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New York State Convention of Universalists  
197th<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
*Today's Universalism: Audacity, Courage, and Grace*  
October 20 and 21, 2023

**Please note that this will be a hybrid meeting- we encourage you to participate in person or online!**

**Host Congregation:**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, NY  
183 Riverside Drive  
Binghamton, NY 13905

**Housing:**

Doubletree by Hilton Binghamton  
225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY  
(607) 722 7575  
Special Rate is \$139 for NYSCU; honored both Friday and Saturday nights

**Friday evening, October 20**

**7:30-9:30 PM Informal welcome and refreshments, meet & greet**

Doubletree Hotel, Meeting room

**Saturday, October 22**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton**

8:30 AM- Registration, coffee- ***Social Hall***

9:00 AM Opening Worship and Music- ***Sanctuary***

9:30 AM Keynote Address ***Sanctuary***

**Rev. Verdis L. Robinson: The Audacity of Universalism**

The call to live our Universalist values by loving others is a strong and bold one. It becomes even more audacious as we seek to apply those values in our personal lives and relationships, as well as looking at history. The journey requires courage and grace.

10:15- 10:45 Keynote Dialogue ***Sanctuary***

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00 Business meeting ***Sanctuary***

11:45 Lunch (provided by the host congregation) ***Social Hall***

## 12:30 Workshop Session 1

### **Chapel**

#### **NYSCU Grants and Loans- What's new?**

**Presenter: Jim D'Aloisio, NYSCU Grants and Loans chair**

Many congregations have benefitted from NYSCU grants over the years. The NYSCU Board has recently updated the guidelines and criteria for the grants process. Whether you've never applied, or have benefitted in the past, we'll update you on how our grants process works to promote and support Universalism in today's world.

### **Sanctuary**

#### **So, CAN we sing Spirituals?**

**Presenter: Rev. Verdis Robinson**

This question has come up in many UU congregations as we seek to provide rich musical elements to worship, while honoring and respecting the art and culture of all. Rev. Verdis will share his perspective and practical wisdom.

## 1:30-1:45 Break

## 1:45 PM Workshop Session 2

### **Chapel**

#### **Finances, Endowments, and UU Values: A Roundtable**

**Moderator: Ann Rhody (NYSCU President; Finance Chair, First Universalist Church of Rochester)**

Church endowments vary in size, structure and policy. How can we use our endowments to best meet the needs of our congregation as well as our Universalist values? Come share your experience and hear what is working in other congregations.

### **Sanctuary**

#### **The Carbon-Neutral Congregation: Is it Possible?**

**Presenter: Wes Ernsberger, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton**

Can we really make headway toward becoming carbon-neutral, given the challenges of building age, expense, and resistance to change? Wes will share the steps that have been taken at UUCB to make this a reality.

## 3:00 Closing Worship *Sanctuary*

## 3:15 Meeting adjourns

New York State Convention of Universalists

Founded 1825

197<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Agenda for Business Meeting

October 21, 2023

1. Call to Order- Ann Rhody, President
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting
5. Report of the Board of Trustees
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Report of Service Gratuity Program
8. Report of 2022-23 Grants and Loans
9. Vote on proposed bylaw amendment
10. Report of the Nominating Committee
11. Election of new Trustees
12. Report of the President- Ann Rhody, President
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Invitation to 2024 Annual meeting
16. Adjournment

**New York State Convention of Universalists**  
**Founded 1825**  
**196<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**October 22, 2022**

1. Call to Order- Ann Rhody, President  
Time: 11:00am
2. Determination of Quorum- Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley, Secretary (via zoom)  
Quorum confirmed by clerk and roll call read (by congregation)
3. Approval of Agenda- Ann Rhody  
Motion by Rev. Sally Hamlin, second by Karen Dau. Majority approved.
4. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting- Ann Rhody  
Motion by Richard Reed, second by Jim Deloisio.  
No additions or corrections noted. Passed by majority.
5. Report of the Board of Trustees- Rev. Lynn Ashley  
Nothing added.
6. Treasurer's Report- Melissa Lesley Fox  
This year we transitioned all the financial dealings from the old treasurer to our new one, Melissa Lesley Fox. Melissa reports that as an organization we are in fine financial standing. At this point we have over \$2.5 million in our accounts to support Universalism in our country. Melissa said they are available to chat about details of the fiscal reports, should anyone wish to speak in further detail. Melissa also reports that we have a proposed 23-24 FY budget that folks can look over if they wish. Delegates are eligible for expense reimbursement for meeting attendance.
7. Report of Service Gratuity Program  
The committee suggest a small cost of living increase for our upcoming budget.
8. Grants and Loans Report- Jim D'Aloisio  
This fiscal year, we awarded \$80k in loans and (13) grants. Jim briefly described each of the grant recipients and what they are doing with the funds. Information is available in the annual meeting packet. He also reviewed the grants and loans process. All grant proposals are due end of January; this fiscal year we will have around \$100k to grant. Information

for the grants is available on the NYSCU website. The committee will meet in February to discuss grant applications and letters will be distributed during the month of March. Once a letter is received, the primary contact for the grants must request the funds.

9. Report of the Nominating Committee - Carol Houston. Nominees for board are Mark Berninghausen (returning) and Rev. Jo VonRue (returning); and for the Nominating Committee, Joyce Gilbert, and Angela Warren.

10. Election of new Trustees

Vote on Board: Motion by Nominating Committee, second by Ken Drake. Passed by majority.

Vote on Nominating Committee: Motion by Nominating Committee, second by Mark Berninghausen. Passed by majority.

11. Report of the President- Ann Rhody, President

Ann thanked Karen Dau who has been our archivist for many years, then said Karen reports that she has been packing documents which we will move from Rochester to Harvard so that they may be available for more folks for research. Each congregation has a folder, and Karen welcomes documents from any member congregations. NYSCU bicentennial is in three years, in 2025.

Ann thanked Melissa Lesley Fox for all the diligent work they did through this transition from the past treasurer. Ann thanked the Board of Trustees and members of the Nominating Committee as well as Michael Scott (webmaster) and Richard Reed (finance committee). She thanked First Universalist Rochester members, Emma, Lisa, Jack and all the supporting folks from the congregation who contributed to make today's meeting work.

Ann reflected on the effects of Covid. The NYSCU board is keeping an open ear and eye on how we will modernize post-covid, noting that this year is the first time we have had online registration (thanks Melissa).

We want to be as fully accessible as possible to all of our member congregations. She concluded by thanking everyone she forgot to thank.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

None

14. Invitation to 2023 Annual meeting

Binghamton, NY

15. Adjournment

Time: 11:50am

Minutes respectfully submitted by board member Rev. Jo VonRue

New York State Convention of Universalists  
Annual Meeting 2023  
Board/President's Report

The Board of Trustees of NYSCU, as well as its committees, were active during 2023! Throughout the year, we've continued to look at our operations and documents and to see where we could become more current, more streamlined, and better serve the mission of the organization:

- 1. To promote the growth of Unitarian Universalism, primarily in New York State, through support of innovative programs carried out by UU Societies and associated organizations;*
- 2. To promote awareness and appreciation of, and literacy in, both Universalist history and the contemporary value of basic Universalist concepts; and*
- 3. To carry out such functions as are necessary to administer the NYSCU Service Gratuinity Program; to hold, maintain or dispose of real and personal property deeded to the Convention; and to maintain a relationship with the St. Lawrence Foundation for Religious Education.*

It is always good to revisit our Mission, particularly at Annual Meeting time. Why ARE we here? We are all busy people with lives that are full. Why do just one more thing for one more organization?

NYSCU isn't the biggest or most powerful organization, but we DO make an important difference to congregations and organization that share our values.

To that end, the following actions were taken this year:

- We passed and administered a NYSCU budget, and took care of other financial responsibilities, including an annual audit;
- Considered 20 grant applications and awarded over \$113,000 in grants;
- Updated our connection with the St. Lawrence Foundation to reflect today's needs (there is no longer a need to appoint a NYSCU member to the Board of the Foundation);
- Considered and reached consensus on changes to the grant application and guidelines for decisions;
- Reviewed last year's Annual Meeting experience, and made some changes in plans as a result;
- Began the planning for a major celebration at the 2025 Annual Meeting, to be hosted by the Canton congregation. Both NYSCU and Canton will be celebrating their bicentennial that year!;

- Continued to work with our staff of Treasurer, Clerk, Archivist, and Webmaster to streamline operations and go digital wherever possible.

In the coming year, my hope is to increase the visibility of NYSCU within our denomination and in congregations; to seek ways to better serve the member congregations, and to widen our reach when looking for Board members and volunteers for committees. The Bylaws committee will be working to incorporate the new grants and loans information in an update.

Thanks to the members of the Board of Trustees, each of whom brings an important and unique perspective to our meetings. Our committee members work to plan our financial operations, ensure that our Bylaws are reviewed, and that nominees for the Board are put forth. Thanks as well to our Clerk, Tom Hackett; our Treasurer, Melissa Lesley-Fox; our Webmaster, Michael Scott; and our Archivist, Karen Dau.

Finally, I thank the Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley, who is departing as Secretary of the organization. Rev. Dr. Ashley has been a wonderful presence and a help to both the organization and to me personally in stressful times. Thanks for your service, Lynn!

Best blessings and many thanks to all for a good year in NYSCU!

Here's to 2024.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

Ann F. Rhody, President  
New York State Convention of Universalists  
October 12, 2023

## October 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Melissa Lesley-Fox, Treasurer

Finance Committee: Judi Adel, Richard Reed, John Roleke

Service Gratuity Committee: Nancy Bender, Bob Arnold, Douglas Taylor

### GENERAL FUND

- Fund Balance as of September 30, 2023 is **\$2,619,298**
- Outstanding loans:
  - May Memorial UU Society: received \$13,333; remaining balance \$13,333
  - Middletown Fellowship: balance \$30,000 (expected installment payment this winter)

### SERVICE GRATUITY

- Fund Balance as of September 30, 2023 is **\$205,945**
- 2 members are Charlotte Ramsay and Herbert "Terry" Hudson
- 2023 payments are estimated \$29,000 total
- 5% COLA proposed, 3% expected Social Security COLA, plus 2% in recognition of additional recent inflation
- Prescription/out-of-pocket reimbursement amount \$1500 max, with additional requests considered
- Expected longevity: 2031 if market complies with assumptions; General Fund investment is adequate to cover any additional needs

### Available for review upon request

- Accountant's annual review FY23
- FY23 reports
- FY24 budget vs actuals, balance sheet through September
- FY25 budget

## Bylaw Amendment

WHEREAS the Executive Board has declared the First Universalist Society of Schuyler Lake to be extinct; and

WHEREAS the Executive Board has, as specified in Article VIII, Section C-801.1, duly considered the following amendment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the bylaws be amended to remove the First Universalist Society of Schuyler Lake from the list of societies in Article II, Section C-201, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Convention releases the First Universalist Society of Schuyler Lake and its successors from any obligation to the Convention pertaining to its building or other real estate.

