



New York State Convention of Universalists

Annual Reports, 2024



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Appendix

Get Involved With NYSCU
Expense Request/Reimbursement

New York State Convention of Universalists
198th Annual Meeting
The Art of Helping- and Being Helped
October 25 & 26, 2024

- ***Please note that this will be a hybrid meeting- we encourage you to participate in person or online!***
- ***Registration is available at the door***

HOST CONGREGATION:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, NY
6320 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

HOUSING:

The Mosey Hotel
5195 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 276-9600

Friday evening, October 25

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

Mosey Hotel, Meeting room

Saturday, October 26

Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst

8:30 AM- Registration, coffee ***Foyer, Emerson Room***

9:00 AM Opening Worship ***Chapel***

Rev. Michelle Buhite

9:15 AM Keynote Address ***Chapel***

Rev. Julian Jamaica Soto: The Precious Light We Carry

We bring a precious light to a world in need of justice and love, even as we need to be sustained by the light of others in this sacred work. How do we give and receive this light when our spirits need it most?

10:00- 10:30 Keynote Dialogue ***Chapel***

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45 Business meeting ***Chapel***

11:30 Lunch (provided by the host congregation) ***Emerson Room***

During the lunch break, you are welcomed to stroll the grounds and labyrinth of UU Amherst!

12:30 Workshop Session 1

Chapel **You May Not Know..... Rev. Renee Ruhotzke (CERG) and Ann Rhody (NYSCU), Presenters**
Many available resources for our congregations may be “hidden in plain sight.” Hear how NYSCU and CERG can help your congregation achieve its goals in ways you might not be aware of!

Living Room **Allyship Across State Lines.....Rev. Soto and Rev. Sally Hamlin, Presenters/Moderators**
Communities in other states are facing a barrage of attacks on essential rights: gender identity, sexual orientation, education, voting, and more. How can we provide meaningful help to those fighting these battles? Remote participants include Reverend Chris Long, Minister of Congregational Life, Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Reverend Erin J. Walter, Executive Director, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry

1:30-1:45 Break

1:45 PM Workshop Session 2

Living Room **Membership Development: A Roundtable**
Ann Rhody (NYSCU), Renee Ruhotzke (CERG), Moderators
Many of our congregations share the goal of increasing membership. What are some ways to market our UU churches to increase visibility and to ensure that visitors come back? Participants will be encouraged to share challenges as well as strategies that have worked.

Chapel/Grounds **Nature and Spirituality Practices- Church of the Wild**
Lauraine Marcus and Elaine Harrigan (UU Amherst), Presenters
This will be an experiential workshop. Weather permitting, Elaine Harrigan will guide the group through TERRA DIVINA: MINDFULNESS THROUGH NATURE, outdoors. Terra Divina is a practice that helps us to become “notice-ers” of the natural world to receive its wisdom for wholeness and well-being. If the weather is not cooperative, Elaine will present a MANDALA MAKING ACTIVITY AS GROUP RITUAL & PRACTICE OF GRATITUDE. Lauraine Marcus will provide an overview of UU Amherst’s Church of the Wild.

2:45 Closing Worship- Rev. Sally Hamlin, NYSCU Vice-President **Chapel**

3:00 Meeting adjourns

New York State Convention of Universalists
Founded 1825
198th Annual Meeting
Agenda for Business Meeting
October 26, 2024

1. Call to Order- Ann Rhody, President
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting
5. Report of the Board of Trustees
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Report of Service Gratuity Program
8. Vote on Proposed Bylaw Amendment
9. Report of 2024 Grants and Loans
10. Report of the Nominating Committee
11. Election of new Trustees and Nominating Committee members
12. President's Remarks
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Invitation to 2025 Annual meeting
16. Adjournment

New York State Convention of Universalists
Founded 1825
197th Annual Meeting
Business Meeting Agenda and Minutes
October 21, 2023

1. Call to Order- Ann Rhody, President

11:05am

2. Determination of Quorum

A quorum has been established, 31 voting members present, 14 congregations

3. Approval of Agenda

Sally Hamlin moves, Karen Dau second, no discussion, unanimously approved

4. Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting

Oct 22nd meeting, Sally Hamlin moves, Dick Gilbert second, no discussion, 2 abstain, all others approved.

5. Report of the Board of Trustees

Blended with the President's report packet that was distributed

6. Treasurer's Report

Melissa Lesley-Fox created a most wonderful video presentation on how NYSCU distributes funds, it was informative, thorough, and creative. Finances are healthy, report included in packet that was distributed. The board approved a budget for our fiscal year that begins March 1st.

7. Report of Service Gratuity Program

We are in good shape, info in the packet

8. Report of 2022-23 Grants and Loans

This year we granted just over \$113k to 20 congregations and organizations. We have approved \$20k to the Central East Region of the UUA, and we have granted a bit over \$7k to the Lay Ministry program just to name a few. This year we had an ad hoc committee who revised the grants and loans policy, and the revised policy

was approved by the Board of Trustees. The full report can be found in the packet provided. Oneonta expresses appreciation for the grants and loans they have received over the years. Big thanks from the Ministry for Earth. First UU Syracuse expressed thanks for helping to fund their Beyond the Binary conference. Jan 31st is the deadline for grant applications.

9. Vote on proposed 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.

Ann motions the bylaw amendment and Karen Dau seconds the motion.

Discussion: Rev Liz Strong came out of Schuyler Lake and we are thankful for their leadership and revere them as ancestors in our Universalist tradition.

Vote unanimously passes the bylaw amendment

10. Report of the Nominating Committee

Full report provided on paper at the meeting,
full version now found in the online packet (thanks to Michael Scott)

President: Ann Rhody

Vice President: Rev. Sally Hamlin

Secretary: Rev. Linda Anderson

Trustee (3yr): Jim D'Aloisio

Trustee (1yr): Barbara Fillips

For Nominating Committee (3yr) Jody Brown

(taken from the floor)

Joyce Gilbert and Angela Warren will continue on this committee for the next fiscal year.

11. Election of new Trustees

Motion by Michael Scott to accept nominations, second by Mark Berninghausen.
2 abstentions, all others approve, slate passes.

12. Report of the President- Ann Rhody, President

Remarks from Ann can be found in the packet provided. Gave appreciation to the members and minister of UUC Binghamton for their hospitality today. Gives thanks for all the board members (those remaining and those who are moving back from the work) who have given so much work and love to this committee. Ann gives thanks to Karen Dau who has served as our Archivist for 31 years and will retire from this position in 2025. David Damico came forward to share about his work as the Editor of the Universalist Herald.

Note from Jo, gives thanks for Ann and all the incredible work she has been doing for this organization for years.

13.Old Business

None

14.New Business

None

15. Invitation to 2024 Annual meeting

We don't yet have a location, please contact Ann Rhody if your congregation would be interested in hosting. 2025 Meeting will be in Canton NY to celebrate both the 200th anniversary of NYSCU and of the Canton NY congregation.

16. Adjournment 11:56am by President Ann Rhody.

Minutes respectfully submitted by board of trustees member Rev. Jo VonRue

New York State Convention of Universalists
Annual Meeting 2024
President/Board Report

2024 was an active year for our Board of Trustees!

We met in February to consider a record number of Grant and Loan applications, and we awarded 27 grants for a total of \$121,000. We also considered committee appointments and operations and reviewed financial results.

We met in May with a full agenda, including consideration of budgets, investments, the archives, Bylaw updates, the nominating process, and more.

And we meet the day prior to the Annual Meeting to pass a budget for the organization and for the Service Gratitude Fund.

It takes a team to keep this organization ticking. Our Treasurer, Melissa Lesley-Fox, ably manages the financial matters. Our Clerk, Tom Hackett, keeps us on top of communications and deadlines. Our archivist (at least for one more year!), Karen Dau, works to transition the archives to digital format, and asks the tough questions about the changing world of archives management. Our Webmaster, Michael Scott, ensures that critical information is on our website. Jim D'Aloisio, who has acted as our Grants and Loans chair, skillfully leads us through the process of organizing and processing the many grant requests each year. We were joined this year by a new Secretary, Reverend Linda Anderson, who smoothly took on the duties of that office. And our Board members, Vice President Sally Hamlin, Mark Berninghausen, Gay Canough, Barb Fillips, John Roleke, and Jo VonRue, take seriously their tasks to carry out the mission of the organization.

All of these people matter, and so do YOU- every delegate, grant recipient, each member congregation, and all who participate in the Annual Meeting.

We have continued to streamline and modernize our operations, and we are looking to go even further. We continue to seek out new Board members, Nominating committee members, and active participants, and to spread the word about the good things that NYSCU is doing. And this year, we are hoping to do some work aligning our investment policy with our current investments. If you are interested in helping in this area, please do let us know! Our contact information can be found on our website, nyscu.org.

My thanks to Barb Fillips, who is completing her Board term this year. Barb has been incredibly helpful, particularly as a member of the planning committee for the Annual Meeting.

Best blessings to all!

