

UUFH Happenings in a Flash!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington <info-uufh.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

Thu, Oct 8, 2026 at 11:30 AM

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The Weekly Fellowship Flash

October 8, 2026

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington

Healing Our Relationship to the Earth

Sunday, October 11 at 10:30 am



Guest Speaker:
Tecumseh Ceaser,
Artist and Activist



MUSIC BY
the UUFH Choir and
Dylan DeFeo

In Person and Online (www.uufh.org)

The goal of M.I.C. is to help heal the Indigenous communities of Long Island, which include land, people, animal relatives, and all non-human kin. There is good work that has been, and that continues to be done on a grassroots level, but that work is often under-resourced.

Community Hour this week is the Potluck and Community Fair, when our committees and groups set up tables so you can find your people and your passion here at the Fellowship.

Split plate this month, Canine Companions.

Join us in person or online
For online - please see the zoom link below.

[Click Here for Online Zoom Link to Sunday Service](#)

The OG Bully

Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend.



The Columbus statue in Providence, Rhode Island, the city I was born in, on Columbus Day 2019. Providence took it down the next summer, and in 2023 it went back up in the neighboring town of Johnston.. (Photo/Michelle R. Smith)

In my house Monday is Indigenous Peoples' Day, so when we passed a gigantic banner the other day for a “Columbus Day” celebration put on by the Sons and Daughters of Italy, my daughter of Italy was a little confused. I told her that Cristoforo Colombo was the OG bully of the Americas and not at all a role model, and that some of our fellow Italian Americans still celebrate him, probably because nobody ever told them the real story. More importantly, I taught her the word racket, which is what he and every rich investor since have set up in this so-called new world.

Before he ever sailed in 1492, Colombo made a business deal with the king and queen of Spain making him governor of whatever land he “discovered” and giving him a tenth of everything his army could steal from it, but nobody thought to ask the people who already lived there to sign onto it. The Pope had been blessing that kind of conquest for forty years already. In 1823 the U.S. Supreme Court wrote it into American law as the Doctrine of Discovery, which the Court was still citing as recently as 2005.

Divine mandate or not, by 1500 the complaints coming back from the Caribbean, including that Colombo was enslaving Indigenous people, were bad enough that the king and queen had him arrested and sent home, and keep in mind Isabella and Ferdinand weren't exactly Amnesty International themselves, since they were running the Inquisition and had expelled the Jews the same year they hired him.

They released him and never let him govern again, but the racket he helped set up is still running just fine.

From the start, the racket treated Indigenous women's bodies as if they belonged to somebody else. Colombo trafficked Indigenous women. In 1493, on what is now St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, his men captured several women, five centuries before Jeffrey Epstein bought his private island in those same islands. Two years later Colombo forcibly sent about five hundred Indigenous men and women to Spain to be enslaved.

So why on earth did Italian Americans openly and actively elect to make him our hero, with parades and boulevards and a statue right on Main Street in Huntington, commissioned by one of our Italian American neighbors?

In 1891 in New Orleans, nineteen Italian men were charged with killing the chief of police, and when a jury acquitted some of them, a mob led by the city's most respectable lawyers, businessmen, and a newspaper editor broke into the jail and murdered eleven of them. Two days later the New York Times wrote approvingly that "lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans." Italy recalled its ambassador, and the next year President Benjamin Harrison, who had an election coming and wanted the Italian vote, proclaimed the first national Columbus Day, and Italian Americans took his offer: a trial membership card to whiteness, for time served. Harrison lost his election anyway, for the record.

Last October the current President, an adjudicated sexual abuser, signed his own Columbus Day proclamation at a Cabinet meeting and said, "Columbus Day, we're back, Italians," at the same time his secret police were busy disappearing America's newest immigrants in towns like ours.

I really wish we had picked a better role model.

By the early 1900s there were hundreds of Italian mutual aid societies in New York State alone, organizations where everybody paid in a little so that when a worker was hurt or killed on the job he and his family were looked after, since the bosses certainly weren't going to do it.

But over the next few decades Colombo became the face of Italian American pride, and some of those same societies went on to cheer for Mussolini.

The biggest of them, the Sons of Italy (the same one sponsoring the Columbus Day parades today), helped organize the first Fascist convention in this country, in Philadelphia in 1925, 101 years ago. It isn't hard to see why. People who had been sneered at for a generation were hungry for pride, and a new dictator across the ocean was happy to sell them some.