# Nominating Committee 2023

Nominations:

For President: Ann Rhody

Vice President: Rev. Sally Hamlin

Reverend Sally Hamlin (she/her/hers) is a Unitarian Universalist minister who recently celebrated her twenty-third anniversary of ordained ministry. She has served UU congregations in Duluth MN, Rochester NY (First Universalist), and most recently the UU Congregation of Northern Chautauqua in Fredonia NY where she was the Contract Minister for two years. She is recently retired from congregational ministry. Rev. Sally has served as a member of the Board of NYSCU for several years. Rev. Hamlin recently joined NYUJJ (New York Unitarian Universalist Justice) as a member of the board. In her retirement, Sally is continuing her watercolor painting, taking Master Gardener classes and spending time with family and friends. She lives in the Village of Lancaster NY with her senior dog Gracie.

Secretary: Rev. Linda Anderson

Rev Linda Anderson has served Unitarian Universalism in many ways since ordination in 1992. She served congregations in Kingston NY and Freeport NY and she has worked as a hospital chaplain and educator of chaplains. She has done death and dying work, first as an original member of the Palliative Care Team at Bridgeport Hospital, and then leading Death Cafes and Bereavement groups. As a member of the LIAC (Long Island Area Council) Board and later as LIAC president, Linda led various pastoral care workshops for Long Island Congregations and was instrumental in bringing Long Islanders together in anti-racist, anti-oppression work through Beloved Conversations, Jubilee 3 Workshops, a discussion series on Widening the Circle, and a series on the Facets of White Supremacy. Linda has served on the Advisory Council of the Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund and as President of the St Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education. Now retired, she's focusing on the Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry, where she serves as a Board member and Response Coordinator.

Board of Trustees, 3 year term: Jim D'Aloisio

Jim D'Aloisio is a candidate for a second full term on the NYSCU Board, currently serving as Grants and Loans Chair. He has been a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse for 35 years, having filled a variety of roles including President, Treasurer, and Building & Grounds Chair. He had been a Board member of the old St. Lawrence District. Jim is a structural engineer who performs building reviews and advocates for reduction of carbon from building construction. He lives in Jamesville with his wife and two dogs.

Board of Trustees, 1 year term: Barbara Fillips

(Note: Barbara thought she was 2/3 of the way through a 3-year term, but she was actually completing a 2-year term this year. She is not willing to sign on for another 3 years, but would be happy to serve the coming year as she had planned, if the board agrees to give her a 1 year term and then elect a 2 year replacement next year.)

Nominating Committee:

Rev. Carol Huston is retiring. 4th Universalist in NYC has agreed to find a person for this role but have not yet given us a name.

Richard Haas is retiring. We need to find a volunteer for the committee from the Eastern part of the state.

Joyce Gilbert and Angela Warren continue on the committee for 2023-24.



**Home**

**Grants & Loans**

**Past Awards**

# NYSCU Grants, 2023

## Regular Grants

	<a href="#">Central East Region of the UUA</a>	Ongoing support of the region through contribution to the CER operating budget	\$20,000
	<a href="#">Linden Tree Productions</a>	“ <a href="#">Why Are You You?</a> ” Documentary	4,000
	<a href="#">Ferry Beach Retreat &amp; Conference Center</a>	Investing in Youth	7,000
	<a href="#">The Unitarian Church of Barneveld</a>	Inclusion Through Tech	1,742
<b>2023</b>	<a href="#">First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse</a>	Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary	3,000
<b>2022</b>	<a href="#">Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ</a>	Digitizing <a href="#">Ken Patton</a> , Universalist	634
	<a href="#">UU Church of Utica</a>	Creative Family Engagement	5,000
<b>2021</b>	<a href="#">UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester</a>	Sparks of Joy – The UUFNW Music Project	3,500
<b>2020</b>	<a href="#">UU FaithAction NJ</a>	Leadership Training for 12 Board Members and Task Force Chairs	3,730
	<a href="#">The HUUB, Inc.</a>	Planning to Stay	12,000
<b>2019</b>	<a href="#">Central East Region of the UUA</a>	Further Strengthening of the Commissioned Lay Ministry Program	7,218
<b>2018</b>	<a href="#">UU Congregation of Rockland County</a>	Canvas Labyrinth and Facilitator Training	4,200
<b>2017</b>	<a href="#">UU Church of Buffalo</a>	Right Relations Congregational Team Training	400
<b>2016</b>	<a href="#">New York UU Justice</a>	Connecting Congregations with Justice Partners: Increasing Our Impact	5,500
<b>2015</b>	<a href="#">Murray Grove Association</a>	Camp Minister Development Project	9,000
<b>2014</b>	<a href="#">UU Congregation of the South Fork</a>	Our Whole Lives Program for Youth Grades 7–9	11,000
	<a href="#">UU Ministry for Earth</a>	(untitled)	7,100
	<a href="#">UU Congregation of Northern Chautauqua</a>	Over 10 Years of Sharing the Plate, 40 Years of Community Involvement	1,975
	<a href="#">UU Young Adult Revival</a>		

<a href="#">Network</a>	UU Young Adult Revival Network	4,500
<a href="#">Unitarian Universalist Class Conversations</a>	UU Working Class Caucus staff support and promoting Meditations on Class	2,200
<b>Sub-Total (regular grants)</b>		<b>\$113,699</b>

**Loans**

<b>Sub-Total (loans)</b>		<b>\$0</b>
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<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$113,699</b>
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*Last modified May 24, 2023.*

*Please direct any comments, questions, or corrections to [webmaster@nyscu.org](mailto:webmaster@nyscu.org).*

## Events for the Central East Region 2023

### January 2023

CER Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Gathering, Jan 9  
Taproot (national BIPOC) Gathering, Jan 12  
Jubilee 3 Training, online, Jan 13-15  
CER Networking Drop in Call for congregational leaders, Jan 19 – 2 sessions

### February 2023

CER BIPOC Gathering, Feb 6  
Taproot Gathering, Feb 9  
Winter Institute, Cambridge, OH, Feb 17-20  
“So You’re Working on the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle” Conference, online, February 25

### March 2023

CER BIPOC Gathering, Mar 6  
Taproot Gathering, March 9  
UUA Presidential Forum, Virginia, March 18

### April 2023

MNY Youth Cluster Gathering, Manhasset, NY, April 1-2  
Ohio Cluster Con, North Royalton, OH, April 1  
CER BIPOC Gathering, April 3  
Taproot Gathering, April 13  
Youth Cluster Con, Rochester, NY, April 15-16  
CER Networking Drop in Call for congregational leaders, April 20 – 2 sessions  
CER Understanding Article II, April 29

### May 2023

CER BIPOC Gathering, May 8  
Money Connect call for financial leaders, May 11  
Taproot Gathering, April 13

### June 2023

Jubilee 3 online training, June 2-4  
Safety and Security Update, June 3  
CER BIPOC Gathering, June 5

### July 2023

CERSI, July 9-15  
Secondary OWL Training, Wilmington, DE, July 21-23  
Midsummer Respite and Reflection workshop, July 27



August 2023

Helpful Board Habits, one session, August 5

Elementary OWL Training, York, PA, August 11-13

Adult OWL Training, York, PA, August 11-13

September 2023

CER Leadership Skill Up for Changing Times call, Worship, Sept 7

Ongoing CER Leadership Skill Up for Changing Times calls through May 2024



**Central East  
Region**

### **National events with CER Staff**

“Possibilities of Part Time Ministry” Conference with keynote and workshops, May 13, online, geared to smaller congregations.

General Assembly in Pittsburgh, June 21-26

CER Summer Institute, California U of Pennsylvania, July 8-16

“Leading Large: Board Training for Large Congregations”, August 26

Right Relationship Congregational Team Training through UU Institute, Congregational Life. 6 sessions: Nov 1, 15, 29, Jan 17, 31, Feb 14; Second session in Spring, 2023

“Threats from Without, Care from Within” Safety Conference, Oct 21

Pastoral Care Training Renaissance Module via UU Institute February through April

## **NYSCU Grant Progress Report**

### **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF UTICA**

**DATE OF REPORT:** SEPT 19, 2023 Rev Karen Brammer

**PURPOSE OF THE GRANT:** funding experiments to build family programming which fell to nothing during the COVID pandemic

**Amount of the Grant:** \$5000

#### **Spent Money**

To date only \$500 has been spent as honoraria to two members who are public school teachers skilled at curriculum development. Four programs (three written curricula and one pizza garden project) were developed and offered.

#### **Results**

1. Quality programming (hard copy, attached online, and in-house projects) were created and offered as hard copies for self-directed use at the church and via email to families for use at home.
2. At their request, families were given dates for programming ahead of time, and expressed an intention to attend.
3. For the most part, families found they were unable to attend when programming was in person.
4. Families did not use the online versions of the curricula because they were sometimes too tired to guide their children through programming on the weekend and more often needing a different kind of family time.
5. CLEARLY, families appreciate our continued use of tables in the back of the sanctuary and readily available supplies for children to remain in the sanctuary while parents enjoy the service.

**The Project is not complete.** We plan to continue to experiment in order to learn what families are most likely to be able to participate in regularly by using the remainder of the grant in at least three different ways:

1. Local story-tellers from different cultures for multigenerational experiences developing cultural competency
2. Pizza Party and games (purchase food, supplies and a program coordinator for activities)
3. Field Trip(s) to local libraries, art parks, composting sites or other local offerings

Additionally, we will work with

1. Spirit Play as part of the regular services done by minister
2. Create an Activity table in an adjacent room for children and people of different ages to pick up supplies to either bring back to the sanctuary or listen to service as they work on the projects in the activity space.
3. **Future Expenses through June 2024**
  - a. Pay local cross - cultural story tellers
  - b. Field trips
  - c. Pizza (and other) family parties : cost of food and quality child care so parents can have night(s) on their own

## NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

This report of a 2023 grant received from the New York State Convention of Universalists is due to Tom Hackett, Clerk, 70 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401, or electronically to [NYSCUTom@gmail.com](mailto:NYSCUTom@gmail.com), ON OR BEFORE 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 .