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Rhody, President

New York State Convention of Universalists

October 2024 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, 2024 is **\$3,169,212**
- Outstanding loans: none

SERVICE GRATUITY

- Fund Balance as of September 30, 2024 is **\$239,840**
- 2 members are Charlotte Ramsay and Herbert "Terry" Hudson
- 2024 payments are estimated \$30,000 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 or by [visiting google docs \(click here or point your phone's camera at the QR code below, and tap the link that appears\)](#)

- Expense Reimbursement form_Annual Meeting 2024
- Accountant's annual review FY24
- FY24 reports, full fiscal year
- FY25 budget vs actuals, balance sheet through September
- FY26 budget



NYSCU Financial Reports 2024

In Section 102 – Purposes, modify the second numbered sentence:

2. Cooperate with the Unitarian Universalist Association, related organizations and the ~~Unitarian Universalist Districts in the State of New York~~ Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

In Section 601, in the second sentence, correct the misprint

at least one shall ~~he~~ be a member of the Executive Board. . . .

In APPENDIX A

STATUTORY COMPLIANCE WITH THE NONPROFIT REVITALIZATION ACT

In the section

Conflict of Interest Defined

Gifts, Gratuities and Entertainment

modify the clause

under circumstances where it might be inferred that such action was intended to influence or possibly would influence the Responsible Person in the performance of ~~his or her~~ their duties.

In the section

Definitions.

Modify the definition of “Family Member”

A “Family Member” is a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child or spouse of a child, ~~brother, sister, sibling,~~ or spouse of a ~~brother or sister~~ sibling, of a Responsible Person.

In the section

Procedures.

Modify the first sentence of the second paragraph

A trustee or committee member who plans not to attend a meeting at which ~~he or she has~~ they have reason to believe that the board or committee will act on a matter in which the person has a Conflict of Interest shall disclose to the chair of the meeting all facts material to the Conflict of Interest.

Modify the second sentence of the third paragraph

A person who has a Conflict of Interest shall not participate in or be permitted to hear the Board's or committee's discussion of the matter except to disclose material facts and to respond to questions. Such person shall not attempt to exert ~~his or her~~ their personal influence with respect to the matter, either at or outside the meeting.

Modify the last sentence of the fourth paragraph

For purposes of this paragraph, a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York State Convention of Universalists, Inc. has a Conflict of Interest when ~~he or she stands~~ they stand for election as an officer or for re-election as a member of the Board of Trustees.

In the section

Review of policy.

Modify the first paragraph

Each new Responsible Person shall be required to review a copy of this policy and to acknowledge in writing that ~~he or she has~~ they have done so.

Modify the first sentence of the second paragraph

Each Responsible Person shall annually complete a disclosure form identifying any relationships, positions or circumstances in which the Responsible Person is involved that ~~he or she believes~~ they believe could contribute to a Conflict of Interest arising.

Nominations October, 2024

Trustees (3 positions)

For three year terms

Gay Canough

John Roleke

For two year term

TBD

Nominating Committee (3 positions)

For one year term

Judith Adel

For two year term

TBD (2)

**2024 CER Mid Year Update for the New York Convention of Universalists
September 1, 2024**

Last year the NYSCU Board decided to shift funding for the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association from a grant-based model to a percentage-based model that will generally result in a more generous gift to our UUA. **We so appreciate this act of trust and shared mission**, not to mention the time freed from writing the grant proposal!

The region in turn worked out an agreement with the CER Commissioned Lay Ministry program where they will also receive a percentage share of NYSCU proceeds each year.

Under this new model we aren't required to report our progress mid-year, but I wanted to send a short update along with our thanks.

The Central East Region staff continues to be busy with direct services to our congregations. We are always here for our leaders with a listening ear, some ideas to help out, connections to other congregations in similar situations or to other areas of the UUA. CER is the birthplace of our robust suite of online resources, LeaderLab, and is still managed by co-Dean Rev. Renee Ruchotzke and administered by Beth Casebolt from CER staff

We welcomed a new staff person to CER in January 2024. (Thanks to Jim D'Aloisio for joining the hiring team!) Rev. Alia Shinbrough (they/them) has a portfolio almost entirely of New York congregations, working with longtime staff member Renee. If your congregation hasn't gotten to know Alia yet, please reach out or respond to their message to you this fall. Rev. Alia and I will be attending the NYSCU meeting in person this October.

We are proud that Rev. Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe was promoted to Regional Lead of the Pacific Western Region. We're in search for a permanent replacement for them to start in late 2024/early 2025. In the meantime, Rev. Elaine Strawn is ably serving a few New York congregations as primary contact.

This past year our main staff program offering was a series of "skill up" calls on the subject of "Leading Change in Changing Times". Congregational leaders could drop in monthly to learn a little bit about subjects like multigenerational ministry, change management, shared ministry, congregational assessments, and stewardship as well as talk to other leaders about what they're hoping to do in their congregations.

As the spring drew to a close we sensed a new energy in our congregations. There's a greater sense of joy, play, and resolve. There's a desire to be together in person to deepen our faith and enjoy each other. We know more about who

we want to be as we move farther past the pandemic shutdown. The upcoming Presidential elections are a stark reminder of the importance of preserving our values. For the 2024-25 year we plan to support congregational leadership teams through our Healthy Board Habits and RE Kickoff cohort groups and join in some major national events like the Climate Justice Revival in September and the Mosaic Conference in October. We're putting together a learning circle on the topic of joyful conflict transformation. We continue to staff a regional caucusing group for BIPOC leaders and our national offering for BIPOC UUs, Taproot. We'll be together to support each other through the election, no matter what the outcome. And in the spring of 2025 we'll be bringing a Community Learning, Transformation And Leadership Day called Leading with Love at the Center to a place near you. Mark your calendar for the New York dates on 3/22/25 for Metro NY City area and 4/5/25 for Central and West NY. We look forward to hosting GA 2025 in Baltimore this year and also supporting our regional summer camp, CER Summer Institute in Oberlin OH. These opportunities are close enough for New Yorkers to participate.

The UUA, through your regional staff, are the embodiment of the covenant our congregations make with each other for mutual aid and support. We are in relationship with you and are always here to provide care. Thank you so much for your support of your UUA, and please be in touch with any questions or needs. We'll see you at the NYSCU Annual Meeting!



Rev. Dr. Megan L. Foley
Regional Lead, Central East Region

NYSCU Grants, 2024

Regular Grants

Long Island Area Council of UU Congregations	Sofia Fahs Camp	\$1,750
First Universalist Church of Southold, NY	Soulful Sundown	3,800
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton NY	Is UU Right for You?	3,000
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst (Williamsville, NY)	Creating Strong UU Families	2,000
May Memorial UU Society (Syracuse, NY)	Microphone Update	3,345
Liberal Religious Educators Association Seaway Chapter	Restorative Fall Retreat	8,500
The HUUB, Inc. (Orange, NJ)	Ben Jones Community Garden & Friends	2,407
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington (NY)	Speaker Series in Conjunction with the Huntington African American Museum	2,200
Star Island (NH)	Workshop Leader and Speaker Room Scholarships, Faith Development Week	3,250
Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)	Community Care: Supporting the Black UU Community in the Aftermath of COVID	9,000
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry	Empowered Safety Congregations	4,000
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats (NY)	Sign Refurbishment	1,898
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo (NY)	Our Whole Lives Program Training and Program Expansion	5,000
UU Ministry for the Earth	Unitarian Universalist Young Adults for Climate Justice	5,000
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua (NY)	Healthy Living Workshops and Class Series	1,700
UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester (Mt. Kisko, NY)	Sparks of Joy	1,800
UU Congregation of Binghamton (NY)	Sound System Enhancement	2,200
First Universalist Society of Central Square (NY)	Community Gathering Project	2,500
Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center (Saco, ME)	Building Effective Multi-Generational Conference	2,500

Murray Grove Association (Lanoka Harbor, NJ)	Program Support	2,500
New York Unitarian Universalist Justice	Gathering New Yorkers for Justice: NYUUI Justice Convention 2024	5,500
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse (NY)	Design User-Friendly Outward-Facing Website	3,200
UU Congregation of the Hudson Valley	Accessibility Doorway from Fellowship Hall to Sanctuary for Differently-Abled Attendees	4,000
UU Class Conversations	Expanding the Conversation to Meet Changing Needs: A Pilot Pogram	3,500
UU Congregation of Northern Chautauqua (Fredonia, NY)	Expanding the Scope of Chalice Circles	3,000
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Watertown, NY	Outreach toolkit to increase community awareness of UUism in the North Country NY	3,200
UUA Central East Region (CER)	Program Support	30,250
Sub-Total (regular grants)		\$121,000

Loans

Sub-Total (loans)		\$0
Grand Total		\$121,000

NYSCU Grant Progress Report 2024

DEADLINE: This report of a 2024 grant received from the New York State Convention of Universalists in is due to Tom Hackett, Clerk ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. Please use the form below to submit your report.

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 using the form upload below.

CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

admin@liacuu.org

Organization Name *

Long Island Area Council of UU Congregations

Name of respondent *

Laurice Grae

Phone number of respondent *

917-727-7022

Purpose of Grant *

Sophia Fahs Camp

Amount of Grant *

1750

How was the money spent? *

Expanding the number of campers attending with a subsidized rater

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

11 subsidies provided, building a community of 60

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

It was our second year running a multi-gen camp, meeting the needs of a post COVID world. It was our goal to be a more inclusive program in 2024, challenging the image of the outdoors and camp as spaces primarily for white people of financial privilege. Though we haven't had enough people respond to have significant numbers on our demographic survey, our eyes tell us our racial diversity is still lacking. We were, however, able to subsidize 11 camper registration, and increase of 30% from last year.

