92 Holiday Issue December 2019/January/February 2020

Annual Holiday Crafts Fair
The Community Church of NY
Unitarian Universalist
40 East 35th St (between Park & Madison) NYC
December 8, 2019 – 12:00-4:00 p.m.
Original gift & food items created by Artisan members
and friends of Community Church of New York
We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Eve at Community
Candle-Lighting Service
December 24th 4:30 p.m.
A service of readings, music
and carols concluding with a
Candle-lighting ceremony.
Hot cider and cookies
will follow the service.

Kwanzaa
Sunday, December 29,
we celebrate the familial
and cultural wisdom and
values from the African
tradition.

Hanukkah
Lighting of the Menorah
Sunday, December 22 at 11 am

Messiah Concert
Tuesday, December 24th 7:30 p.m.
This year we again offer
the Christmas
portion (and Hallelujah
Chorus) of Handel’s “Messiah.”
The choir of approximately sixty members
will include members of the church,
as well as singers from the larger
community.
The service will
begin at
7:30 p.m.
Members Out and About

Lois Ross – This coming February 2020 I will be going on a trip with 45 chorus members of the NYC Labor Chorus to Puerto Rico. While it will be cold here in New York, it should be nice and warm where we are going. We are preparing for the trip right now; there is a committee working on the agenda, a committee for collecting money for the plane, hotel and bus rides and some meals. It all sounds very exciting. I just found out that we will be getting new blue shirts to wear while performing. We are working on our repertoire which is going to include a new Spanish song called ‘Verde Luz’. We will be meeting up with choruses in San Juan some of them children choruses. We will be singing our songs for them and they will be singing their songs for us. It has been a long time since I have taken a plane trip. I am really looking forward to February of next year. It will be great to have a new experience like the one coming up.

Kevin Willis and Anna-Lisa Hafgren-Willis are very pleased to announce that they were married on November 16, 2019 in a private ceremony held in the Chapel of Peace.

Welcome New Members ~Sunday, November 10, 2019
Katarina Apostolides, Jen Chard, David Floyd, Chris Kelly, Amy Wilson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
7 Joseph Wagner II
10 Sandy Brooks
10 Vernon Jacob
13 Harry Xanthakos
21 Sally Asiedu
24 Lois Ross
29 Tina Redick
29 Patricia Garbarini

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
3 Gisela Schilling-Chlanda
4 Rev. Louis Schwebius
9 Dr. Peter Walter
10 George Duckett
12 Anna-Lisa Hafgren
12 Lucille McEwen
13 Heidi Siegfried
16 Jova Vargas
18 Linda Novenski
20 Harry French
24 Jo Ann Corkran
25 Sheila Kaminsky
28 Khalilah Arrington

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
1 Herbert Krampner
3 Dorothy James
3 Anne Kelemen
5 Leonore Tiefer
12 Judith Coppock Gex
20 Eugene Flynn
23 Rosetta Pervan
28 Kathleen Polkabra
NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR 2020

Our annual meeting isn’t until March, but the Nominating Committee needs to start work now to prepare a slate. These are the openings:

The Board Of Trustees:

Treasurer (3 year term) Currently held by George Duckett, finishing his second term
Clerk (last 2 years of unfinished term) Fred Corden is acting Clerk, appointed after Dan Foley’s death. *
At-large (3 year term) Two positions. Heidi Siegfried and Theresa Bowman are finishing their second terms

The Church Council:

One partial position (last two years) Anna- Lisa Hafgren’s name was inadvertently omitted from the slate last year. She was unexpired term) temporarily appointed to fill the first year of what would have been her second 3 year term.

Two full positions Michelle Asencio and David Asencio are finishing their first terms and are eligible for re-election.

Nominating Committee:

Two positions, (2 year term) Martha Wagner and Nicole Lord are finishing their second terms.

*When an elected position becomes vacant after the annual meeting, the group the person served with appoints someone to fill the position until the next annual meeting.

The current members of the Nominating Committee are:

Nefisa Degani,
Sam Kerns
Reena Kondo
Nicole Lord
Martha Wagner
A Personal Appreciation of Jil Novenski
by Ellen Mandelbaum

I have known Jil for a long time now. No, I am not, and never have been her student, but she has been assisting me for the last several years successfully helping organize my life and market my business. So, when I learned Jil had been selected for a new position, Director of Religious Education* designed to help get more young people into the church. I thought they had picked the absolutely perfect person for the job.