If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well.

**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2024. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: Ferry Beach

DATE OF REPORT: 9-13-23

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Investing in Youth.

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$7000

1. How was the money actually spent? We ended up creating a second week of youth camp that was focused on families and family interactions. We ran into roadblocks with current youth camp staff who were not as keen as we are about empowering youth to create a leadership track in which they have more input into youth camp. So, we went around them and created a family camp to begin the process of empowering youth to serve in leadership capacities at youth camp. We used about \$3500 to pay for staff to provide services for this second week of youth camp and have reserved the rest for involving youth for both the family youth camp and youth camp in planning for 2024.

The family youth camp went very well, with 52 people attending, many grandparents raising children as well as young parents. Children were engaged in a variety of activities with the core addressing nature, climate change and sustainability (age appropriately discussed). We also had yoga, art and many other multigenerational activities that provided for us a laboratory to see what might be possible as we revamp our youth camp offerings.

Currently, we are in the process of meeting with a youth camp leader and a minister who have been involved in youth development at their churches to create a more robust curriculum that would take the place of the current materials that our staff of youth camp is using. One of these leaders, was instrumental and a facilitator for the family camp we had this past summer. She has also been involved in our youth camp and is aware of the challenges we have changing up our curriculum, our culture of youth camp and camp counselor behaviors. She ran a youth group here in which the group camped and all of the teens were involved in every aspect of the event – from cooking and cleaning to facilitating workshops and activities for the group. We are looking at how we can do a step between this fully engaged group and our current youth camp offerings.

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

120

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?

We are hoping to bring youth into the discussion for this coming summer camp for just youth as well as the family youth camp activities. We feel like we have learned a lot as to how to manage changing the culture of youth camp at Ferry Beach. We will need to replace many of the current staff.

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?

Changing culture has been the most difficult. We found in the off season that youth camp counselors were in agreement as to the changes we wanted to make, but when it came time to connect with youth, there was reticence and inaction. We know we need to hire from outside of the pool of current youth leaders for our youth camps.

5. Is this program/project complete? No

A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

We will have another planning session with our minister and youth education director to map out a strategy for our transition to a more empowered youth led program in both our family camp (which tends to be more younger children) and our youth camp – which has a fair number of high school students (60-75)

B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

We are committing to making this shift. We see young adults of Ferry Beach wanting to have leadership roles in our programming but lack the facilitation skills to empower youth. It is interesting that if a person was a youth in youth camp, they tend to be more interested in leading and less into facilitation. We want our youth to experience youth leadership at a young age so that they will be inspired to provide those safe containers for youth when they are young adults. (or sadly, perhaps the whole world is moving into a more authoritarian state!)

Name of respondent: Cathy Stackpole

Address: 5 Boardwalk Drive Saco, Maine 04072

Phone: 207-255-7075

Email: [cstackpole@ferrybeach.org](mailto:cstackpole@ferrybeach.org)

*Thank you!*

**Subject:** NYSCU Grant Progress Report  
**From:** Jane Robens <jane.robens@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 9/12/23, 12:04 AM  
**To:** NYSCUTOM@gmail.com

## NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

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If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well.

**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2024. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: The Unitarian Church of Barneveld

-

DATE OF REPORT: September 12, 2023

-

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Inclusion through Tech

-

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$1742

-

1. How was the money actually spent? The money was spent for the items delineated in the grant. The primary items were the USD-PTZ Camera and the iPad 10, 64GB.
2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served? The entire congregation benefits as our enhanced Zoom services provide a higher and more consistent level of engagement.
3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made? The goals of the program have been met as determined by the Church Board through their own observations and through feedback from other members and friends of

the congregation.

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project? The only concern is recruitment and training of a more robust tech crew.
  
5. Is this program/project complete? The present goals are complete. However despite our church's traditional resistance to having a TV screen in the sanctuary, attitudes seem to be shifting. This shift is due to (1) the higher priority of improved inclusivity by virtue of 2-way viewing utilizing a TV screen, and (2) a proposal of less a less intrusive location for the screen with an efficient way to move the screen out of the way when not in use.
  - A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?
  - B. If yes, what are the implications for the future? See response to #5.
  
6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain. We would certainly do the project again since it has enhanced the Zoom experience for all participants, thus helping to keep our in-person and online community intact and cohesive.

Name of respondent: Jane Robens

Address: PO Box 23 Piseco NY 12139

Phone: 3016029027

[Email:jane.robens@gmail.com](mailto:jane.robens@gmail.com)

# NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

This report of a 2022 grant received from the New York State Convention of Universalists in is due to Tom Hackett, Clerk, 70 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401, or electronically to [NYSCUTom@gmail.com](mailto:NYSCUTom@gmail.com), ON OR BEFORE 15 SEPTEMBER 2022 .

If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well.

**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2024. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester

DATE OF REPORT: Sept 9, 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Sparks of Joy—The UUFNW Music Project

AMOUNT OF GRANT:

1. How was the money actually spent?

Money was spent to hire professional musicians to enhance worship services as a way to create renewed interest and provide new points of entry for those not yet connected with our community.

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

Approximately 50 people thus far, though the project is on-going. An initial event happened in June, then a break for the summer as staff and volunteers were away. New events are planned for the fall/winter.

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?

The goal of generating interest among the congregation has happened. The larger goal of increasing attendance and attracting new people is on-going. It will be evaluated in several ways. One will be a Google Form Questionnaire sent to regularly attending members and friends for their feedback on the Spark of Joy music initiative after the November event. The other will be from the data collected by our greeters team from the new people when they arrive in the building. They ask “What brought you here today?” and “How did you hear about us?” This will help us know if our advertising and the music itself is a draw.

From this beginning has come a new variation to address our goal. On a Sunday when the minister is not in the pulpit, we will have a music/readings/poetry service as a variation on the usual Sunday Service. This will be advertised more broadly and will hopefully be another point of entry for new people to the congregation. We hope to be able to do this several times by adding to the grant funding from our visiting minister’s honorarium budget line. This is a creative use of not only our grant funds but our visiting minister’s budget line. Creative outside the box thinking has been generated by this grant!

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?  
Determining the style of music for the themes identified for the services with enhanced music requires some discussion. Also, planning how many musicians to have in each service to maximize the value is also a challenge i.e. how many Sundays we can run the program.
  
5. Is this program/project complete?
  - A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?  
The project has its initial launch in June. There was a break in the summer as members and staff were away. There are dates again scheduled for October and November for music to enhance the service as well as the new variation of having a whole service be music/reading/poetry. We plan to run the program into at least January/February 2024.
  
  - B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?
  
6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.  
I would absolutely recommend congregations find innovative ways to fund musicians for musical enhancement in their services as well as adding musical events that appeal to their larger community. Music is a draw for many people and for some, music IS their spiritual connection. Providing a space for that and building on it can create community, not just a one or two time experience.

Name of respondent: Patricia Compton

Address: 4 Evergreen Drive, Mahopac, NY 10541

Phone: 914-962-3643

Email: pcompton33@gmail.com

*Thank you!*







## NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

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**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2024. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: Central East Region of the UUA

DATE OF REPORT: 27 September 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Further Strengthening the Commissioned Lay Ministry Program

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$7,218

1. How was the money actually spent?

To date this fiscal year, we have spent no money, due to unavailability of physical retreat locations. To this point, we will be using the vast bulk of the grant to provide a dual platform retreat in April at the Retreat Center in Lewisburg, New York in April 2024.

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

There are 28 Commissioned Lay Ministers serving 16 congregations around the region and two in the Southern Region. In addition, there are five candidates in training and three aspirants who are currently submitting their applications for candidacy standing. This, also, requires 16 ordained ministers serving in a supervising role and another five Fellowshiped UU ministers serving as mentors to our candidates.

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?

The program is progressing well. We are at the finalizing stages of approving an updates and broader Resource List for candidate training. Our next step is to develop a continuing education component for commissioned CLMs in cohort groups. Our goal of offering ongoing mentoring/spiritual direction is beginning with three current CLMs. As we work to establish this, there has been no current cost to date. This will change as we formalize the process [that cost was included in the grant request].

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?

Though not truly a concern, we are in conversation with Rev. Megan Foley and Mr. Woullard Lett to stay abreast of the growing interest in Lay Ministry across our denomination and what part the CLM program might play in the future.

5. Is this program/project complete? No

A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

It will continue, and will be evaluated by the Council itself and by Rev. Megan Foley. CER staff Beth Casebolt meets with the Council regularly. The CLMs and candidates as well as the mentors are asked directly for evaluations and suggestions at each retreat and individually once a year in their conversation with their CLM Council liaison. The goal of ongoing mentoring/spiritual direction and continuing education opportunities is a result of those evaluation sessions.

B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

Absolutely!

Name of respondent: Rev. Dr. V. Elaine Strawn

Address: 2101 Ganyard Road, Akron, OH 44313

Phone: 330-465-4043

Email: [revstrawn@gmail.com](mailto:revstrawn@gmail.com)

*Thank you!*

## NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

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If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well.

**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2024. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland County

DATE OF REPORT: September 19, 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Canvas Labyrinth and Facilitator Training

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$4,200

### 1. How was the money actually spent?

We used \$2,600 of our grant funds to fund a workshop from Veriditas led by Nathan Wiles and his partner Christine, in which we painted our own labyrinth. Four members of our congregation, Carrie Steindorff, Emily Kratzer, Ken d'Oronzio, and Gale Lavinder, participated in the workshop, held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at our church building, which included a presentation on the history of labyrinths, careful instruction on how to paint the labyrinth and creation of the final product – our very own portable canvas labyrinth. We also learned how to fold the canvas and store it safely for future use. Please refer to the photos attached to the report.

The remaining \$1,600 will be used to send Gale Lavinder to attend an intensive training of how to facilitate the labyrinth experience. The training registration costs \$618 plus lodging, meals, and travel. The in person training will take place October 8-9, 2023 in Silver Bay, NY. If there are any remaining funds, we will notify the NYSCU grant committee for approval to use the funds in additional ways in support the labyrinth program.