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

Despite asking about access needs during the registration process, and despite having ADA compliant spaces available, we found the self identification of mobility constraints led to problems during the week, with elder campers needing rides to and from the dining facilities and other activity areas.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No


IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

The feedback was very positive, with all respondents saying they would be returning next year. After a year at a new facility, the leadership team has identified ways in which to accommodate and improve the experience of people of all ages and abilities.

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

.....

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Sophia Fahs Ca...

 Add file

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

ginc289@optonline.net

Organization Name *

The First Universalist Church of Southold known as Unitarian Universalist of Southold

Name of respondent *

VIRGINIA CORNELL and Susan Pond

Phone number of respondent *

631-765-8082

Purpose of Grant *

Support Soulful Sundown

Amount of Grant *

\$3800.

How was the money spent? *

Total musicians \$400. Publicity \$35. Renting for space \$250. Total \$685.

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

20-30 people

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

Continued attendance of all the people

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

We are a very small Congregation. Our church burned to the ground in 2015 and we had to rent a space in a different town. We are now in our new building and will continue with the program.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

We have had 5 Soulful Sundowns and 2 more planned by end 2024 Program will be evaluated by the Worship Committee of the church.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Add file

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NYSCU Grant Progress Report 2024

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

lmgeag@gmail.com

Organization Name *

UU Amherst (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Amherst)

Name of respondent *

Linda Joy Groat, Member Katie Cosgrove, DFD

Phone number of respondent *

Linda Joy 716-531-1556 Katie 716-912-6053

Purpose of Grant *

The purpose of the grant was to create strong UU families, by attracting and keeping new members, especially those with young children. The grant allowed us to hire a dedicated childcare provider during Sunday services.

Amount of Grant *

\$2000

How was the money spent? *

Since March 2024, approximately \$650 has been paid for Child Care and classes during Sunday Services, covering 29 Sundays and 3 family game nights.

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

Over the course of the last six months, we have gathered the following attendance data at 29 sessions at our Sunday morning youth program.

Summarized briefly:

We have served about 40 youth, from approximately 20 families

7 kids came with grandparents

Youth range in age from 0-18 years

Average attendance per youth is about 4 sessions

Average attendance per session is about 5 youth, and ranged anywhere from 0-12

6 youth have attended 8-16 times, which is about twice a month

4 more have attended 5-6 times, which is about once a month

Many youth only come once in a great while

14 youth have attended between 2-4 times while 17 youth attended only once in the last 6 months. (This includes youth who are visiting relatives from out of town, and members' grandchildren, who only attend on certain occasions.)

One new family joined membership, with 3 children

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

Our first goal was to regularly offer childcare and value-based activities every Sunday, for all families who come with children of any age.

We are achieving this goal, based on the above data. We make it a priority to be a welcoming community, where children feel safe and valued, and where they can engage with their peers and have fun together. With our paid childcare, it makes it possible for this to happen.

Our second goal was to attract New Members.

While we did not set a specific goal for how many new members we hoped to attract, we have grown in our membership. Two couples, one with 3 children along with 4 individuals became new members since March 2024, for a total of 8 new adult members.

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

It is hard to gather formal sign in/sign up info from parents as they come in, because families with young children notoriously run late into the service and the staff/helpers are already involved in programming, so children are just folded into the class quickly. Often, they leave after service, and we realize that we have no way to contact them. We have simplified it to a very short sheet and even that is hard to implement.

The range of ages varies from >1 year to 18 years. Cognitive abilities, attention and problem-solving skills vary widely among individual children, presenting fast moving classroom management issues for staff and helpers. Adaptation of planned lessons, communication, and flexibility of attitude and mindset are necessary for staff/helpers to meet the needs of the children present.

We never know who is going to walk through the door and we have struggled to have enough support from our congregation to have ready hands available. Members are often reluctant to step out of their comfort zone to help with the children, are nervous about their own skill sets, and also, they are overextended with other commitments and congregation projects.

We realize the need for Youth Faith Development to be a priority for the entire congregation and we are opening conversations to that end.

The young woman we hired for the last 6 months had to stop because she was in college and needed to focus on her coursework. We are actively trying to find another person to fill the role.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No


IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

We're going to continue to gather and analyze our data, talk with the congregation and try to best meet the needs of our families. As more families attend, more positive energy is generated and new visitors see an active and vibrant group of youth and families. We are hopeful this will continue to grow. In order to support this, we are working with our congregation to make sure it continues to be a priority in both words and actions, from the minister, board, and congregants.

We will reevaluate at the end of the next 6 months, in the spring of 2025. We are trying to gather a cohort of interested people to support the Youth Faith Development program and we are hopeful that it will be in place in time for the next evaluation.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 2024-03-31 Yout...

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NYSCU Grant Progress Report 2024

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

ministerjrev@gmail.com

Organization Name *

May Memorial UU Society

Name of respondent *

Rev. Jo VonRue

Phone number of respondent *

570.899.0457

Purpose of Grant *

Help with the quality and reach of worship and other activities in our sanctuary

Amount of Grant *

3,345

How was the money spent? *

We purchased new a new cordless microphone system and they are so much clearer now, we no longer here white noise or radio stations come through on Sunday morning!

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

~300 per month

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

The goals of the program were easy and immediate with better quality sound in the sanctuary as soon as installation was complete.

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

None

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

Better sound quality and engagement with our community

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

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UUFH Progress Report to the NYS Convention of Universalists

In February 2024, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington (UUFH) received a grant from the NYSCU in the amount of \$2,200 to organize a fundraiser for the Huntington African American Museum (HAfAmM).

As a brief background, HAfAmM received permission from the Huntington Town Board in 2023 to lease property from the Town of Huntington to build an African American Museum. The UUFH has been and continues to be very supportive of this project, as can be seen by our grant application.

Here are our current plans for the use of this generous grant:

- This event will occur on November 16, 2024 at 7pm at the UUFH
- We have put together a group of 3 panelists who are experts in areas of Black History on Long Island
- This group of panelists will be moderated by Joye Brown – a well-known moderator and journalist with Newsday – a Long Island newspaper
- The event will include a catered reception after the program.

There are still more details to be worked out in the coming weeks, we are working with board members of HAfAmM to make sure it's an evening that will help them raise lots of money for their museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Willard - on behalf of the Social Justice Committee of the UUFH

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Email *

minister@uucsf.org

Organization Name *

Faith Development Week (Star Island)

Name of respondent *

Kimberly Johnson

Phone number of respondent *

2018927151

Purpose of Grant *

funding to pay for room and board scholarships for our Workshop Leaders and Themed Speakers, and Conference Staff for Faith De-velopment Week (FDW) on Star Island

Amount of Grant *

\$3250

How was the money spent? *

we were able to supplement room and board for five speakers/workshop leaders

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

We had 90 adult and youth participants

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

most people who responded to our post-conference evaluation said that the program met or exceeded their expectations. They are returning to their congregations with new ideas and feeling rested. The music workshops were especially impactful, with participants reporting a new perspective on approaches to harmony/disharmony.

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

some participants felt overwhelmed with too many choices, or torn between resting, spending time with family, and attending workshops.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

we have some ideas for how to adjust programming for a more spacious experience.

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

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Email *

development@blacklivesuu.org

Organization Name *

_BLUU Dba Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism

Name of respondent *

Alexandrea Kouame

Phone number of respondent *

9526499938

Purpose of Grant *

The grant funds paid 90% of the stipend for BLUU's Commissioned Lay Minister/pastoral care intern

Amount of Grant *

9000

How was the money spent? *

Funding supported BLUU's Commissioned Lay Minister, Alberita Johnson, who was paid \$10,000 total for the church year.

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

BLUU engages community in multiple ways. BLUU's Commissioned Lay Minister has supported worship, programming and our private Facebook group (with 1200 members). In addition, BLUU's Commissioned Lay Minister supports 1 on 1 pastoral care. Thanks to this additional support, we've been able to provide more in the way of worship, programming and engagement. Taking into account the pastoral care line, hearing from people in worship, and reach-outs by email, formally and informally, we saw about 135 people last year for pastoral care. This is an increase of 15% over the previous year. In addition, we saw an average of 60 people in our monthly worship service which has also increased over the past year.

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

In July 2023, BLUU received funding from UU College of Social Justice to partially support a Commissioned Lay Minister, BLUU's first internship position. Prior to that, BLUU had been relying on volunteers which did not provide the consistent support needed to serve our community. With support from New York State Convention of Universalists, UU Funding Program and individual donations, we added two more communications and marketing internships. BLUU interns contributed about 50 hours per month each, which collectively, made a huge difference. We are thrilled with what we have been able to accomplish over the past year with these additional staffing resources.

For example, with intern support, BLUU increased our presence on Facebook, Instagram, and in BLUU's private Facebook group. We have also been able to consistently publish and distribute our monthly newsletter and the BLUU Box subscription.

Intern support in FY24 also helped BLUU to create more programming. In addition to our monthly virtual programs including worship and meditation, we also launched several new opportunities for BLUU members to connect, learn and reflect. These events include regular welcome events for new BLUU members or Black folks interested in learning more about BLUU. Here are just a few of the additional events offered this past year:

- You And Your Theology: A BLUU Webinar
- Palestine and Black Liberation
- Pre-GA Juneteenth workshop, in person in January (Our first in-person event since the pandemic!)
- BLUU Virtual Care Circle

In addition to programming, BLUU's Executive Director has been engaging and presenting to other UU organizations like UUJEC and UU Women's Federation. She was also recently interviewed for the MUUSJA podcast: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/muusja/episodes/Lena-Gardner-Building-Our-Power-Black-Lives-of-Unitarian-Universalism>

Last year's success has given us renewed energy as we head into this church year and we are excited to bring more programming, both virtual and in person, more opportunities for connection for Black UUs, and more ways for Black UUs to get involved in our work.