He had help on this side of the ocean. In Philadelphia, a banker and newspaper publisher named Charles Baldi argued that what Italy needed was "law and order," and he was such a Mussolini fan that the Philadelphia Inquirer called him the "leader of American supporters of the Fascisti movement." Baldi was also Taylor Swift's great-great-grandfather (yes, that Taylor Swift).



Not all Italian Americans bought into the racket back then, though. One was Luigi Antonini, who led the Italian dressmakers' union in New York, Local 89, and spent years on the radio attacking fascism and arguing for racial tolerance, which put him at odds with a lot of his own community. Another was Mother Frances Cabrini, who had been looking after Italian immigrants in New York since 1889 and is the patron saint of immigrants now. I'd be glad to take my daughters to a Mother Cabrini parade if one existed. The closest thing I can find is in Colorado, which swapped Columbus Day for Cabrini Day in 2020.

Luckily, we can look close to home for people who've been pushing back on the racket since it first showed up on this island. Tecumseh Ceaser, who is back with us Sunday morning, is Matinecock, Montaukett, and Unkechaug, and the racket ran right up through Montauk too. In 1879 a Brooklyn developer (yeah, I was surprised to find they had those in the 1800s too) named Arthur Benson bought more than ten thousand acres there, including the Montaukett people's home, to build a playground for the rich. When the Montaukett sued to get their land back, a New York judge ruled in 1910 that they no longer existed as a tribe, because their blood had become "so mixed" that "Indian traits were obliterated."

Governors since have vetoed bills to restore the Montaukett Nation's state recognition seven times, most recently this last December by our current governor, and the Montaukett are still most definitely and evidently here. One of them will literally be here this Sunday, and perhaps the governor would like to come hear him speak and settle the question?

Tecumseh grew up in Queens, and the Matinecock homeland runs from northern Queens out to the ground under our hall. He carves wampum, the purple and white shell beads people on this island have made for centuries and woven into belts to record agreements between nations, and he works with the Metoac Indigenous Collective, based on the Shinnecock Nation, which runs wampum-weaving workshops.

For the record, I asked all my sources, and I still don't know how November 3 is going to go, and neither does anybody who tells you they do. I do know that whoever wins, the families who've lost someone to ICE this year will still be missing them the next morning, and the rest of us will still need each other.

It's potluck Sunday, so bring a dish, since feeding each other is about the oldest mutual aid there is. It's also the Community Fair, where every group in the Fellowship will have a table and could use your help. And on Monday, whatever the banner calls it, I hope you'll call it Indigenous Peoples' Day.

-Rev.

This Week's Events

Join the Fun at The Pumpkin Patch & Sell with Us

Our 10th Annual Pumpkin Patch season is off to a great start! We are so grateful for the participation of our members for their hard work unloading the truck and setting up the patch. Last Saturday we had 33 volunteers come out to unload 46,000 pounds of pumpkins and another group of 15 who set up our patch. We were also able to sell nearly \$3,000 worth of pumpkins, gourds, and mums on opening day!



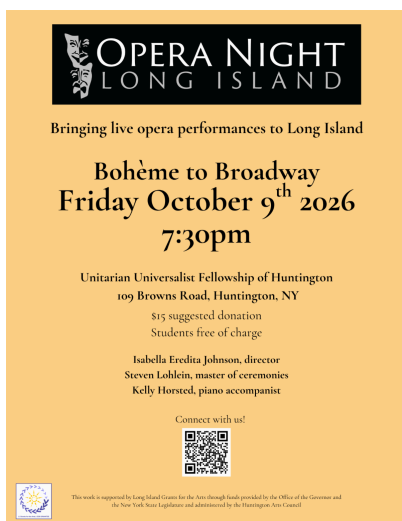
We're still looking to fill more slots on our pumpkin selling calendar. It is a wonderful way to reconnect with fellow congregants and meet many of our newer members. Don't worry if you're new to selling, you will always be working with an experienced person. Daily pumpkin patch shifts are:

Weekdays: 12:30-3:30 and 3:30-dark

Weekends: 10-12:30, 12:30-3:30, and 3:30-dark

To register for a shift, stop by the Pumpkin table in the social hall after services or use our Signup Genius: <https://bit.ly/uufh2026>

Please visit the UUFH website and Halloween Pumpkin Patch in Huntington on Facebook <https://bit.ly/4ysDwvy> to share our flyer with your neighborhood groups, family, and friends.