### 2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, the labyrinth was introduced to our congregation. Emily and Gale led the service while Ken and Carrie facilitated by demonstrating and gently directing participants in labyrinth etiquette e.g., stocking feet or covering shoes with shoe nets, spacing, and entering and walking the labyrinth. Approximately 12 congregants participated in the experience which by all accounts worked very well in our meeting space and left participants satisfied. The canvas labyrinth fills our meeting space with just enough room to allow participants to walk about the outside of it comfortably. Please refer to the link provided to view the August 27<sup>th</sup> labyrinth service, [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/HFtEhpDSAqvjejqkoMTu-malAdQ5agraAfnDTFZEFSh2d\\_Ar5lAP70LHhIK8J0eTM.CMpLmZ7hzBS0iALu](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/HFtEhpDSAqvjejqkoMTu-malAdQ5agraAfnDTFZEFSh2d_Ar5lAP70LHhIK8J0eTM.CMpLmZ7hzBS0iALu), passcode: VD1M+urc .

We anticipate use of our labyrinth and the number of people reached to grow. We identified 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays as the days in our worship schedule that best accommodates offering the labyrinth experience throughout the year. After we have a trained labyrinth facilitator, we will offer additional ways for the broader community to walk the labyrinth, time and space permitting. Possibilities include offering labyrinth walks to the public in our building after services on special days - likely 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. We would also like to find ways to allow struggling or otherwise vulnerable residents such as those who use food pantries, homeless shelters or in adult English language

classes access to our labyrinth. Additionally, we plan to list our labyrinth in the labyrinth registry so local labyrinth users can find us.

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made? We are very pleased with how we have achieved our goals to this point. As soon as we were notified of our grant award, we scheduled the labyrinth workshop for May 20, 2023. The workshop took place without incident and four members attended to create our labyrinth. Please refer to the invoice from Veriditas for payment at the completion of the workshop included in this report.

We introduced the labyrinth experience to our congregation as soon as it was possible on August 27<sup>th</sup> and will send a congregant to the facilitator training in October. We have met all of the milestones we expected to achieve in the first 6 months of the project.

Over the next year, we plan to offer our congregation in the labyrinth experience several more times and grow in our ability to include more people from the general public.

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?

We had anticipated more congregants participating in the May 20<sup>th</sup> workshop and in the creation of our labyrinth. We wanted to move forward with this project swiftly, so we chose the only available Saturday in our schedule still available in the spring leaving several weeks for interested congregants to register to participate. Only four members could devote the entire day to the workshop. While at first we thought this was a small number, it turned out to be auspicious as the painting of the labyrinth was a meditative and careful process that required focus on where to paint and the physical space between painters. With two workshop leaders and four participants, a total of six bodies moving about a pristine white canvas with green paint loaded onto brushes was quite enough. There are no additional concerns about the project at this time.

5. Is this program/project complete?

A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

No, the project is not yet complete. We would like to have a trained labyrinth facilitator guide us in developing the use of the labyrinth. As described above, facilitator training will take place in October and then we will offer the labyrinth experience several more times during services during the program year. Our congregation's Board of Worship, Board of Trustees and the four original participants will evaluate the effectiveness of each labyrinth experience this year and make any necessary adjustments. We will also finalize a protocol by June 2024 that will both protect the labyrinth and make it available to our community going forward.

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

Yes, we would recommend this project to other congregations. That said, this project requires commitment among several members to care for the labyrinth and plan for its use. An interested congregation would need a core group to manage the logistics and development of this project

In closing, would like to thank NYSCU for the opportunity to apply for funding and realize our dream! We found the application process user-friendly and the NYSCU committee responsive and generous.

Name of respondent: Carrie Steindorff

Address: 333 Deer Track Lane, Valley Cottage, NY 10989

Phone: 914-522-9847

Email: carriemsc@gmail.com

Labyrinth Workshop, May 20, 2023  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland, Pomona, NY



Labyrinth prepped and ready to be painted.



Participants painting in the lines.



Freshly painted labyrinth drying before being folded for storage.

First Walk, August 27, 2023  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockland, Pomona, NY



Participants in a simulated walk. No photography is allowed during a walk in progress.



The canvas labyrinth folded and stored in its carrying case.

Invoice from Veriditas following completion of the labyrinth workshop.



4-18-2023

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Of Rockland  
130 Conklin Rd.  
Pomona, NY, 10970  
Attention: Barbara Francis, Treasurer

Dear Barbara Francis,

Here is the invoice for Qualifying Workshop for May 20<sup>th</sup>. The presenter is Nathan Wiles.

Please send a check to Veriditas.

Total \$2600

Veriditas  
101 H St Ste. D  
Petaluma, CA 94952

Thank you,

Pamela Cole  
Bookkeeper  
Veriditas  
707364-2521 Cell Phone  
pam@veriditas.org

# 604  
5/8/23  
Laby. Workshop

*Also sent by e-mail 4-18-2023*

# NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

ORGANIZATION: New York UU Justice

DATE OF REPORT: September 19, 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Connecting Congregations with Justice Partners: Increasing Our Impact

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$5,500

1. How was the money actually spent?

The grant has paid for the hours spent on the project by Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt, our Program Manager, as well as Ashley's travel to the UUA General Assembly in Pittsburgh in June 2023.

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

With our email newsletters, we are connecting on a regular basis with 46 of the 62 UU congregations in NYS, representing about 7,200 Unitarian Universalists.

By working with our partner organizations, we are reaching New York State legislators and their staffs, as well as volunteers and the staff of our partner organizations.

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?

Our goal is to connect and engage Unitarian Universalists across New York with organizations actively engaged in the struggle for justice. To accomplish this, we identified the need to broaden and deepen our partnerships with these organizations, as well as to connect with more UU congregations and invite more of their members to join in our justice campaigns.

Our half-time Program Manager was hired in January 2023. Ashley quickly came up to speed on our four issue areas and established contacts with the related partner organizations:

- NY Renews for climate justice,
- Release Aging People in Prison for criminal/legal reform,
- Housing Justice for All for housing justice, and
- Compassion and Choices for medical aid in dying.

Ashley built on NYUUI existing relationships and added new ones, especially for housing justice. Ashley has represented NYUUI at a February Faith Leaders for Housing Justice press conference in Brooklyn and at housing justice rallies in New York City and Albany since then.

To invite UUs to take action with us, NYUUI shares background information and opportunities via emailed newsletters, our website, Facebook, and Mighty Network (our internal social media platform). Two Zoom events provided background and encouraged UUs to get involved in justice campaigns:

- In February, a program on Fossil Fuel Divestment in Religious Communities, a collaboration with the UU Ministry for Earth, and

- In April, an Insider's View of the NYS Legislature, featuring the former chief of staff to a NYS assembly member.

Opportunities for activism in our four issue areas include online meetings with legislators or their staffs as well as email and phone campaigns. And on some occasions, UUs showed up at the State Capitol:

- On March 28, UUs from the Capital Region, Long Island and Rochester joined NY Renews at the State Capitol for a Day of Action to advocate for the Climate, Jobs, and Justice package of legislation.
- On April 24, UUs from the Capital Region, North Country and New York City were at the State Capital to advocate for passage of the Medical Aid in Dying Act (A.995/S.2445). In addition to meeting with legislators and their staffs, we took part in a ritual walk through the Capital, a "March to End Needless Suffering," to show that the Legislature's failure to pass this bill has tragic consequences.

The UUA General Assembly provided an opportunity to reach out to participating New York UUs. NYUUI shared space in the Community Church of NY booth in the Exhibition Hall, where Ashley was able to be share literature and talk about our work.

Coming up, on Saturday, September 23, NYUUI will be part of an Environmental Festival at Fourth Universalist in New York City, offering another opportunity to introduce more UUs to our justice campaigns.

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?

NYUUI currently lacks a process to track UU participation in online advocacy and events. With the implementation of EveryAction software (NYSCU 2022 grant), we hope to resolve this.

Staff and volunteer capacity is an ongoing concern. We know that UU state action networks in our neighboring states have several staff members supporting their work, while our NYUUI Program Manager is half-time.

5. Is this program/project complete?

No. Increasing the number of UUs and their congregations who are engaged in state legislative advocacy is a priority identified by the NYUUI Board at its September 2023 retreat.

A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

While the work is ongoing, this phase will be completed by March 2023. The NYUUI Board is responsible for evaluating it.

B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

Yes, NYUUIJ intends to continue to broaden and deepen its partnerships and invite more NY UUs and their congregations into our work. We share our experiences and learn from the experiences of other states through CUUSAN, the Coalition of UU State Action Networks.

Name of respondent: Peggy Sherman, NYUUIJ Treasurer

Address: c/o Albany UU, 405 Washington Ave, Albany NY 12206

Phone: 518-669-3278

Email: Treasurer@nyuuij.org

*Thank you!*



**PASS THE  
MEDICAL  
AID IN  
DYING ACT  
NOW.**



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IN**



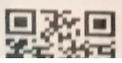
NYU

STILL  
BISEXUAL  
AFTER  
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UU FAT LIBERATION

**BUILD UU POWER IN NEW YORK STATE**

Support NYUJJ and help us meet the social justice challenges in New York!



**FAT LIBERATION COMES TO THE UUA!**

**WHO ARE WE?**

We're a group of Fat UUs and allies forming for support and for creating change in UU congregations and the wider world.



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVENTS:**

Fat Liberation comes to GA in 2023! There will be ribbons, buttons, and stickers available in the virtual page for virtual items and for links to gatherings!



**WHAT DO WE DO?**

We're working to get our congregations...



Fat Liberation Panel  
Join us for a panel presentation featuring:  
Rev. Dr. Mary...

# NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

ORGANIZATION: Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

DATE OF REPORT: October 12, 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Vision 2023: Earth Festivals

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$7,100

## 1. How was the money actually spent?

Community is the antidote to climate despair. We need vibrancy, connection and imagination as a faith movement to meet this moment. We are grateful for the opportunity to experiment and create!

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, New York UU Justice and Fourth Universalist organized and offered an environmental festival and worship service in Manhattan- in person and live streamed on September 23, 2023! Thank you! The funding generously provided by the New York State Convention of Universalists invested in UU musicians, worship leaders, spiritual chaplains, childcare givers, seminarians, and local media.