Please see the attachment to learn more about BLUU's work this past year and Alberita Johnson, BLUU's Commissioned Lay Minister.

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

The increase programming and capacity for more pastoral care has brought more interest. We are continuing to work with the three interns although now they have transitioned to part-time staff or paid contractors. We are currently fundraising to add a new internship position to support community engagement and membership to help us with this increased demand.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes


No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

Alberita Johnson, BLUU's Commissioned Lay Minister, has been an amazing member of our team and she will remain with us as a part-time staff person. We are working to raise funds for a new internship position to build capacity for better engagement and membership support.

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

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Email *

lynne.ricotta@gmail.com

Organization Name *

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats

Name of respondent *

Lynne Ricotta

Phone number of respondent *

607-542-9789

Purpose of Grant *

To refurbish our outdoor Fellowship sign

Amount of Grant *

\$1898.00

How was the money spent? *

A local sign company produced and installed a bright new vinyl covering for our very faded outdoor sign.

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

All the active members of the Fellowship (10-12), any visitors, and anyone who sees the sign from the highway as they drive by.

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

The goal has been completely met. Everyone who sees the new sign agrees it is much brighter and more readable than the old sign.

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

Selecting a new design for the sign engendered much discussion and debate (we're UUs, after all!), but was eventually voted on and decided.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

The main part of the sign, which is what the grant applied to, is complete. However, there are three smaller sections of the sign that were not part of the grant application that are also faded and need repainting. We will need to plan for that.

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 New UUFBF sign ...

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Email *

jpond@buffalouu.org

Organization Name *

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

Name of respondent *

Jess Pond

Phone number of respondent *

716-885-2136

Purpose of Grant *

The purpose of the grant was to help us host a training for OWL teachers for grades 7-9 & 10-12.

Amount of Grant *

\$5,000

How was the money spent? *

The money was spent on the honorariums for the two facilitators, the hotel costs for the two facilitators, supplies for the training, and some food for the training.

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

Fifteen people from six congregations attended and completed the training. They will all be able to teach OWL at their home congregations now, which will reach unforeseeable numbers of youth depending on how long they decide to continue teaching.

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 completely met, which is easily determined by the number of people who completed the training.

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

No real concerns developed during the course of the project.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

The group of teachers who completed this training were enthusiastic, excited, energized, and motivated. They had such a positive time at the training that they would like to figure out how to organize reunions, and they were talking about wanting to collaborate across congregations to bring their youth together as well. I also had such a rewarding time planning the training that I am excited to hopefully plan another training in the future.

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 DSC_0015 - Jess...

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

kellydignan@uumfe.org

Organization Name *

UU Ministry for Earth

Name of respondent *

Rev. Kelly Dignan

Phone number of respondent *

303-257-5449

Purpose of Grant *

To better expand and amplify the offerings of Unitarian Universalist Young Adults for Climate Justice, the young adult caucus of UU Ministry for Earth. The purpose of the grant is to allow us to grow and support Unitarian Universalism among young adults.

Amount of Grant *

\$5,000

How was the money spent? *

We paid tuition for three Young Adults to attend the Faith Matters Network Movement Chaplaincy Training (Feb 5- April 25). This 12-week course focused on the practice of movement chaplaincy. Movement chaplaincy refers to providing spiritual, emotional, and relational support to people and communities engaged in social justice movements. Learning through the course is organized into three core areas: 1) foundations, 2) skills & practices, and 3) applications.

\$1,125

UU Young Adults for Climate Justice (UUYACJ) hosted its third annual movement training workshop series in Spring 2024.

Organization (staff)

\$ 700

Facilitation fees (consultants)

\$2,700

Communications (staff)

\$ 200

Supervision (staff)

\$ 275

Total

\$5,000

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

Three young adults participated in the Movement Chaplaincy 50 hour training and 25 young adults attended the Movement Training Workshops. This is a total of 43 young adults that are being directly served by this programming.

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

Our goal of further amplification of UUYACJ was met. We have offered Movement Training in the past, but this time we had the resources (thanks to the grant) to publicize them more fully than ever before. We were able to make a full media kit with example blurbs and graphics that were shared by partner organizations, congregations, and between young adults. That in itself was a form of amplification of UU Young Adults for Climate Justice. While the attendance wasn't that much more than last year, averaging around 8 people per workshop, we did attract at least ten new people across the series. These were people that were previously unknown to UUYACJ, demonstrating that in our increased amplification, we were able to move outside of our core listserv and participants.

We also met our goal of growing and supporting Unitarian Universalism with young adults. This has been identified both in the workshops that we offered and the feedback received from them. All of the workshops revolved around different skills that can be applied to social justice movement work, specifically for long-term community involvement. We ended up offering four workshops: "Building Relationships in Community;" "Creative Non-Violent Direct Action Strategy;" "Art as a Tool for Liberation;" and "Healing and Wellness in Movements Using Herbalism." These workshops offered participants ways to live their faith values in action. There was feedback from participants that they felt supported by the learning space, energized by what was being shared, and excited to bring these lessons back into their own communities. From one of our workshop facilitators, "our young folks are looking for ways to connect with one another and build community; they are looking for trusted resources to support the organizing they are doing on the ground. UUYACJ helps to create the network where these connections are created and sustained." Based on this feedback, we've determined that we are supporting Unitarian Universalism with young adults.

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

One of our main concerns was the outcome of the Movement Chaplaincy Training. Although initially budgeted for four participants, we only had three young adults register. The Movement Chaplaincy Training itself was very intensive with many deadlines and demands. These types of demands were not conducive to the lifestyles of many young adults in our network who are juggling work, early adulthood, parenting, or school. As a result only one person completed the 50- hour certificate process. While high expectations for a certificate are not unfounded, the way in which the course was led felt like unduly rigid. Even though the curriculum included quite a bit about liberation, it felt dissonant to have the format of the course be so based in the dominant culture of individualism and productivity. Despite this being a concern of the program itself, we as UUYACJ learned about possible ways to interact with the Movement Chaplaincy Training course in the future.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes


No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

In the future, we hope the young adults who were trained in both of these programs will be leaders of the Unitarian Universalist Young Adults for Climate Justice.

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Movement traini...

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NYSCU Grant Progress Report 2024

Email

ggretton@rochestr.rr.com

Organization Name

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua

Name of respondent

Geoffrey Gretton

Phone number of respondent

(585) 760 4038

Purpose of Grant

The purpose of the Healthy Living Series is to provide participants with a comprehensive view of how their food choices affect both human and planetary health and assist them in transitioning, as much as they are willing and able, to a diet that benefits both. In addition, we wished to achieve exposure of our church to the community and draw new people into the church.

Amount of Grant

\$1700

How was the money spent?

Healthy Lifestyle workshops led by Dr. Kerry Graff were held at the UU Church of Canandaigua:

On Monday, April 22nd at 6:00 PM we offered "Using the Power of Food to Heal Ourselves and the Planet"

On Monday, June 3rd at 6:00 PM we offered "Lifestyle Medicine Assessment Workshop"

The grant money was spent on:

\$1200 Compensation for Dr. Graff.

\$75 Foods to create a grain bowl with a variety of healthy toppings.

\$200 Advertising posters materials and printing cost.

\$225 Media advertising.

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

50

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

We felt we successfully met our stated purpose. The presentation was well prepared and professional and offered fact-based evaluations and concrete actions to improve food choices for personal health and to benefit the health of the planet.

The grain bowl meal was well received and provided ideas for whole food/plant-based alternatives to the typical American diet.

This evaluation is from feedback from the participants and this respondent's evaluation. Of the fifty or so attendees, about half were from the congregation and half from the surrounding community, so we did bring in some new faces.

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

We were pleased with the participation but would hope to draw more if the series were repeated.

Project Completion Info:

Is the project fully complete?

Yes

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

We would like to repeat this series in the future. It is consistent with the values of the church and draws on the valuable asset of Dr. Graff, who is a member of the congregation.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

Upload 1 supported file. Max 100 MB.

I uploaded one file:

UUCU Lifestyle Med. Asses poster.png

I have attached this file to the email along with this word file.

LIFESTYLE MEDICINE ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024 6:00-8:00 PM
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CANANDAIGUA
3024 COOLEY ROAD

JOIN LIFESTYLE MEDICINE EXPERT AND AUTHOR DR. KERRY GRAFF

GRAIN BOWL DINNER WILL BE SERVED STARTING AT 6:00 PM
FREE WITH OPTIONAL DONATION OF \$20



DID YOU KNOW THAT 80% OF YOUR HEALTH IS IN YOUR HANDS (AND FEET!)? THIS 90-MINUTE WORKSHOP WILL REVIEW THE SIX LIFESTYLE HABITS THAT MATTER MOST TO YOUR OVERALL HEALTH AND ASSESS HOW WELL YOU ARE DOING IN EACH AREA. WITH THE GUIDANCE OF LIFESTYLE MEDICINE EXPERT DR. KERRY GRAFF, YOU WILL CREATE A PERSONAL PLAN FOR IMPROVING YOUR LIFESTYLE HABITS THAT WILL OPTIMIZE YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE HEALTHY HABIT CHANGES THAT LAST!