We know her as a compassionate, empathetic teacher of our kids; she has been head teacher for 10 years and beloved by many of her students. I heard a young boy who was having trouble fitting-in say he felt like no one understood him except Jil. On Sundays and spring retreats I began to notice the special bonds she created with so many other children.

Who knew her credentials include Graduating with an Associate Degree in Advertising and Marketing Communications Summa Cum Laude from The Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC? – and she is continuing, currently enrolled in their bachelor’s degree program for Advertising and Marketing Communications.

The combination of a gifted teacher and knowledgeable marketer seem to me to be exactly what we need.

*Note: Two new positions have been created. Director of Religious Education For Children and Youth, Jil Novenski and Director of Adult Ministries, Esther Rosado

FUND FOR HOLIDAY GREENS

Each holiday season, our worship space is transformed with fragrant pine, bright red poinsettias, all bathed in the glow of candlelight.

And in the Assembly Hall stands a Christmas tree decorated with beautiful ornaments, many of them handmade by the children.

You can help make this traditional beauty possible by making a contribution to the HOLIDAY GREENS.

All contributions will be acknowledged in the Community Connections.

YES, I would like to support the HOLIDAY GREENS.

Name: ____________________________________________

Dedication (if desired) _____________________________________________________________

Enclosed is my contribution of $_________ (please mark envelope “Greens”)

Return to Community Church of NY, 40 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016
Preparing for Seder, 2020
by Leonore Tiefer

For many years, Community Church managed to have a truly boffo annual Passover seder involving complicated arrangements of advanced ticket sales and Haggadah printing, purchase and preparation of a three-course meal of food and drink, complicated ceremonial and decorative table arrangements setup on the actual day, and, of course, conduct of the ceremony plus singing, all followed by cleanup. Often, because of the calendar, the event took place on the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday, putting additional pressure on the church staff.

However, notwithstanding this triumphal summary, there have been ups and downs in planning, organizing, and funding this event which need to be understood if we want to rebuild the seder into an important event. I don’t know how things were arranged prior to about 1990 when my mother, Rosalind, and I offered to take over seder planning (although in the early years the church actually employed a wonderful cook named Fanny - that was another era).

For about 15 years, in the nineties and until about 2005 my mother and I organized and conducted the seder because we mobilized the help of an energetic volunteer committee who brought in nonperishables like wine, macaroons, matzo, and gefilte fish ahead of time, publicized the event and sold tickets for a month, and then cooked soup, chicken, potatoes and vegetables and prepared salad and fruit like mad people on the actual day. Nancy Hough always made the roasted potatoes. Shay Mutter did the chicken. Jennifer Hampshire made a drop dead matzo ball soup. Attendance grew from 20 to 40 to 80 to 100 (the maximum that the Assembly Hall can hold for a sit-down meal). We developed a 2-hour method to set up tables in the Assembly Hall with flowers, wine, matzo, symbolic items, real glassware, real plates and silverware so it really looked beautiful. Leonore expanded her Haggadah introduction to include history, humor and social science. Rachel Stone recruited volunteers from the People’s Voice Café (especially the invaluable Pinsky family) where she was a regular performer and introduced singing “Sederettes.”

I was invited to Australia in 2006 and was unable to organize the seder. My mother was very frail in the 2000s and died in 2006. Bill Rothfarb and Rachel had gradually taken over the organizing and purchasing by 2006. Bill developed a spreadsheet that indicated how much of what needed to be bought and when. (I still have that amazing spreadsheet which he tweaked each year.) Because Bill ad Rachel had a car, they could buy in bulk at Costco, keeping costs down. We added online ticket purchase and kept individual ticket prices to about $25 (families could come for $40). We managed to spend about $1800 and take in about $2000. It was amazing. The able involvement of Bill and Rachel allowed the rest of the volunteers to do less and less and less - thus it is always with volunteer projects. (They now live in Florida.)

Attendance continued steady at 100, and sometimes we even had enough children participating to read the 5 children’s parts. There were always glitches (unwashed table cloths, broken card tables, not enough wine glasses, or, one memorable year, forgotten charosets necessitating a dash to D’Agostino for jars of applesauce and a container of cinnamon), but things pretty much went smoothly.

After organizing a big seder in 2016, I announced my Seder retirement. Volunteers like Diana Stewart and Fay Bennett Lord and staff (especially Valerie) helped make it possible to continue holding seders. Ken Wachtel insisted there be a 60th anniversary seder that would honor Rev. Donald Harrington’s original impulse that started the seder tradition in 1959 to make Community Church more universal and honor the friendship of Rev. John Haynes Holmes and Rabbi Stephen Wise. How the seders were pulled off in 2017 and 2018 is a miracle and deserves an article of its own. But the fact of the matter is that we have not had a sustainable process for almost a decade.