Our goals were to **create a festival during New York City Climate Week, organize a worship service involving multiple UU congregational partners**, and engage new individuals with Unitarian Universalism, creating a space for grief and hope during the climate crisis. Both events were hosted at Fourth Universalist in Manhattan.

From 1-4pm, we hosted an “Environmental Festival,” with ritual activities (climate ribbons, a space to process hopes and fears related to climate, meditation), live jazz music (offered by both the wonderful duo of Kiena Williams and Adam Podd of First Unitarian Brooklyn, and Thomas Kelley of Fourth Universalist), arts and crafts, coffee and snacks, and tables hosted by various area environmental and UU groups (UU Service Committee, New York UU Justice, My Dog is My Home, Fourth Universalist Environmental Justice Team, (GreenFaith was going to have a booth, but the individual was sick).

From 4-5pm, we hosted a Special Jazz Vespers service, including UU clergy serving in Westchester County, Long Island and New York City, plus a Union seminarian. Approximately 25 guests attended the worship in person, and 26 online. One attendee from Ossining, NY said it was “the most moving Unitarian Universalist service I’ve ever attended.”



As our proposal announced, \$3000 was directed to each program partner for coordinating and logistics, shared among the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, New York UU Justice and Fourth Universalist. An unanticipated expense, which UUMFE contributed additional funds, was the necessity of paid promotions to increase neighborhood awareness of the events, in local media papers.

Fourth Universalist’s proximity to the Museum of Natural History and Central Park was a great asset in engaging individuals off the street. Over the festival time, at least two dozen totally unrelated to the event as a prior registrant or to an existing congregation came off the street to hear music, meet with the community groups or participate in the rituals! The 23rd was a special day- albeit sadly a rainy one which we fear reduced anticipated foot traffic!

One woman who attended the festival found the space and music healing, and confided with one of our spiritual care chaplains that a good friend of hers had recently been murdered and she was in grief. The funding of this panel allowed our community to create an event that met her profound needs in a time of deep sorrow.

Below is an overview of the disbursement of funds -

Category	Amount
<b>Honoraria for Musicians</b>	<b>\$1,950</b>
<i>Vesper Jazz Band</i>	\$1,200

<i>Thomas Kelley</i>	\$250
<i>Adam Podd</i>	\$250
<i>Kiena Williams</i>	\$250
<b>Spiritual Practice Leaders</b>	<b>\$120</b>
<i>Ritual Leader (Union Seminarian)</i>	\$120
<i>Originally two Union Seminarians, one individual was unable to attend due to illness, and the other individual, Michael DeSantis, stepped up and did double support! : )</i>	
<b>Vespers Service Stipends *</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<i>Rev. Petra Thombs (Central Nassau, Garden City)</i>	\$150
<i>Karishma Gottfried (Union Theological Seminary)</i>	\$150
<i>Rev. Galen Guengerich (All Souls, NYC)</i>	\$150
<i><a href="#">Rev. Andrée Cornelia Mol</a> (Central Unitarian)</i>	\$150
<i>Rev. Jonipher Kwong (Fourth Universalist)</i>	N/A - Donated back!
<i>Dr. Nori Rost (NYC Ethical Culture)</i>	\$150
<i>Rev. Kelly Dignan (UU Ministry for Earth)</i>	N/A
<i>Rev. Daniel Lawlor (UU Ministry for Earth/UU Congregation of Hudson Valley)</i>	N/A
<i>Rev. Leonisa Ardizzone (Vassar College)</i>	N/A
<b>Logistics</b>	<b>\$790</b>
Childcare	\$120
AV to live stream worship	\$280
Art Build Supplies	\$290
<i>Art Build Staff</i>	\$100
<b>Administrative Logistics</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<i>UUMFE</i>	\$1,000

<i>NYUJ</i>	\$1,000
<i>Fourth</i>	\$1,000
<b>Promotions</b>	<b>\$582</b>
Climate Week website	\$107
NY Independent	\$250
West Side Rag	\$225
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,192</b>
<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

**Via newsletter promotions:**

9000 + individuals via UU Ministry for Earth  
1500+ individuals via Fourth Universalist  
350+ via NY State Action Network (NYUJ)

**Congregations involved in Programming:** Six! Six Ministers in Metro NY participated in the service and included promotions in their respective newsletters. An additional Community Minister at Vassar College, Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone, offered beautiful songs to accompany the jazz vespers band.

**Day of Event Attendance:** 60 Festival, 50 for Worship

Official participation in the **New York Climate Week Events** page resulted directly in 18 attendees registering for attendance!

**Via Online Advertising in WestSide Rag**

430,098 impressions and 91 clicks

**Promotional Reach of Brooklyn Independent Newspaper Print:**

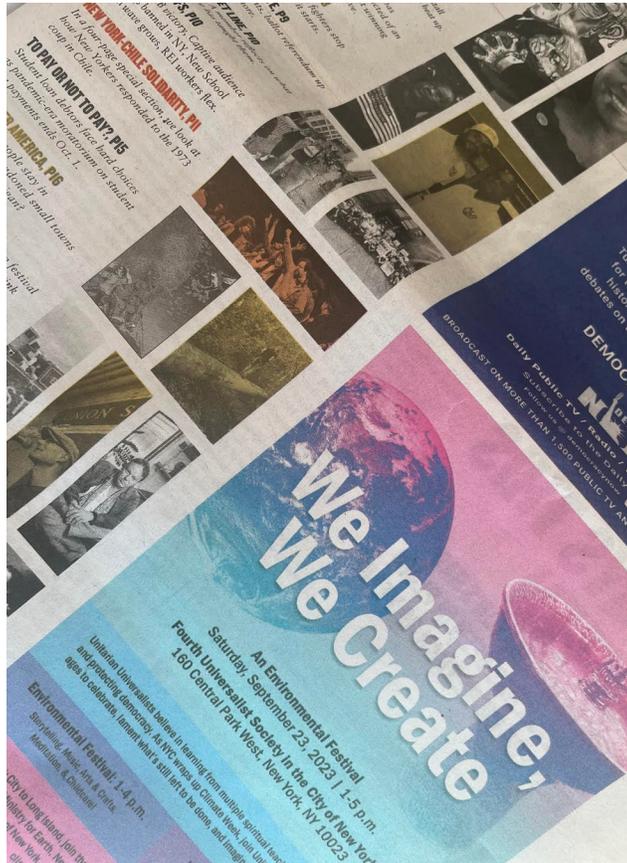
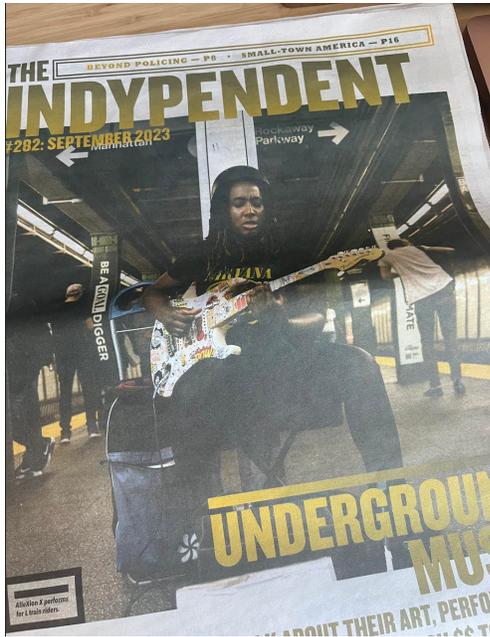
45,000 copies

Circulation by borough

Brooklyn.....20,500

Manhattan.....15,000

Queens.....6,500  
 Bronx.....2,500  
 Jersey City.....500



In addition to promotions among participating congregations, over 50 congregations in NY State received email invitations to our Communications staff.

**3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?**

Our goals are threefold: to increase collaborations among Unitarian Universalist congregations in New York State to respond to the Climate Crisis, to expose new and unaffiliated individuals to Unitarian Universalism, and to offer a dynamic festival and event.

We are very happy with the collaborative work and involvement of multiple congregations- in worship and through the festival. Our excellent Co-Director of Programs, Rev Kelly Dignan, successfully engaged seven ministers in a robust, beautiful worship service- with focus on gathering, lamenting the

losses of the climate crisis, celebrating what's possible and imagining a world of repair and abundance. Ember Kelly, the Director of Religious Exploration at Fourth Universalist, is exceptional and brought wonderful spirit to our work. Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt, program manager at New York UU Justice, is kind, collaborative and brought joy and problem-solving to our work.

Through sheer power of advertising in varied print and online sources, plus the joy from visitors off the street, we are excited to have exposed thousands of unaffiliated folks to Unitarian Universalism - through advertising and word of mouth.

We are deeply grateful for the kindness, the pastoral moments and creativity witnessed and co-created at the event. Rev. Kelly Dignan created an amazing experience, grounding rituals, Ember facilitated wonderful Arts and Crafts supported by paid childcare and helped coordinate the logistics of the space, and Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt offered joyful story telling and consistent grounding presence for visitors. The booth partners- UU Service Committee, NYUUI, My Dog is My Home, and Fourth Universalist Environmental Team - offered conversation, useful information and engaged visitors in engaging activities- from postcards to photoboosts!

The day of attendance at the festival and worship service, though complicated by the weather, is an area of learning and growth. We are glad for those who came, and curious about other mechanisms to increase attendance for future pop-up events.

In retrospect, a distinct scope of project role should have been designated simply to recruitment and focus on attendance. The bulk of our designed budget was geared toward the creation of a beautiful event and promoting it in the wider community- which happened! However, ensuring more support and attention allocated to rallying greater onsite attendance is necessary for a future event. In a future iteration, we would ask each participating minister in the service to explicitly commit to rally about 10 individuals from their respective congregation to attend, building a guaranteed base of approximately 90 people, before outside promotions occur.

#### **4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?**

Just as last year's project emphasized the importance of personal outreach to ensure engagement, this year's project emphasized the necessity of explicit commitments for attendance (even in the rain!)

we were disappointed that the onsite attendance for the Vespers service wasn't higher. Comparatively, we were on track with other non-Sunday alternative progressive worship events in the City - Fourth Universalist's Fall Equinox service attracted 20, St. Bart's Episcopal alternative Wednesday night service attracts about 40, First Unitarian Brooklyn Vespers about 40 - and our service attracted about 25 in person, and 24 online. Certainly the weather was a factor. Yet, figuring out how to better coordinate more robust attendance at an onsite worship service in the City remains a source of learning.