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Email *

pcompton33@gmail.com

Organization Name *

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester (Mt. Kisco, NY)

Name of respondent *

Patricia Compton

Phone number of respondent *

9149623643

Purpose of Grant *

Bringing live professional music into services to attract new members and inspire continuing members. Also, make our space better known in the community, again for new members and for partnerships (as well as rental partnerships for income).

Amount of Grant *

\$1800

How was the money spent? *

To pay for musicians

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

50 in house and many more through social media. Musicians have advertised their time with us on their social media platforms. We have done the same. With musicians permission, we are not also including them our YouTube channel to reach more people.

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

The goals of bringing live professional music has been met. Those services garner many positive comments and renewed energy from members/attendees. The goal of making new people aware of our community and our space has been met via the connections we are seeing on social media, the visitors who have come to services because of the music, and inquiries to use our space. We have had 2 inquiries about using our space for music events (one from the Westchester Wind Ensemble and one from the band Plane Station). We are working on making this a rental opportunity and looking at partnerships as well (for example, partnering with musicians and other local organizations for community events in support of our values). This has already introduced more people to Unitarian Universalism which is clear by the conversation we've had with the musicians who have been with us.

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

We are working on better scheduling of this Sparks of Joy Music Program so that it happens at a regular time (first Sunday of the month, for example) so people can count on it.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

We have been creative in combining the reduced grant funding this year with funds in our budget to extend the number of Sundays we can have music. We anticipate being able to have music on 5 to 7 more Sundays this congregational year (depending on the number of musicians each time). Visitors are always asked what brought them to us and if it is the music, that is noted by our greeters. We also survey the congregation after each service for their feedback. We hope to build a love of this program so that there will be interest in self-funding it perhaps combined with other grants as we move forward.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Title - Patricia Co...

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Email *

jeffrey.b.donahue@gmail.com

Organization Name *

UU Congregation of Binghamton

Name of respondent *

Jeff Donahue

Phone number of respondent *

607-206-6569

Purpose of Grant *

Sound system enhancement

Amount of Grant *

\$2,200

How was the money spent? *

Replace most of our 25 year old sound system.

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

Our entire congregation and visitors attending events in our sanctuary.

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

The project is about to begin ... estimates have been received, order placed, and the scheduled installation will be done in November.

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

Original vendor decided to close his business.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

November, 2024

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

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Email *

dartfrog7777@aol.com

Organization Name *

First Universalist Society of Central Square

Name of respondent *

Ellen LaPine

Phone number of respondent *

315-675-3385

Purpose of Grant *

Community Gathering Project

Amount of Grant *

\$2500

How was the money spent? *

\$1500 was spent to purchase a gutter system to alleviate flooding of the kitchen so that it can be used as we work toward having the building open for afterschool programs and a general safe space for students. We have acquired many items that Amazon would have thrown away through a program they provide to community service organizations. Those items such as toiletries, clothing and non-perishable foods are of good quality and available for the students now. Eventually we'll have the kitchen upgraded so that we can offer some items that need to be cooked and classes in cooking for the students. We plan to use the remaining \$1000 to purchase a vent fan and stove that will meet fire code since ours does not meet code. We will also invest in shelving to better store the items available to the students.

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

We hope to reach 20 or more students the first year once the program is up and running. Once the students start to utilize the program we hope that family members will let the community know about what we're attempting to do and will bring more people to the program.

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

Our project is just getting started but by ending the flooding of the kitchen area we can continue to make needed upgrades that will help us provide a facility that can be safely utilized by the community.

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

The main concern is the amount of time it is taking to get things going. We have not started the after school programs yet but students and families are currently taking advantage of the items we have available for them to use and take home.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

We hope to be up and running by the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Our Board will continually evaluate the project's effectiveness.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Add file

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NYSCU Grant Progress Report 2024

DEADLINE: This report of a 2024 grant received from the New York State Convention of Universalists in is due to Tom Hackett, Clerk ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. Please use the form below to submit your report.

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 using the form upload below.

CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

jessicaa@murraygrove.org

Organization Name *

Murray Grove Association

Name of respondent *

Jessica Alaimo

Phone number of respondent *

(609) 693-5558

Purpose of Grant *

To raise the image, understanding, and effectiveness of Murray Grove as a significant Universalist heritage site through various UU programming.

Amount of Grant *

2500

How was the money spent? *

The money was used to help facilitate various UU programs, like our annual Homecoming event and Camping In The Grove.

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

1000

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

Our programs were a great success. Not only were we able to bring together the UU community and raise awareness for various social justice issues through art, entertainment, and education, we were also able to raise additional funds so we can continue on with our mission of Universal Love.

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

We have made a concerted effort this year to invite not only the UU community to Murray Grove, but the entire community at large. It's so important that people are exposed to UU values. This was a challenge at first, but through marketing and outreach with help from this fabulous grant, this was a successful venture.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

With the project being complete and successful, we will be able to budget for similar important programs in the future.

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

pegmcsgherman@gmail.com

Organization Name *

New York Unitarian Universalist Justice

Name of respondent *

Peggy Sherman

Phone number of respondent *

518-669-3278

Purpose of Grant *

To gather New York UUs for a Nov. 16 Justice Convocation, online and in Albany

Amount of Grant *

\$5,500

How was the money spent? *

Funds have been used for staff time and publicity to date, and will be used for convocation food, honoraria, supplies, technology, location and support for participants.

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

As of 10/14, 33 UUs from 13 congregations have registered. We are aiming for participation from every NY congregation.

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

We will evaluate this after November 16.

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

We're organizing an event for the first time. While we believe we're planning for all that is needed, there will be surprises!

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes


No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

We'll ask for feedback from Justice Convocation participants, and then the NYUJJ Board will take that input into consideration while planning for future gatherings.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Convocation Flye...

 Add file

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

revhammerhand@gmail.com

Organization Name *

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse

Name of respondent *

Joe Pawletko for Rev. Molly Hammerhand

Phone number of respondent *

315-446-5940

Purpose of Grant *

Redesigning and Reimplementing the congregation's website

Amount of Grant *

\$3,200

How was the money spent? *

We put together an RFP and solicited bids from five vendors. We received responses from three of the vendors and selected one.

We are using the NYSCU funds in conjunction with congregational funds to pay the vendor to redesign, implement, and deploy the new website to our hosting provider.

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

More than 4,600 people visited our website in the past month. We hope to increase this number once the new website has been deployed to production.

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

Over the course of the project, we have solicited input and feedback from members of the congregation. Initial feedback to the new site has been very positive.

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

No insurmountable problems or concerns have arisen to date.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No


IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

We expect the new website to be deployed to production in the October/November timeframe. Training of staff and congregants will also be completed in that period.

FUUSS website redesign team members will evaluate the production website against the RFP specifications.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 NYSCU-FUUSS-pr...

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NYSCU Grant Progress Report 2024

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

jrusell.usr@gmail.com

Organization Name *

UU Congregation of the Hudson Valley

Name of respondent *

Jim Russell

Phone number of respondent *

(201)362-5510

Purpose of Grant *

To construct an accessibility doorway from our Fellowship Hall to our Sanctuary that will assist differently-abled attendees.

Amount of Grant *

\$4,000

How was the money spent? *

Not spent yet. Construction has not started

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

We expect that an average of one person will use this doorway each week when the doorway is constructed and the vertical power lift is installed.

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

It's too early to say because construction has not begun.

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

The location of the doorway is presenting more problems than expected. Our architect construction supervisor found a metal plate there and he is looking for a way to deal with it.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes


No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

The Board of Trustees made this a top priority for the current year, ending June 30, 2025 and I will be evaluating it by that date. Construction will interfere with normal operations so it needs to be scheduled judiciously.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Progress Report ...

 Add file

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CONTACT: If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2025. Please inform the Clerk at NYSCUTom@gmail.com.

Email *

pandspiehler@netscape.net

Organization Name *

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua

Name of respondent *

Sharon Piehler

Phone number of respondent *

(712)326-0155

Purpose of Grant *

Expanding the Scope of Chalice Circles

Amount of Grant *

\$3000

How was the money spent? *

To date we have ordered books to build a new library for ages toddler through high school. In addition we will be purchasing additional copies of White Fragility for our adult members to read and discuss together this year. Other teams are assembling a list of speakers, training opportunities and possible films to stream.

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

At this time our entire congregation will benefit from the books purchased, approx. 50 people. Many more will be reached when we host speakers, film streaming and training events to include our local community.

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

We are early in the process but are very optimistic that we will meet our goals and see a significant impact to our community.

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

None so far. Very positive interaction within the congregational teams.

Project Completion Info

Is the project fully complete? *

Yes

No

IF THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, what are the implications for the future?

IF THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETE, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom?

Estimate completion by June 2025 at close of our annual season. Events will be held throughout the church year.

Upload Photo of Project or Other Supporting Document

 Add file

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NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

This report of a 2024 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, ON OR BEFORE 15 SEPTEMBER 2024 .

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 2025. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

ORGANIZATION: All Souls UU Church, Watertown NY

DATE OF REPORT: October 8, 2024

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Outreach to attract neighbors to visit the UU congregations in Watertown or in Plattsburgh NY, using:

(A) Underwriting sponsorships broadcast on North Country Public Radio (NCPR), during All Things Considered news on Fridays between 5 and 6PM, and also

(B) Outreach locally to our Watertown area neighbors with a booth at the Watertown Gay Pride event.