Which brings us to the present…

We have the know-how and the institutional memory to create a memorable seder event, but we need the person power to make it real. There needs to be enough planning to divide up the responsibilities. Is there enough energy and interest? In 2020, once again the seder would occur on Saturday, April 11, the day before Easter.

I’m coming out of retirement to convene a planning committee in early January, and see if we can recruit enough participants to rethink this event. I’m too old to do much physical work, and anyway, the idea is not to bring back the old ways but to reconfigure. We’ll need at least 20 active (ACTIVE) participants. Ken Wachtel has promised to sell tickets. That’s one! Marianne Roncoli and Steve Blank will do the gefilte fish. That’s three! Is there someone out there who wants to be co-chair and build for the future? Please contact me with your thoughts during November and December so we can get off on the right foot. Maybe we can do this…

Please contact Leonore to volunteer (ltiefer@mindspring.com)
SMALL WORKS
November 24–February 9
Artists’ Reception and Sale: Dec 7 6-8 pm
Closing Reception: Jan 25 6-8pm

Just in time for holiday shopping, we are reprising our SMALLworks show featuring affordable art no larger than 12” in any dimension.

Bev Thompson’s *Four Strings Standing* arouses the viewer’s curiosity unable to recognize the medium used – looking more like a cubist painting than a photo. Patricia Garbarini loves working closeup in nature to create abstract designs. *Rouge* is a petal from a gorgeous rose in New York Botanical Garden.

Gift items created by our artists will also be available at our reception and sale on December 7th. Bring your gift list!

Exhibiting Artists: Bev Thompson, Cari Clare, Denise Fryburg, Jil Novenski, Jody Leight, John Devaney, Marilyn Boddewyn, Marsha Peruo, Pat German, Patricia Garbarini, Teresa Hommel, Valerie Lynch

BLACK & WHITE
Feb 9–April 4 2pm
Artists’ Reception: Feb 29 6-8pm
Closing Reception: April 4 6-8pm

BLACK & WHITE will feature striking art specially made within these color limits. Watch for more information at [Gallery35nyc.com](http://Gallery35nyc.com).

Contemplation is an example of one of Patricia Garbarini’s favorite images depicting a woman in a quiet moment of reflection.

Have you checked out Gallery35 on YouTube?

The new Soul Speaking video is just the latest to feature our artists and their work! Visit our website at [Gallery35nyc.com](http://Gallery35nyc.com) to find links to all the videos!

Susan Harris-Demmet, Ingrid Sletten, *Soul Speaking video.*
OPPORTUNITIES 2019-20

Pranayama Breathing Exercises with Nafisa – by appointment, Chapel
Learn the breathing technique which improves breathing capacity, opens the upper chest muscles, strengthens the lungs and opens air passages while releasing tension through the spine and shoulders. Requested Contribution: $20

Hatha Yoga – Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm / Saturdays, 10:30 am-12 pm, Front Lounge
Hatha Yoga is a branch of yoga which concentrates on physical health and mental well-being. Please bring a yoga mat to the class. Requested Contribution $15/$5 Students.

Christmas Eve Messiah Choir Rehearsals – Begin Sunday, December 1
Saturdays/Sundays, 12:45 -2 pm, Hall of Worship
The Mandatory Rehearsal will be on Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. Contact Jerry Brown, Director of Music, to join the Messiah Choir jbrown@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext.133.

Annual Holiday Craft Fair
Sunday, December 8 – 12-4 pm – Vendor Inquiries Accepted
We will once again feature food, fun, and fabulous crafts and gifts made by artisan members and friends of Community Church.
Lunch will be available (proceeds benefit the shelter). Bring socks, hats, and gloves for our shelter guests. Members who knit or crochet are encouraged to make a hat! There will be a location for donations near the lunch set-up. For information about tables, contact Jody Leight at (973) 673.7354 or jcyberbunny@yahoo.com

Young Adult Earth Discussion Group
First Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm, Chapel
12/5, 1/2 and 2/6
Join us for our monthly meeting of the Young Adult (18-35) Discussion Group. Come talk about your beliefs and how they relate to the Earth and Earth centered traditions!

Secular Humanist Society of New York Book Club
First Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm, Front Lounge or Assembly Hall
Some of us will have dinner together afterwards at a nearby (inexpensive) restaurant. Please join us. Join us even if you haven’t finished reading. The book club is open to all ... and free! See www.shsny.org for upcoming titles.