Similar to last year, some of the coordinating was disrupted through changes in ministry and staffing- at both All Souls and at Fourth Universalist. Initially, All Souls NYC was to be a deeper part of the planning and hosting, but due to the departure of the Assistant Minister they were no longer able to participate in the same capacity, leading to a different structure (though we were delighted the Senior Minister was able to participate in the evening service!). Additionally, Fourth Universalist experienced an unexpected change in minister from the Spring to Summer. Despite these transitions at partner organizations, the core team involved the Director of Religious Education at Fourth, the co-directors of UU Ministry for Earth and the program manager at NY UU Justice.

A question we reflect on- what is the best vehicle for increasing engagement of spiritual care and worship service? How can we connect more people with the powerful assets of ritual and reflection, music and meditation in our Unitarian Universalist tradition, particularly in context of the climate crisis? Numerous visitors from the sidewalk named how much they appreciated the content- what can we do to increase more to create encounters of glad surprise?

#### **5. Is this program/project complete?**

For the 2023 year, we are glad to say this program is complete. We are proud of the numerous pastoral conversations which occurred, delight in the sheer joy offered by music, are excited by the postcards in support of progressive legislative environmental causes coordinated at the booths of NY UU Justice and My Dog is My Home, and joyful for the happiness and space for grief and imagination fostered.

A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

#### **B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?**

The New York Convention of Universalists has made a powerful investment in area ministers, local musicians, seminarians, students from NYU, visitors in the street, and moments of pastoral care. We are grateful. We are lucky. We will continue to debrief and explore ways to increase attendance for future events. Growing muscles of collaboration, and iterating in response to new data and experience, will increase our capacity to respond to the climate crisis with care and imagination.

#### **6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.**

Yes! Without a doubt, we are grateful for this opportunity to invest in worship, art and music. It is a true testament to the New York Convention of Universalists for your willingness to invest in experiments- and to know your investment led to cross organization collaborations on worship, on community outreach, on sharing the gifts of local UU musicians, of creating joy on joy!

Our hope is that this first round of worship and festival will result in more experiments in alternative worship, in cross congregational collaboration, and more curiosity in the general public about the faith we hold dear. Thank you!

Name of respondent: Rev. Daniel Lawlor

Address: 310 Livingston St, 1803, Brooklyn, NY, 11217

Phone: 401-487-6535

Email: [daniellawlor@uumfe.org](mailto:daniellawlor@uumfe.org)

*Thank you!*



# WE IMAGINE, WE CREATE

## Jazz Vespers Service

September 23, 2023

**Prelude** "All (My) Relations" (*Instrumental*):  
Words/Music: Petra Thombs | "Lake Mead"  
Music: Tom Kelley, 1994-

### WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong (Fourth Universalist Society), Rev. Kelly Dignan and Rev. Daniel Lawlor (UU Ministry for Earth)

### GATHER

**Gathering Music** Singing the Journey #1064  
"Blue Boat Home" | Words: Peter Mayer, 1963-  
Music: Roland Hugh Prichard, 1811-1887  
(HYFRODOL) | Arr. Rob Buonaspinga, 1996-

**Call to Worship** Rev. Petra Thombs (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau)

**Grounding Prayer & Land Acknowledgement** -  
Rev. Petra Thombs

**Music** "Fragilidad" (from *Nada como el sol*, 1988)  
| Words/Music: Sting, 1951-

**Chalice Lighting** - Reading from *Fall Meditations with Native American Elders* - Rev. Daniel Lawlor

### LAMENT

**Reflection** - Rev. Andrée Cornelia Mol (Central Unitarian Church in Westwood, NJ) and Rev. Dr. Nori Rost (The New York Society for Ethical Culture)

**Reading** - "That Stone from the River" by Linda Hogan - Rev. Dr. Nori Rost

**Ritual of Lament for the Earth** - Rev. Andrée Cornelia Mol

**Music** "After the Rain" (from *Impressions*, 1963)  
Music: John Coltrane, 1926-1967

### CELEBRATE

**Reading** - From *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall-Kimmerer - Rev. Galen Guengerich (The Unitarian Church of All Souls, New York City)

### Contemplation

#### Share

**Music** "On a Clear Day (You Can See Forever)"  
(from the Broadway Show *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, 1965) Words: Alan Jay Lerner, 1918-1986. Music: Burton Lane, 1912-1997

### IMAGINE

**Reflection** - Karishma Gottfried (Union Theological Seminary)

#### Share

**Prayer** - Rev. Kelly Dignan

### GO INTO THE WORLD

Offering to New York City Environmental Justice Alliance - Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong



**Climate Ribbon Invitation** Rev. Andrée Cornelia Mol

**Singing** Singing the Journey #1017 "Building a New Way" | Words/Music: Martha Sandefer, 1952-  
Arr: Jim Scott, 1946-

**Closing Words and Extinguish the Chalice** - Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong and Rev. Kelly Dignan

**Recessional** Singing the Journey #1017 "Building a New Way" (*Instrumental*) | Words/Music: Martha Sandefer, 1952- | Arr: Jim Scott, 1946-

### Musicians

- Robert Buonaspinga, Pianist/Bandleader/Dir. of Music
- Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone, Vocalist
- Tom Kelley, Saxophone(s)
- Benjamin Feldman, Bass
- Quinton Cain, Drums

## NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

This report of a 2022 grant received from the New York State Convention of Universalists in is due to Tom Hackett, Clerk, 70 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401, or electronically to [NYSCUTom@gmail.com](mailto:NYSCUTom@gmail.com), ON OR BEFORE 15 SEPTEMBER 2022 .

If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well.

**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2024. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: UU Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

DATE OF REPORT: 9/2/2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Over 10 Years of Sharing the Plate, 40 Years of Community Involvement

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$1,975

1. How was the money actually spent?
2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served? We will have up to 85 people in attendance. This includes 1-2 representatives from each of 12 local charities that work to benefit all aspects of our community, 1-2 members of the local media, many volunteers from our congregation and others from the congregation and community that will purchase dinner tickets. The local charities are all organizations that our congregation has chosen to support through individual donations over the last 2 years.
3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made? We will enable all attending from the Share The Plate recipient organizations to bring display materials explaining their group and benefits to the community they serve. These materials will remain on display at our building. This will strengthen the goal of enabling deeper community relations and visibility and providing an understanding of our congregation and Unitarian Universalism.
4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project? We are working to plan within the boundaries of our physical space and materials available (dishware, tables, dining space).
5. Is this program/project complete? No
  - A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom? The event/dinner date is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. We will do a deep dive in the days after to assess our success and shortcomings for future planning. The Board of Directors will assess the event with the planning team.
  - B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

Name of respondent: Sharon Piehler, Treasurer Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

Address: 222 Temple St, PO Box 11 , Fredonia, NY 14063

Phone: (712)326-0155

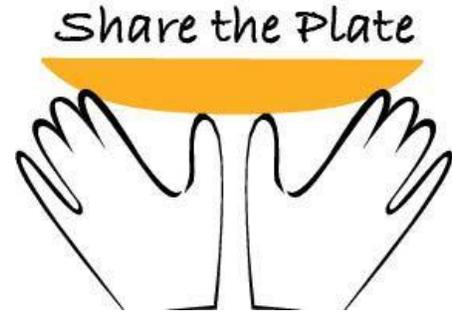
Email: [pandspiehler@netscape.net](mailto:pandspiehler@netscape.net)

*Thank you!*

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

**Share the Plate** is a way to demonstrate our commitment to nonprofit organizations whose actions are consistent with our principles and sources. As of Summer 2022, **congregants had donated over \$30,000 to these causes!**

The purpose is two-fold: to inform the congregation of the work of the organization-usually by inviting a representative of the organization to speak briefly, to display literature and to answer questions during social hour-and to make a financial contribution in the name of the congregation. Since September 2013, 100% of the non-pledge money received for the Share the Plate recipient is given to the chosen agency.



Since 2009, we have “shared the plate” with numerous recipient organizations, including these:

- Academy Heights Neighborhood Association and The Main Thing neighborhood revitalization project (both in Dunkirk NY) and the Beautification Committee of the Revitalize Dunkirk Project
- American Red Cross
- Boys & Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County (Dunkirk NY), <https://www.bgcfncc.org/>
- CASA of Chautauqua County, Court Appointed Special Advocates, providing a powerful voice for abused and neglected children, <https://www.chautauquacasa.com/>
- CASAC, Chautauqua Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council, and their Teen Intervene program, <https://preventionworks.us/>
- Centaur Stride therapeutic riding facility, <http://www.centaurstride.org/>
- Chautauqua Adult Day Care Centers, Inc., <https://www.seniordayprograms.com/>
- Chautauqua Blind Association, Inc., <http://www.chautauquablind.org/>
- Chautauqua Citizens Respond to Climate Crisis (CCRCC), a community group to address risks and citizen responses
- Chautauqua County Crisis Response Fund: Covid 19, addressing the emergent needs of area organizations on the front line of the COVID-19 response, including those supporting older adults and vulnerable families, <https://www.nccfoundation.org/covid19-fund>
- Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County, <https://www.capjustice.org/>
- Chautauqua County Rural Ministry, its Gleaning Project and The Friendly Kitchen, <http://www.theccrm.org>
- Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. and its exemplary Head Start program, <https://www.chautauquaopportunities.com/>
- Chautauqua Opportunities for Development, Inc. for its micro loan program for small businesses, <https://www.chautauquaopportunities.com/codi-economic-development/>