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$3,200

1. How was the money actually spent? \$2,800 was spent for two public radio underwriting sponsorships on St. Lawrence University's NCPR, which broadcasts across ten NYS counties using thirty-three transmitters, towers, and repeaters across NNY, from Boonville and Clayton in the west, to Glens Falls and Plattsburgh in the east. Our messages are 13 seconds long and they are read during the 'All Things Considered' news between 5 and 6PM on Fridays, when listeners may be planning their weekends. With your kind help, our ads began 3/15/24, and will run for a full year. Separate, but similar messages invite listeners to come to our Watertown and Plattsburgh gatherings. The messages read: "All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church (or The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Plattsburgh), gathering as neighbors in spiritual community and reminding each other what matters most in life." This was followed by the web address of the congregation, and for All Souls UU, also a phone number.

The remaining \$400 was spent for several other outreach projects:

A group of volunteers, including several of our teens, made crafts with local children at the All Souls UU booth during the Watertown Gay Pride event on Public Square.

All Souls helped sponsor the Northern Blend Chorus' Sing Fling concert which will be held on October 19th, with a notice mentioning your gift, in their concert program.

We also made copies (with permission) of recent sermons, which were offered along with other UU propaganda, to various groups using our building during the year, including volunteers cutting brush in Thompson Park, just across the street from All Souls church; anyone who came when the Mexican Consulate was providing assistance with ID cards and other social services to 300 local farmworkers and their volunteer drivers; and during a Psychic Fair that was a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity.

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served? North Country Public Radio wasn't able to provide us with an estimate of the number of people who listen to All Things Con-

sidered on Friday evenings when our sponsorship ran, but we believe it's a wide audience. About 200 attendees at the Gay Pride event visited the All Souls booth. All the purchased supplies were used and all the craft items were distributed. We calculate that we've distributed 455 copies of the photocopied sermons, and other UUA materials, to visitors in our building.

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made? Seven visitors announced that they had learned about us through our sponsorship on NCR radio, but not every visitor was asked. It's difficult to establish how much good will we developed through our various community outreach programs, but we believe that they were worthwhile ways of reaching out to our community and making our presence known.
4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project? None
5. Is this program/project complete? The underwriting of the news program, All Things Considered, on NCPR, will continue through March 2025 with 13 second messages, on Friday evenings. We will also continue handing out photocopies of recent sermons, along with materials purchased from the UUA, to those using our building. The booth at the Watertown Pride festival is a one-time annual event.
 - A. If no, when will it be completed and evaluated, and by whom? Our membership and outreach committee, of which I'm a member, will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of these outreach efforts.
 - 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 would like to continue sponsoring the news program, All Things Considered, on North Country Public Radio. According to an expert at Jefferson Community College, twenty-five percent of the population of Jefferson county are families with active military personnel stationed at Fort Drum, many of whom have been transferred into this area within the past few years. Several of our current members are people who retired from the military and decided to remain in the Watertown area. Others are active duty soldiers right now. We feel that the outreach we are doing with the help of funds from NYSCU is one way that we are reaching these people to let them know we're here and that we welcome them. We also believe that engaging children through hands-on craft activities during the Gay Pride festivities, was a useful activity that we'd like to repeat this coming year, during Gay Pride Day - and also during other community events, assuming we have the funding to do so.

Name of respondent: Warren Allen

Address: 1404 State Street, Watertown NY

Phone: (315) 486-3919

Email: warrenallen315@gmail.com

Thank you!

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, 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 the South Fork

DATE OF REPORT:

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Our Whole Lives Program for Youth Grades 7-9

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$11,000

1. How was the money actually spent?

\$7,500 stipend*

\$100 advertisement

\$1050 training

\$400 materials (including manuals)

\$1800 travel and lodging for training (a cost we had not anticipated)

Total (\$10,850)

*Despite cancelling the program early, we paid the full stipend amount to our three facilitators Our primary justification for this was that some of the facilitators passed on other paid work in order to commit to our OWL program. While we were prepared to withhold a portion of the stipend if a facilitator dropped out before the completion of the program, it struck us as unjust to withhold the balance of the stipend because of our decision to close the program.

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

We estimate that the program reached 20 people (facilitators, students, parents)

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

Unfortunately, we did not meet either of our two primary goals of 1) outreach to the local community/families not yet connected to the congregation or 2) provide sexuality education to the youth in our congregation.

Despite outreach through local media, posting flyers, and word of mouth, we did not have any registration from families not already connected to the congregation. And after just two weeks, we were forced to cancel the program because most of the families dropped out. Families expressed two primary concerns. The youth enrolled felt that the group was too small; with so few people youth felt 'spotlighted' and that there was no opportunity to hang back and listen. Some youth felt that they were not yet ready for the program; that they did not yet have romantic feelings or were not developed enough.

Although we did not meet our stated goals, after conversation with the parents, we do feel that what the children are learning is that we are taking their concern seriously, and are willing to make adjustments when they come to us with their concerns. This is very much in line with the larger UU values we want to be sharing with our youth.

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

We are deeply concerned by the lack of interest in comprehensive sexuality education. In conversation with colleagues both on Long Island and around the country, I am hearing that many are cancelling their OWL programs because of low interest. In our own program here at the UUCSF, one of the factors for the youth was the size of the group. We began with only five participants, which is, admittedly, below the threshold recommended by OWL. There are a few questions that we are asking ourselves

- Is there simply less interest among youth in sexuality education?
- Are our religious exploration programs suffering from a lack of momentum due to COVID Pandemic shutdown?
- Has the youth RE landscape changed enough over the past five years such that we need to significantly rethink our approach to youth RE?

5. Is this program/project complete?

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

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

We are pivoting from our initial idea. We are replacing OWL with Conversations with the Minister. Twice a month, I will meet with the older youth after worship to discuss the ideas explored in my sermon. As I develop my worship topics over the year, I will be attentive to some of the issues that come up in OWL (values-based decision making; consent; bullying; self-esteem) and other larger that have surfaced among the youth (faith, despair, optimism, suffering)

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

I don't know. We do firmly believe in OWL. And we have questions about whether or not we can run an OWL program.

We may consider doing 10-12 grade OWL when the youth are a little older. (one of the reasons for families withdrawing was that the youth felt they were not 'ready.')

We would consider 7-9 grade OWL as outreach to the wider community if we were starting with a larger congregational pool. But given the size of our congregation, we may not ever have a large enough group in a single age-range.

Name of respondent: Rev. Kimberly Q Johnson

Address: 977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike. Bridgehampton, NY 11932

Phone: (631) 537-0132

Email: minister@uucsf.org

Thank you!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION of NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA

222 Temple Street PO Box 11 Fredonia, NY 14063

www.uucnc.org (716)679-7944

November 26, 2023

Mr. Tom Hackett, Clerk to the Executive Board

New York State Convention of Universalists

70 Wall Street

Kingston, NY 12401

Report on 2023 grant, New York State Convention of Universalists

Dear Mr. Hackett:

Members of UUCNC used 2023 grant funds to cover the cost of hosting and providing for a community dinner to honor our Share The Plate recipients from the last two years.

Each organization received an invitation for two members to attend as our guests. We served a complete lasagna meal (salad, rolls, vegetarian or meat main course, dessert and beverages) in addition to snacks provided at tables for pre and post dinner conversation times. Each guest also received a hand-crafted canvas and easel, created by one of our UUCNC members. The meal was catered by a local small business owner, also a UUCNC member. Desserts were catered from a local bakery, a small, women owned, business. Attached below is a copy of the invitation sent to each organization.

Organizations attending included:

- Boys and Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County
- Faithkeepers School of the Seneca Nation
- Chautauqua Opportunities
- Literacy Volunteers of Chautauqua County
- Student Food Pantry of Jamestown Community College
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
- Dunkirk Kids at Promise 2XL
- The Lakeshore Humane Society
- Jerico Road Community Health Center
- Journey's End Refugee Services
- Chautauqua County Rural Ministries

- Dunkirk-Fredonia NAACP Scholarship Fund
- Chautauqua Area Habitat for Humanity
- COI The Safe House of Chautauqua County
- Revitalize Dunkirk urban improvement
- COPE Children of Opioid Parents and Empowerment

Entertainment was provided by several UUCNC members and included, guitar, violin, piano and vocals. The musicians performed several selections including at least one original piece. Attached is a copy of the dinner program.

Each of the invited organizations was encouraged to bring literature and any other materials they wished to leave on display at our meeting house. A great deal of literature was shared among attendees and left on display for our members and visitors to read.

In Summer of this year a team of members was assembled to plan and manage the event. Attached is a newspaper article that was featured locally about the team, our Share The Plate program and the planned dinner.

Below is a recap of our incurred expenses:

Expenses:

Date	Check	Name	Description	Amount
9/13/23	3375	Reimbursed Judi Lutz Woods (Walmart)	Paper supplies for mailing	\$15.61
9/18/23	3378	Reimbursed Nancy Jankowski (Dollar Tree)	Decorations	\$16.20
		“ “ (USPS)	Postage	\$13.20
11/5/23	3412	Mary Jane Wagner	Crafted Favors for Guests	\$125.00
11/4/23	3407	Reimbursed Nancy Jankowski(Anderson)	Dry Cleaning table linens	\$384.40
10/30/23	3404	Reimbursed Leanna White (Aldi)	Snacks for tables	\$41.52
		“ “ (Meadows Apple Farm)	Apple Cider	\$33.00
10/30/23	3402	One World Catering	Veg and Meat Lasagna Meals	\$765.00
10/14/23	3394	Southpaw Signs	Signage for building (2 slats)	\$40.00
11/14/23	3419	Om Nohm Bakery and Café	Gluten free desserts	\$42.00
11/26/23	3422	Reimbursed Nancy Jankowski (Walmart)	Paper Supplies	\$16.23
				Total \$1,452.16

All printing was done on our copier to avoid additional costs.