Opera Night, Long Island (ONLI)

Friday, October 9 at 7:30 pm

Opera Night, Long Island (ONLI) is a nonprofit organization providing the Island's only live opera series. Their professional, classically trained singers perform excerpts from opera, operetta, art songs, and musical theater with piano accompaniment. ONLI presents monthly programs.

Doors open at 7 pm and the program begins at 7:30 pm. There is a \$15.00 donation at the door, (students enter for free).

For more information, visit www.operanight.org or email vivaldi222@aol.com.

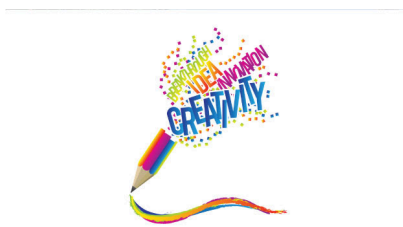
UUFH Potluck for October

Sunday, October 11 after the service

Bring your favorite dish!
Please bring enough for 5 servings.



Upcoming Events



Creativity as Spirituality

Saturday, October 17 from 10 am - 12 pm

Calling everyone who loves creativity! This open multigenerational group (for anyone from age 10 to 110!) meets to both create and to discuss a monthly theme from 10 am to noon. Please email Gwen Ingrid if you're interested in attending. It is a relaxed way to begin the weekend and have

fun together.

UUFH Services Auction Event
2026 Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University Open House
Palisades, New York
Saturday, October 17 from 10 am – 4 pm

For the 2025 UUFH Services Auction Kristina Heinemann and Jim Ammerman offered an escorted trip/visit to the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) (of Columbia University) 2025 Open House. Located in Palisades, New York on the grounds that once were the estate of Thomas W. Lamont (of JP Morgan & Company fame), LDEO since its founding in 1949, has been a leader in Earth sciences, with many scientific firsts. Scientists at LDEO study the planet from its deepest interior to the outer reaches of its atmosphere, on every continent and in every ocean, providing a rational basis for the difficult choices facing humanity. (LDEO is also where Jim and Kristina got together as a couple in the 1980's and where Kristina's mother worked in the late 1950's/early 1960's after majoring in geology at Wellesley College.)

Unfortunately, almost without precedent (Kristina went to an Open House in the early 1970's as an eighth grader), LDEO cancelled the Open House in 2025 due to drastic cuts in federal funding for science research. Thankfully, the Open House is back this year!

They have a handful of successful bidders from last year's Auction, but there is plenty of room for more folks to join us on October 17th. Please be in touch with Kristina at krheinemann@gmail.com or text 202-415-4447 if you are interested. The Open House is a family friendly event with lots of exhibits and programs oriented to the young and young at heart. Take a look at the website for more information and registration: <https://openhouse.ldeo.columbia.edu/>

You also can go on your own and they will see you there!

Announcements

Interested in Joining a Living Questions Discussion Group?

Our Living Questions program (previously known as Touchstones) is a theme-based ministry program for UU congregations. Because theology is not dictated in our tradition, it is up to each of us to build our own. Small group discussions enable us to do this by looking at how we align our UU values.

Groups meet monthly on Zoom or in-person to discuss specific themes. Brief readings are emailed before each meeting.

For meeting details or more information, email Shelley Lauer-Bader at michele.lauer.bader@gmail.com or Terry Donaldson at tdonalds2014@gmail.com.

Check the UUFH Website!

Be sure to check the [UUFH website](#) for the latest information, including the Board of Trustees' monthly minutes.

UUFH Office Hours for Next Week - October 12 - 16

The UUFH Office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 - 4:30 pm.

Please call the UUFH Office at 631-427-9547 and/or email office@uufh.org if you have any questions.

View Previous Services on YouTube

You can always find the last four services [on our website](#), or, please subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#)!

[View the September 20, 2026 Service:](#)



October Split Plate



Canine Companions

Canine Companions is leading the service dog industry so our clients and their dogs can live with greater independence. We provide service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings. Since our founding in 1975, our dogs and all follow-up services are provided at no cost to our clients.

Independence shouldn't be limited to those who look or live a certain way. Disability reaches all races, classes and backgrounds, and Canine Companions will too. Clients come to Canine Companions because of our reputation, the quality of our dogs, the experience of our training staff and the desire to lead life with greater independence. We are committed to providing services to all qualified clients. <https://canine.org/>

To learn more about our Split Plate program, visit <https://www.uufh.org/faith-in-action/in-the-community/split-plate/>

To donate to the Split Plate, visit <https://onrealm.org/UUFH/-/form/give/UUFHdonations>

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Visit our Website



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