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

- Chautauqua PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), <https://pflag.org/chapter/pflag-chautauqua>
- Chautauqua Striders and their mentoring/tutoring programs, <http://chautauquastriders.org/>
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, [www.chautauquawatershed.org](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org)
- Circle of Love in Dunkirk, NY
- Compeer Chautauqua, <https://www.facebook.com/compeerchautauqua/>
- CROP-PLUS, a grassroots environmental organization working to provide residents of Chautauqua County with information about the use of coal ash and to advocate for alternatives for icy roads
- Dunkirk-Fredonia Meals on Wheels, <https://dfmealsonwheels.org/>
- Dunkirk-Fredonia NAACP Scholarship Fund
- Dunkirk Historical Society, <http://dunkirkhistoricalmuseum.org/>
- Elinor's House and Willow Mission in Dunkirk, NY, two initiatives coordinated at the Dunkirk Methodist Church: the first to empower women as they pursue life-changing transitions in a stable, safe and positive environment, the second to assist the homeless
- Faithkeepers Language Nest, which provides education following traditional, language, customs, and ceremonies of the Iroquois Longhouse and culture of the Seneca people, <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Faithkeeper-Language-Nest-380140058736003>
- Fredonia Child Development (Agri-Business Child Development), <https://www.abcdny.org/sites/default/files/profiles/2017/en/ABCD%20at%20Fredonia%20Profile%20Fact%20Sheet%202017.pdf>
- Fredonia Food Pantry, a project of the Fredonia Presbyterian Church affiliated with the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry
- Fredonia Grange No. 1, a non-profit fraternal organization, <https://www.facebook.com/fredoniagrang/>
- Gay & Lesbian Youth Services (GLYS) of Western New York, <https://www.glyswny.org/>
- Gigi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center, which works to change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all, and promises a lifetime commitment to families, <https://gigisplayhouse.org/buffalo/>
- Greystone Nature Preserve, <https://www.greystonenaturepreserve.com/>
- Gustavus Adolphus Family Services, family care and adoption, <https://gafamilyservices.org/>
- Chautauqua Area Habitat for Humanity (Silver Creek NY affiliate), <https://www.facebook.com/Chautauqua-Area-Habitat-for-Humanity-60038108541>
- Hannah's Fun'd at the WCA Foundation, to support the Adolescent Mental Health Unit at UPMC Chautauqua (WCA Hospital, Jamestown) with a comfort room, used to calm the child's senses, <http://www.wcafoundationjamestown.org/types-of-funds/hannahs-fund/>

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

- Hispanic Community Council to support displaced Puerto Ricans in Dunkirk NY
- Hospice Chautauqua County, <http://www.hospicechautco.org/>
- The JCC Willie Rosas Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship (Jamestown Community College), <https://www.sunyjcc.edu/scholarship/willie-rosas-leaders-tomorrow-scholarship>
- Jericho Road Community Health Center (Buffalo NY), <https://www.jrchc.org/>
- Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc. (Buffalo NY), <https://www.jersbuffalo.org/>
- Kids at Promise 2XL, a non-profit youth development program in Dunkirk, <https://www.facebook.com/KidsAtPromise/>
- Labyrinthine Ways Peace Park (East Town of Dunkirk NY), <https://www.facebook.com/Labyrinthine-Ways-Peace-Park-190935754740146/>
- Lakeshore Humane Society, <https://www.lakeshorehumanesociety.org/>
- Literacy Volunteers of Chautauqua County, <https://literacyvolunteerscc.org/>
- NAMI, the National Alliance of Mental Illness,
- Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York, <https://www.nsswny.org/>
- Nicaragua Mission Project, based in Western New York, to provide essentials to our brothers and sisters in that Central American nation, <http://www.projectnica.com>
- Northern Chautauqua Canine Rescue (NCCR), <http://www.caninerescue.org/>
- Old Songs New Opportunities World music & employment program for refugees (Erie, Pennsylvania), <https://www.facebook.com/oldsongsnewopportunities/>
- Salvation Army Family Enrichment (SAFE) in Dunkirk
- SAREP (Sportsfishing Aquatic Resources Educational Program) Youth Flyfishing, <https://albertorey.com/s-a-r-e-p-youth-fly-fishing-program/>
- Silver Creek Food Pantry, <https://www.nyconnects.ny.gov/services/silver-creek-food-pantry-3230>
- Southwestern Independent Living Center, meeting the challenges of daily living and assisting individuals with disabilities in reaching maximum independence and an enriched quality of life, <https://www.ilc-jamestown-ny.org>
- Spoke Folk community bicycle project, Dunkirk
- Student Food Pantry at Jamestown Community College, <https://www.sunyjcc.edu/experience/support/food-pantry>
- Disaster Relief Fund of CERG (Central East Regional Group), to assist UU congregations and individuals affected by Hurricane Sandy
- UU congregations in the St. Lawrence District affected by floods as a result of Tropical Storm Lee
- UUCNC's Minister's Discretionary Fund, to provide confidential assistance to members/friends of the congregation facing emergency financial need, <http://www.uucnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Ministers-Discretionary-Fund-Brochure-2020-8.pdf>
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, <https://www.uusc.org/>

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

- UPMC Chautauqua Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic at 306 Central Ave in Dunkirk NY, to purchase therapeutic games and equipment to more effectively treat children, <http://tinyurl.com/ShareThePlate1-5-20>
- WNY Land Conservancy, raising funds to purchase/protect the College Lodge Preserve, the 168-acre forest that surrounds the College Lodge (owned and operated by the Faculty Student Association at SUNY Fredonia), <https://wnylc.org>
- WNY Peace Center <https://wnypeace.org/>
- Westfield Community Food Pantry, <https://www.facebook.com/Westfield-Community-Food-Pantry-1444948852483892/>
- Women veterans served by the local VA clinic

In addition, special collections at the May 2011, Installation Service and the December 2014 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the Reverend Theresa Kime, now Minister Emerita, supported these causes:

- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, <https://www.uusc.org/>
- Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, <https://uupcc.org/>

# NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

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If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well.

**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2024. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: UU Young Adult Revival Network

DATE OF REPORT: 09/28/23

PURPOSE OF GRANT: UU Young Adult Revival Network

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$4,500

1. How was the money actually spent?

*The money is being used to compensate two people, Carol Maciel and Ezra Anger. Carol is our new Community Director who is running YARN's day-to-day operations, taking over from YARN Founder Joe Chapot. Ezra Anger has been hired to edit and compile our New Guide to Young Adult Ministry.*

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

*By our estimate we currently directly reach between 1500 and 2000 Unitarian Universalist young adults on a daily or weekly basis. This number has been growing steadily since 2019 and we expect it to continue to grow.*

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?

*We are currently working on developing our next three year plan. Our previous plan focused on growing our community, developing our fundraising capacity to a sustaining level, and expanding our offerings. We met the first two goals, as measured by the size of our online communities and the money we brought in. The latter goal has ebb and flowed as we have offered more and less programming. The transition into and out of the Quarantine Era of the Pandemic has greatly affected our program offerings (i.e. ZOOM fatigue really impacted us hard for a while.)*

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?

*At this time our main concern is the staff transition from Joe to Carol, as well as the direction of YARN. We are a bit rudderless right now, but have already surveyed the community to get a sense of what people want. The YARN Board of Directors is actively working on developing a new three year plan.*

5. Is this program/project complete?

No

A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

*In regards to Carol, she has finished training and has been running YARN day to day the last couple weeks. Joe will be available to mentor and train her thru December before he goes on paternity leave. Carol's work will be continually evaluated by the YARN Board of Directors. Ezra is still working on the New Guide.*

*Their deadline is mid-November and we expect it sooner. This work will be evaluated by the authors of the New Guide, and eventually by the public.*

B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

*We created YARN to nurture and support the global UU young adult community, as well as transform how UUism relates towards young adults. The project is continuous and we want every UU to know about us as a resource and a place for young adults to connect with their peers. We wouldn't want anyone to copy our work as that would split the community.*

Name of respondent: Joe Chapot

Address:

1187 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, CA, 94109

Phone: (415) 244 7253

Email: [yarn@uusf.org](mailto:yarn@uusf.org)

*Thank you!*



# We Imagine, We Create

**An Environmental Festival**

**Saturday, September 23, 2023 | 1-5 p.m.**

**Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York  
160 Central Park West, New York, NY 10023**

Unitarian Universalists believe in learning from multiple spiritual traditions, honoring nature, and protecting democracy. As NYC wraps up Climate Week, join Unitarian Universalists of all ages to celebrate, lament what's still left to be done, and imagine what is possible to create.

**Environmental Festival: 1-4 p.m.**

Storytelling, Music, Arts & Crafts,  
Meditation, & Childcare!

**Jazz Vespers Service: 4-5 p.m.**

Songs, Ritual & Reflections  
for Environmental Justice

From Jersey City to Long Island, join the New York State Convention of Universalists, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, New York Unitarian Universalist Justice, Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, and many more partners in the struggle for compassion and climate justice. Let's imagine and create!

# NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

## Report on 2022 Grant

ORGANIZATION: New York Unitarian Universalist Justice

DATE OF REPORT: September 19, 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Expanding and Strengthening Our State Advocacy Network

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$5500

### 1. How was the money actually spent?

This project was delayed from 2022 due to changes in NYUUIJ staffing and the discontinuation of the communication, fundraising, and advocacy software that we originally intended to implement. We needed to wait for the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN) to finalize its contractual relationships with the new software vendor and to assign NYUUIJ a place in the implementation schedule.

However, in January 2023, NYUUIJ hired Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt as our Program Manager and CUUSAN began the roll-out of EveryAction, the new software, beginning with UU action networks in other states.

The NYSCU 2022 grant funding has supported the time Ashley has devoted to:

- Managing email newsletters (writing, editing, design, and implementation) to a NYUUIJ mailing list of about 350 UUs. These email newsletters have communicated background on issues as well as opportunities for UUs to attend rallies, send letters, make phone calls and attend meetings with legislators;
- Becoming familiar with the new software, EveryAction, and its capabilities.
- Converting NYUUIJ's existing email management to EveryAction; and
- Managing email communications in the new system.

The grant has also funded the printing costs for literature describing NYUUIJ; for stickers with the NYUUIJ logo that UUs can use to identify themselves when they are at the Capitol, rallies or other events; and for a banner to identify NYUUIJ tabling at public events.

### 2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

With our email newsletters, we are connecting on a regular basis with 46 of the 62 UU congregations in NYS, representing about 7,200 Unitarian Universalists.

By working with our partner organizations, we are reaching New York State legislators and their staffs, as well as volunteers and the staff of our partner organizations.

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?

CUUSAN scheduled the implementation of EveryAction software for NYUUI for August-September 2023, and it is now complete. We currently use EveryAction software for NYUUI emails to subscribers and for recording donations. We will implement on-line advocacy (emails to elected officials) and other communication and fundraising capabilities in EveryAction in the next few months.

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?

Delays, as described above, were the biggest concern.

5. Is this program/project complete? Not quite.

- A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

The project will be complete with the implementation of additional software capabilities in the next few months. The Board will be able to evaluate success using reports generated by the software.