The event was a great success. Guests remarked that they especially enjoyed the opportunity to interact with other organizations and felt truly welcome in our sanctuary.

We were awarded \$1,975 for the event. We can return the unused award or hold it in a separate account line for use at a similar, but smaller, event we are planning to hold next year, also to focus on community outreach. I will await your direction.

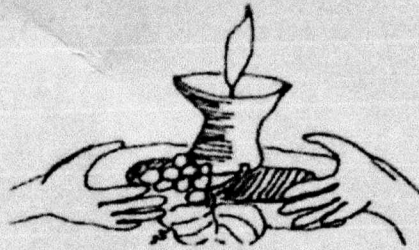
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon G. Piehler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sharon G. Piehler

Treasurer, UUCNC

gratitude compassion community caring generosity



You and a guest are invited to a:

Share the Plate Appreciation Dinner

At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Norther Chautauqua

On Wednesday, October 25

At 6:00 PM.

RSVP by October 14

To Nancy Jankowski, 716-680-2410

nancyjk69@gmail.com

Please indicate number to attend,

And dietary preference:

Meat

Vegan/gluten free

Vegetarian

We look forward to celebrating with you!

considerate cooperative valuable of service commendable

recognition grace honor appreciation praise kindness compassion love

good neighbors friendly thoughtful supportive useful

Community dinner to celebrate Share the Plate recipients

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua (UUCNC) will host a community dinner to honor their Share the Plate Recipients from the last two years. This dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 25 at 6pm at 222 Temple Street in Fredonia and the community is invited to join this celebration.

Share the Plate is a way to demonstrate UUCNC's commitment to nonprofit organizations whose actions are consistent with UUCNC's principles and sources. The purpose of this program is two-fold: to inform the congregation of the work of the organization by inviting a representative of the organization to speak briefly at a Sunday service, to display literature, and to answer questions during social hour, and to make a financial contribution in the name of the congregation. When the program started in 2009, the plate was split 50/50 with the chosen organization. Since September 2013, 100% of the non-pledge money received for the Share the Plate recipient is given to the chosen agency. As of summer 2014, congregants at UUCNC have donated over \$55,000 to these causes. To learn more about UUCNC's Share the Plate program as



Shown are members of the planning committee for UUCNC's Share the Plate Celebratory Dinner. From left are: Judy Singer, Nancy Jankowski, Barb Albert, Joan Houck, and Judi Lutz.

well as view a list of recipients, visit <https://tinyurl.com/SHPUUCNC>. If you would like to attend this dinner to celebrate nonprofit organizations and the work they do in our community, please use this link to order and pay for a dinner: <https://tinyurl.com/422v8ysk>. The cost for each meal is \$15 and there are several dinner options: Lasagna with Meat, Vegetable Lasagna or Gluten Free/Vegan Lasagna. Each meal includes a salad with dressing, bread and butter, cake for dessert and beverage.

The deadline for ordering a dinner is Saturday. UUCNC looks forward to sharing this celebratory event with members of our community. Parking information: please follow the driveway at 222 Temple Street past the two buildings on the property and park in the lower lot behind the last building. Handicapped parking is located directly behind the last building. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua strives to be a vibrant, welcoming, multigen-

erational, diverse community enlivened by the power of radical love. We are a congregation that nurtures acceptance, spirituality, and growth while guided by Unitarian Universalist Principles. We provide a place where people engage together through fellowship, celebration, social outreach, environmental action, and transformative justice. For more information about us, visit our website at www.uucnc.org, like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uucnc, or give us a call at 716-679-7944. We invite you to join us.

Special Thank You

Share the plate Committee

Joan Houck, Nancy Jankowski, Barbara Albert, Judi Lutz
Woods, Judy Singer, Leanna McMahon

UUCNC Musicians:

Cheryl Ritch, Janey Wagner, Amy O'Connell, Bill Moran,
Kay Barlow, Barbara Albert

Food

One World Catering and Om Nohm.

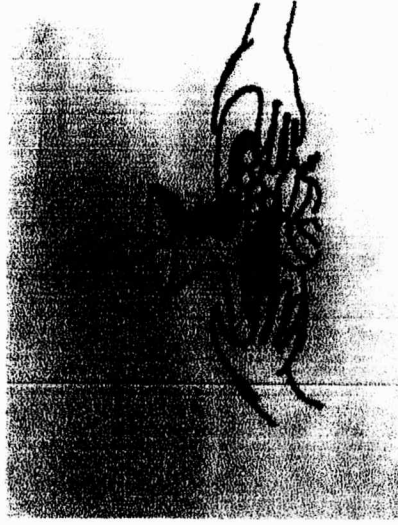
Favors

Handcrafted by Janey Wagner

Special Thank You

To all who have so generously contributed to Share the Plate
over the years, since 2009

Share the Plate



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Northern Chautauqua

Appreciation Dinner

October 25, 2023

Program

Welcoming

Leanna McMahon

Friendship song

UUCNC Musicians

Share the Plate History

Leanna McMahon

Blessing of Meal

Rev Ron Skowronski

Dinner

Musical Selections

UUCNC musicians

Thank you - closing

Nancy Jankowski

Music

Bill Moran

"You've Got a Friend in Me"

Barbara Albert

"Tributararies"

with Cheryl Ritch on violin

Kay Barlow

piano selections

Amy O'Connell, Cheryl Ritch

Janey Wagner

"One of Us Can Make a

Difference"

Share the Plate Recipients 2021-2023

Boys & Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County mission is to inspire and enable young people, especially those in need, to realize their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens

Faithkeepers School

mission is to foster independent, confident, and socially responsible citizens who are exposed to the traditional teachings of Gaiwi:yoh and the traditions of the Seneca people. Committed to fostering a child's love of learning and respect for self, others, and the environment through the methodologies of Montessori.

Chautauqua Opportunities' mission through a wide array of programs, mission is to empower individuals and families, while building and transforming communities, to achieve social and economic success.

Literacy Volunteers of Chautauqua County provides literacy programs to persons 18 years or older. Trained volunteers are matched to adult students looking to improve their reading, writing, or English skills as well as to prepare for their GED exam

Student Food Pantry at JCC maintains a food pantry for all students on the Jamestown Campus, Cattaraugus County Campus, and North County Center. Providing an assortment of donated food items and hygiene products that we are happy to share. Any student in need can receive items.

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1990 to preserve and enhance the water quality, scenic beauty, and ecological health of the lakes, streams, wetlands and watersheds of the Chautauqua, NY, region. The mission is pursued through land conservation, environmental education and watershed stewardship.

Dunkirk Kids at Promis 2XL A Non-Profit Youth Development Program. Reaching, teaching and excelling young minds through boxing,

The Lakeshore Humane Society is a non-profit, all volunteer organization, dedicated to helping protect the welfare of all animals and providing humane education to our community.

Jericho Road Community Health Center is dedicated to delivering exceptional medical services to families, especially those who face obstacles in accessing healthcare such as impoverished families, refugees and immigrants.

Journey's End Refugee Services is a Christian community-based organization with the mission of welcoming refugees without regard to ethnic origin or creed and to assist them to become healthy, independent, contributing members of the community.

Chautauqua County Rural Ministry is an agency reaching to those in Chautauqua County who need a hand up, not a handout. The Rural Ministry has provided the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter to the less fortunate and those in crisis situations.

Dunkirk - Fredonia NAACP Scholarship Fund Provides annual scholarships to outstanding students who display academic excellence and early signs of leadership and a commitment to social justice. Scholarships are awarded to African American or a person of color who are currently enrolled full-time or accepted to an accredited college,

Chautauqua Area Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live

C.O.I. The Safe House of Chautauqua County provides safe shelter and crisis services to runaway and homeless youth. The 12 bed facility operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Revitalize Dunkirk Revitalize Dunkirk is a 501(c)3 organization committed to bringing planning ideas for improved urban living to residents and elected officials of the City of Dunkirk to preserve the historic heritage, enhance the physical infrastructure, reinvigorate commerce, and boost community pride.

C.O.P.E. Children of Opioid Parents & Empowerment Provides programs for children of parents with opioid addiction illness. Program is designed with a healing process called "The Circle of Light".

NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

This report of a 2023 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, 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: Murray Grove Association

DATE OF REPORT: December 18, 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Camp Minister Development Project

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$9,000

1. How was the money actually spent?

See attached Camp Ministry Budget and pd Expenses

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

18 campers 9 camp staff and counselors plus the families of all of these people

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

“The selected Learning Minister, Rev. Alia Shinbrough’s confidence, compassion, and resilience shone throughout the program. They are intentional, thoughtful, grounded, and exhibited great skill working in a fast-paced environment and tending to the spiritual needs of a multi-generational cohort. As noted in the role description, the Camp Minister provides support for both the camp staff/ participants and the organization’s staff/volunteers. In addition to their dedication to service, faith, and academic excellence, Rev. Shinbrough was chosen as the ideal candidate for their potential and ability to navigate a stressed work environment with new, transitioning, and developing leadership and staff. Mentoring Camp Minister, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher, and Camp Director, Dana Moore, highly recommend Rev. Alia Shinbrough’s continued engagement with Murray Grove as a competent minister able to provide pastoral care, chaplaincy, officiating services, and social justice support for campus meetings, workshops, events, and camp. “ *from Dana Moore, camp director*

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

It was particularly challenging keeping track of 2 simultaneous programs, Camping in the Grove and the Camp Minister Development Program. By their very nature they had to happen in the same place and time, but there were overlapping activities, responsibilities, staffing and costs that created complexities and confusion.

We have concerns about the allocation of training time – Training was provided for the entire staff which was to include Murray Grove staff as well, but the timing made that incomplete. The Camp Minister and the Learning Minister had scheduled times training together. It is not clear how the CITs received training for their roles in worship.

It is not clear how documenting the CITs participation in CMDP was supposed to happen or if it did.

There were serious complications with the food service which impacted participants in the Camp Minister program as well as the rest of camp.

5. Is this program/project complete?

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

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

“Completion of the Camp Minister Training Program for this year’s Learning Minister requires some structured learning experiences post camp to be done by December 31, 2023. Some of these resources are to be identified. There are open invoices for these until they have been completed.” *from Dana Moore* No invoices for post camp learning experiences were received.

“Learning Expenses and benefits for the Learning Minister are ongoing. Mentorship and feedback continue through September 30, 2023. Continued professional development, access to the MG Universalist Archives, fulfillment of preaching requirements, submission of reflections, and identification of intended courses and workshops to be submitted by December 15, 2023.” *from Dana Moore*
None were received.

There was to have been a significant project in completion: a final paper was expected. Because in preparing for this program no documentation was discovered on the topic, Dana Moore, with administrative assistance by Jessica Laikeman, planned to write that paper before the end of December, 2023.

“Program Developer, Dana N. Moore has been in collaborative conversation with Jessica Laikeman, Camping Ministries Director of the UUA Ministries and Faith Development, regarding the compilation of program development documentation, program execution and reflections, professional interviews, sourced history, best practices, and the unique Unitarian Universalist approach to camp ministry. Completion of this project will include a print/publication-ready manuscript that includes the diverse voices of UU Camp Ministry professionals across the nation. The compilation and editorial work necessary to complete this project is not a function of Ms. Laikeman’s role at the UUA.” *from Dana Moore*

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

Yes, with considerations. The goal of providing credentialing for camp ministers in our denomination and beyond is a worthy goal. The arrangements in the past have been casual, unstructured and dependent upon the native capacities of the ministers on site.

The experience of concerns and complexities during this pilot year require a careful assessment and thoughtful management if the program were to be repeated.

Name of respondent: Carol Haag, board member and chair, Development Committee

Address: 73 Ridgeview Circle, Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: 609-915-1111

Email: revcarolh4@gmail.com

Thank you!

NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

ORGANIZATION: Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ

DATE OF REPORT: October 31, 2023

PURPOSE OF GRANT: *Digitizing Ken Patton, Universalist*

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$634

1. How was the money actually spent?

As proposed, we purchased a Reshow Cassette Player for \$35 and an HP ScanJet Pro 3600 for \$599.

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

We have made [initial materials available online](#) and notified our congregational mailing list. A Google search for "Digitizing Ken Patton" brings it up, but our site is not found in the first 100 hits on "Kenneth L. Patton." It's difficult to say how many will be reached once the actual archive page, links and Wikipedia article are finished.

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

Progress on digitizing the USR archival materials on Ken Patton is significant. All 14 folders of print/photo materials have been scanned. Forty-two of his sermons have been converted to WAV audio files, digitally enhanced and posted online. Twenty-seven cassettes remain to be digitized. A draft for the Wikipedia article on Kenneth L. Patton is under-way, with significant work remaining. A landing page to present the digitized materials has not yet been created.

Two interesting discoveries are Patton's 1985 sermon on "[The Future of Universalism](#)" and a USR [memorial service for slain UU minister Rev. James Reeb](#) at which Ken Patton, Rabbi Martin Freedman, and other clergy spoke.

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

With no experience in creating an online digital archive, we've had many things to learn, eg. Standardized file names, best-practice audio formatting and enhancement, and most importantly designing a webpage to make scanned materials easily accessible. The number of hours of volunteer time has turned out to exceed substantially our initial estimate.

5. Is this program/project complete?

No.

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

June, 2024. It will be evaluated by the USR Archive Team, with additional suggestions for improvement sought from Kenneth Patton's daughter/literary executor Clarise Patton and the Director of Library and Archives at the Meadville Lombard Theological School.

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

Yes. There is an important history of Universalism that needs to be recovered and claimed by projects like this one. For example, we learned that after praising the NYSCU which, at the 1961 U-U merger, "stubbornly held onto their funds and identity," Patton told The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, "I think when the merger occurred, we really missed the boat. We should have dropped the word "Unitarian" like a hot potato. Like "Presbyterianism" and "Episcopalianism" and "Baptist," it is a technical, ecclesiastical and denominational word that has literally no use outside its local reference. Whereas the word "universal" and "Universalism" is a truly great word, and should have become our word. The Unitarians should have modestly said that we will now be the Universalist Church or the Universalist religious organization."

Name of respondent: Jack Lohr

Address: 319 Van Winkle Ave., Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Phone: 201-406-8991

Email: jlohr@uuridgewood.org

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NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

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ORGANIZATION: First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse

DATE OF REPORT: 10/20/23

PURPOSE OF GRANT: Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$3,000

1. How was the money actually spent?

The money went into honoraria for speakers and presenters (including our keynote address); promotional materials and printing; physical materials for workshops (handouts, art supplies, etc), Covid safety mitigations such as masks; and meals and refreshments for participants.

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

The day-of attendance was near 70 people, including more than a dozen who attended online. This isn't the most we've ever had attending, but it also isn't the smallest amount, and significantly better than we initially expected. Many attendees are connected in some way with the life of the congregation, but we also use the conference as a means of community outreach and to provide resources to the trans and nonbinary community in Syracuse, which makes the indirect impact harder to measure. Of particular value were the connections we made with youth and young adults, including Syracuse University students.

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

Our goals included re-establishing First UU as a presence and resource for trans, nonbinary, and queer community in the Syracuse area; providing concrete opportunities for networking and safe space for LGBTQIA+ people; highlighting the work of youth and young adults in the queer community; and offering allies a chance to learn more about how to support friends and family who are queer/trans/nonbinary.

In the time since the conference, we've made valuable connections with the Q Center, our local LGBTQIA+ advocacy center and conference co-sponsor, and they regularly refer folks to the church who are seeking affirming spiritual community, companionship, and pastoral rites such as memorials. This is a great outcome for the first goal.

The second goal of providing networking and safe space was met within the conference space and time frame itself; respondents in our exit survey expressed gratitude and appreciation for the many considerations we took to provide for respiratory safety, online multiplatform access, many different dietary needs, and physical comfort. Our workshops covered a wide variety of practices and topics, including discussion of healthy communication in relationships; trans puberty; exploring gender presentation with clothing and accessories; neurodivergence and trans identity intersection; expressive movement; and more.

Throughout the program we centered the participation of young adults and youth, including inviting youth playwright Andie Davis as our keynote speaker, and hosting workshops presented by youth, young adults, and students. This demographic made up a significant portion of our attendees.

Our final goal of providing education for allies was perhaps the least demonstrably met; after three years of not holding the conference, our community was aching for deep explorations of trans embodiment, expression, and identity, and so our slate of programming ended up skewing toward that need over education for folks outside the community. In future years, we hope to offer a more even balance to invite broad participation.

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

The predominant concern was one of attendance numbers. We knew that attendance this year would be lower than in previous years because we were beginning from a state of post-lockdown lack of momentum, which had a scattering effect on every part of congregational life.

However, with a concerted group effort and the invaluable steering of Tina and Melissa Lesley-Fox, two of the originators of the conference, we were able to lean into adaptive technologies such as hybrid programming to foster excitement and participation beyond the central NY area—in the end, we had attendees from five different states, including Florida, Virginia, and California.

5. Is this program/project complete?

Yes

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

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

We consider last year, even with lower attendance numbers than prior years, to have been a success. The draw of multiplatform technology was a blessing we hadn't quite anticipated, and it extended our reach far beyond in-person-only programming. The fact that we were able to pull off a multiplatform, Covid-safer, accessible event with a contingent of only volunteers (not counting paid speakers) and part-time staff was hugely energizing for the congregation, even for those who didn't participate, because it contributed to the overall building of momentum which we're seeing now in the fall of 2023.

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

Absolutely, and we plan to! Our first planning meeting will be in early November, and thanks to last year's success we're confident in our ability to host a strong event while prioritizing community care and access needs.

Name of respondent: Rev. Molly Hammerhand

Address: First UU Society of Syracuse
109 Waring Rd
Syracuse, NY 13224

Phone: (315) 464-0106 (minister's personal mobile)

Email: revhammerhand@gmail.com

Thank you!

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 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.

Name _____

Congregation/town _____

Contact info - email/phone _____

Area/s of interest/expertise _____



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 2024 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 \$ _____

ITEM _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

ITEM _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

ITEM _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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