and a host of other topics. Takes about an hour.

^^ The Brooklyn Green is the site of a **A Candlelight Vigil for Family Peace** on the evening of Sunday, October 17, following a 6:00 service at the Federated Church (at which our Pam Rosenlund will assist). This event, sponsored by **Faith Communities Against Family Violence**, is part of a series of events focusing on domestic violence in northeastern Connecticut this month: Oct. 14, talk on the issue, Federated Church, 7-9 pm (more info: 860-450-9511); Oct. 21, Domestic Violence Awareness Month dinner, 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, Canterbury, 6 pm, \$8 (860-450-9511 or 860-228-4480); Oct. 25+, workshop for advanced training, Federated Church, 6-9 pm (860-228-4480). Pam Rosenlund has flyers for all these events.

^^ Our regional denominational organization, the **Clara Barton District of the Unitarian Universalist Association** will hold its Fall Rally on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, from 8:30 to 4:00. The keynote speaker is renowned singer **Holly Near**. The day's theme is "How to UU – Seeing Things Whole", and it will offer "meaningful workshops to affirm, promote and celebrate the UU Seven Principles, and our covenant for living in right relationship with ourselves and the world community."

Workshops are:

- RE: Something New For Everyone
- Continuing Religious Education
- The Threat of Global Warming: 2004-2006 Study Action Issue
- Forming Meaningful Covenant Groups
- Congregational Presidents: Hobnobbing With Your Fellow Wizards
- The Almost Church: Redefining Unitarian Universalism for a New Era
- The ABCs of Accessibility
- The Transformative Power of Interfaith Coalition Building
- Race Matters
- How to Organize for Social Action
- Facilitated Conversation for Youth Advisors

- YAC: Non-Competitive Games For All Ages
- Leadership Development: Take One Step Forward

Workshop descriptions may be found at [http://cbd.uua.org/pdf/Workshop\\_Descriptions.pdf](http://cbd.uua.org/pdf/Workshop_Descriptions.pdf), or contact Ann Barry.

District events are a wonderful way to rejuvenate your excitement about our faith. Ann, Dennis Landis, and Pam Rosenlund are planning to attend, and seats are available in the van. [Contact info at end.] Registration deadline is Friday, October 15.

^^^ One of our UUSB friends is coordinator of the new **Freecycle** group in the Quiet Corner. As she says, "Freecycle is a great way to recycle. Members of the group can post offers for items they would like to give away. And, also, post for items they are seeking." You can sign up for the local list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleWoodstockCT>, or look at the main site at <http://www.freecycle.org>.

^^^ For those who would like to see the UUSB NEWS with color and occasional graphics, but who do not have Microsoft Word, the newsletter is now available for email distribution in **PDF format**. This requires a free download of Adobe Reader from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. Please contact Ann Barry if you would like to change your subscription to this format.

^^^ UUSB CALENDAR REMINDER -- Our new events calendar at our web site, [brooklyn.ct.uua.org](http://brooklyn.ct.uua.org), is easy to keep updated, so you can always look there to find out what's coming up. If you lose your newsletter and can't remember the web address, Google will now find us easily.

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#### TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND MORE

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--**Ann Barry**, president (+ newsletter, mailing list, music)  
--**Pam Rosenlund**, vice president (+ program)  
--**Carol Hagstrom**, treasurer  
--**Dennis C. Landis**, secretary

--**Phyllis Emigh**, program, caring, & new directions  
--**Elois McElroy**, Book Club, caring  
--**David G. McKinley**, refreshments coordinator

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Mission statement of the Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn, Connecticut:

*We embrace the Unitarian Universalist Principles and provide a supportive community honoring diversity and religious freedom.  
We strive for spiritual, intellectual, and moral growth through worship, social action, fellowship, outreach, and education.  
We encourage one another in the search for our individual and collective roles in the wider community. We honor our historic building as a reminder of the achievements of our religious forebears.*