- B. If yes, what are the implications for the future?

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

Yes. EveryAction provides a set of tools for organizing for justice that far exceeds what was previously available to NYUUI.

Name of respondent: Peggy Sherman

Address: c/o Albany UU, 405 Washington Ave, Albany NY 12206

Phone: 518-669-3278

Email: [Treasurer@nyuui.org](mailto:Treasurer@nyuui.org)

*Thank you!*



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

222 Temple Street • PO Box 11 • Fredonia, NY 14063

www.uucnc.org • 716 679-7944

January 2023

## Report on 2022 grant, New York State Convention of Universalists

Members of UUCNC used 2022 NYSCU grant funds to improve the technology for producing dual platform worship services and to increase our visibility in the neighborhood and community. We are extremely grateful for the \$3,775 grant and anticipate installing the new sign in the coming weeks. We expect to spend at least \$754 more than the grant funds, as follows:

\$1,929 anticipated cost of sign/installation, not including electrical work or landscaping  
 2,095 cost of technology improvements for dual platform worship  
 455 cost of Peace Pole  
 50 cost of flagpole LED light (estimate)  
 \$4,529 total anticipated cost of grant items, not including sign lighting and flag lighting  
 - 3,775 less 2022 NYSCU grant  
 \$ 754 balance to be paid from UUCNC funds

1.

In keeping with village regulations, we worked with a respected professional sign maker to create a high quality sign (final design attached) to promote awareness of our congregation. The Communications and the Buildings & Grounds Committees collaborated on the sign, which will use the existing signposts on the front lawn. After considering comments from congregants, the Executive Board made the final decision and ordered the sign on December 1, 2022. After the sign was ordered, there were delays in fabrication due to illness, the December blizzard, and the signmaker's holiday schedule. It is now being fabricated, with installation expected by February 3, 2023, weather permitting.

At the time we ordered the sign, we secured a building permit, and a licensed electrician was hired to disconnect existing electrical service to the sign. Electrical service will be restored, and lighting added at our expense, after the sign is in place. We are still considering several ideas for how to light the sign, including dark sky friendly lighting.

Date	Num	Name	Memo/Description	Amount
12/01/2022	3230	Village of Fredonia	Building Permit	\$ 105
TBD		Gary Vacanti	Electrician, to disconnect power to old sign	
TBD		Southpaw Signs	Fabrication of new sign (quote)	\$ 1,430
TBD		Southpaw Signs	Installation of new sign (est.)	\$ 300
TBD		ADD Lumber	Post covers, caps for 2 signposts	\$ 61
TBD		Southpaw Signs	One extra pair of sign slats (Vegan Dinner)	\$ 33
				\$ 1,929

2.

One family has purchased and donated a 20-foot aluminum external halyard flagpole so we can proudly fly a U.S. flag, an earth flag, and a pride flag. We plan to light the flags using a pole-top solar light (purchased at our expense) made for that purpose.

3.

During Summer 2022, congregants participated in a discussion to select the languages to be inscribed on our rainbow Peace Pole, which reads “May Peace Prevail On Earth.” With this input, we selected the languages most frequently spoken currently (English and Spanish) and historically (Seneca) in Chautauqua County. Animal paw prints were selected for the fourth side of the pole. The Peace Pole was purchased for \$455 (photo attached).

After the new sign is in place, the Executive Board will review a proposal from the Buildings & Grounds Committee re: suggested placement of the Peace Pole and flagpole and will invite congregants to comment before they are installed on our property. A new landscape subcommittee is being formed to take the lead on these and other plans.

4.

A friend of our congregation who is an ecologist specializing in native landscapes (brief resume attached) has advised us on landscaping around our new sign, Peace Pole and flagpole using native plants. We were not yet ready to plant those gardens in Spring 2022 when she had plants available. Instead, we plan to establish the garden areas and add the native plants in Spring/Summer 2023. This will be done at our expense.

5.

Since Spring 2022, we have purchased and installed equipment to enhance the technology for producing dual platform worship services:

Date	Num	Name	Memo/Description	Amount
04/14/2022	30	The Home Depot	For Sound System and Computer hook up	\$ 43
04/22/2022	113	Full Compass Systems	Noise cancelling microphone, cable, connectors	\$ 528
05/02/2022	31	The Home Depot	More stuff for sound hook up (ethernet cable)	\$ 41
05/06/2022	3068	Crino Music	Two 5 ft microphone cables for new sound system	\$ 36
05/09/2022	32	The Home Depot	More stuff for sound hook up	\$ 20
05/24/2022	3074	Zach Stahlsmith	Help installing audio cable above sanctuary ceiling	\$ 120
09/06/2022	117	Full Compass Systems	Six channel mixer,100' stage name, headphones	\$ 984
09/10/2022	3153	Dan Berggren	2 special condenser microphones	\$ 161
09/12/2022	34	The Home Depot	Cord covers for new sound system	\$ 20
10/12/2022	121	ShowMeCables.com	Cable for new sound system	\$ 14
09/26/2022	36	Crino Music	Microphone boom stand and connectors	\$ 81
10/02/2022	3168	Jefferson Westwood	Reimbursement: Replacement laptop charger	\$ 47
				<b>\$ 2,095</b>

Using this equipment, those attending worship services on Zoom can participate actively in Joys and Concerns, and congregants attending in person can see the Zoom participants when they share. Improving the technology has improved the sound quality of worship services livestreamed from our meetinghouse. We have reduced the number of volunteers needed to

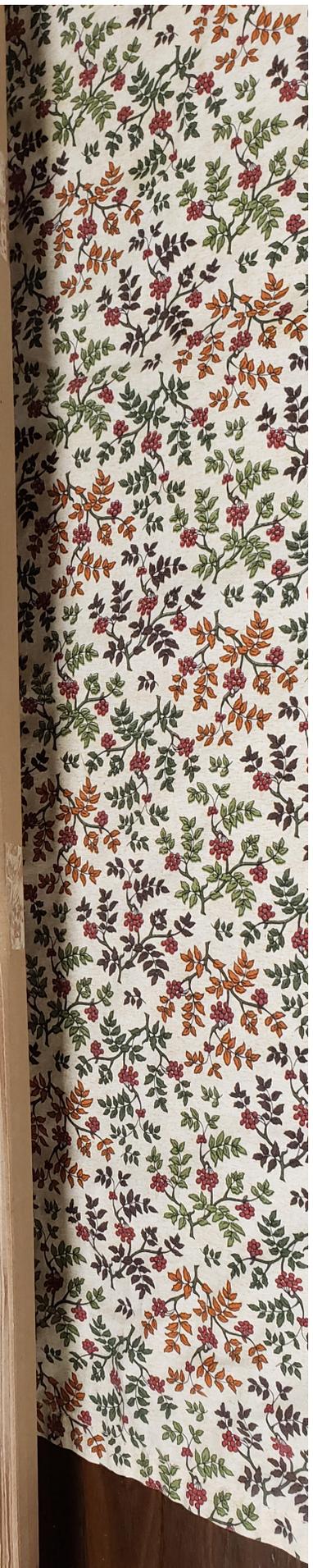
livestream each service (from 5 volunteers to 3) and have trained additional tech team volunteers. We continue to fine tune the technology, based on feedback from those participating in person and those on Zoom.

We anticipate using the installation of the new sign, Peace Pole, flagpole and native plant gardens as opportunities to involve the larger community, including SUNY Fredonia students. We remain confident that completing these projects, and the attendant community outreach and publicity, will promote awareness of and interest in Unitarian Universalism and our congregation, improve our innovative outreach program, and enhance the experience of our worship services.

Thank you, NYSCU, for supporting this project, which has helped us improve how our neighbors and the larger community view our congregation.

**Ja-wë-on Tha-yö-jeök Yoë-dza-geh**

**Que La Paz Prevalezca En La Tierra**





48 in

222

**Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation**

of Northern Chautauqua

**Sundays 11 am - All Welcome**

**Potluck Dinner December 7th**

**uucnc.org**

47.15 in



# GET INVOLVED WITH NYSCU

**SERVING ON THE NYSCU BOARD OR A COMMITTEE IS REWARDING.  
CONNECT WITH UUs FROM ACROSS NEW YORK STATE WHILE  
CONTRIBUTING TO AN IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCE.**

**The Board of Trustees** meets two or three times per year: in February/March to make decisions about our Grants & Loans program, in late spring to finalize the budget and plan the Annual Meeting, and in October for the Annual Meeting. Members are compensated for travel, lodging and meals.

**The Finance Committee** oversees financial decision-making. NYSCU pays an investment advisor, a CPA and a Treasurer. The investment advisor is guided by objectives and investment criteria developed by the Finance Committee, which meets as needed, typically by email.

**The Service Gratuity Committee** is responsible for oversight of the Service Gratuity Fund, which provides benefits to Universalist ministers who served NY congregations prior to the 1961 merger. The SG Committee makes decisions about COLA and modification of benefits. Members meet by email and/or at the annual meeting.

**The Nominating Committee** identifies candidates for the Board and the Nominating Committee. Members typically do their work by phone and email in the Spring.

If you are interested in participating on the Board or a committee, we would like to hear from you. Please see [nyscu.org](http://nyscu.org) for contact information for Board and Committee members. Or speak to someone at the Annual Meeting. Or fill out this form and hand it to any Board member.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation/town \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info - email/phone \_\_\_\_\_

Area/s of interest/expertise \_\_\_\_\_

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## Expense Request/Reimbursement

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation(if delegate) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Meeting Delegates

Registration: If you did not indicate that you were exempt from the registration fee when you registered and you paid the \$30 fee, please indicate below if you would like to request a refund.

Mileage: Please indicate your total, round trip mileage. Reimbursement rate for 2023 is \$0.33/mile.

Lodging: \$50 towards hotel room

**NYSCU Board/employees** - Registration, Mileage + tolls, one additional meal as needed

ITEM Registration (only if refund is needed) (\$30)	AMOUNT \$ _____
ITEM # of round-trip miles _____ x \$0.33	AMOUNT \$ _____
ITEM Lodging (\$50)	AMOUNT \$ _____
ITEM _____	AMOUNT \$ _____

**TOTAL**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Return to: Melissa Lesley-Fox, NYSCU Treasurer, 109 Waring Rd, Syracuse, NY 13206 or [mlesleyfox@gmail.com](mailto:mlesleyfox@gmail.com)