Small Works – Gallery35 Opening Reception
Saturday, December 7, 6-8 pm, Gallery
Just in time for holiday shopping, we are reprising our SMALLworks show featuring affordable art no larger than 12” in any dimension. Gift items created by our artists will also be available at our reception and sale on December 7. Bring your gift list!

Full Moon Ritual – Thursday, December 12, 7-8:30 pm, Chapel
Join us for a Full Moon worship service for people of all ages and beliefs (children to elders!). We will gather for a UU pagan ritual and share our joys and grief around our planet and her many children. (Upcoming dates – Jan 10, Feb 8, Mar 9, Apr 7, May 6

Community Holiday Celebration
Sunday, December 22, 12:15-1 pm, Assembly Hall
Join us for a special Fellowship Hour. We expect Santa will make his annual visit!

Social Tea – What to Do About “Stuff”
Tuesday, January 14, 2-3:30 pm, February TBA
Jean Boudwin Returns by Popular Demand. We accumulate a lot of stuff as we live. In NYC we have a real challenge with space, but that is not necessarily the real problem. Let’s look at “stuff”. What do we need? What needs are met with the stuff? Do you have a paper (or shoe, or book, ...) challenge? Join us in conversation.

Murray Hill Aging in Place – A new Group forming for those 70+ Thursdays, December 5 and 19, 2-3:30 pm, Assembly Hall
A new conversation group for those 70+ begins in December. We will be looking at living issues and challenges we face as we age in NYC. Get to know neighbors, bring friends, meet new friends, support one another. Contact Esther Rosado, Director of Adult Programs, erosado@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext. 123.

Green Sanctuary Event – Monday, December 9, 7-9 pm, Gallery
GS and NYC 5G Wake-up Call invites you to a community screening, Q&A, and discussion for action of the documentary 5G Apocalypse.

NYC Street Singers – Most Tuesdays, 7 pm, 3rd Floor Classroom
Open to all who also believe in the transformative power of the arts to inspire and unite, please join us on Tuesday evenings. For more information, please contact Cheryl Lisbin, clisbin25@aol.com

Life and Death Café – Starting in March
It’s not a support group, or a counseling session, but rather a bi-monthly gathering of people in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere, sharing respectful, thought provoking and life affirming conversation – and yes, sipping coffee/tea and treats. What is Death? How does thinking about death improve my life? How can we prepare
OPPORTUNITIES 2019-20 continued from page 7

for our own death? What are some essential documents needed before you die? And much more! The class fee will be $5 per session. Questions? Contact Valerie Lynch, Membership Coordinator, vlynch@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext. 126

United Nations Tours
A limited number of free tickets are available to take a tour of the United Nations. Please contact Esther Rosado for more information erosado@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext. 123.

Wisdom from the Margins – A new series at Community
Sunday, January 12, 12:45-2:30
Wallace St. Clair from Center for Employment Opportunity (CEO) will be in dialogue with Kim Westcott, attorney with CSSNY, about his experiences spanning the punishment system and beyond -- and his thoughts about where we go from here?

Save the Date – A Special Sunday Visit with Rev. John Buehrens
Sunday, January 12, 11 am Worship
“Spiritual Friendship and Social Justice.” Rev John will speak to the friendship between John Haynes Holmes and Rabbi Stephen Wise and his own first visit to Community back in the Bicentennial year of 1976.
4 pm Talk

Kathleen McTigue – Defend the Human Rights of Migrants
Each of these immersive experiences will deepen your understanding of the immigration crisis, and will support your justice ministry with theological reflection among colleagues. Our Root Causes Journey to El Salvador will be January 19-26, 2020, with UUSC partner Cristosal. Our spring Border Witness Journey to Tucson, AZ, April 13-17, 2020, will be led by UUSC President Mary Katherine Morn. Both journeys offer powerful experiential learning that will help you support your congregations in acting for immigration justice. Generous scholarship aid is available for religious professionals and seminary students. Directors of Religious Education and leaders of congregational social justice are also welcome to register.

Other Opportunities / Outside Events

Health Care and Medicare4All – Sunday, December 8, 2-4 pm, Gallery
Speakers: Dr. Steve Auerbach and Patrick Gallagher
Midtown East Elizabeth Warren Club will offer discussion on an important issue.

Peoples’ Voice

People’s Voice Café – Most Saturdays, 8 pm, Assembly Hall - www.peoplesvoicecafe.org
Esperanto Society – Last Fridays, 7 pm, 3rd Floor Classroom (Sept-May)

Church Meetings

Governance/Committee Meetings:

Board of Trustees Meetings – 4th Wednesdays, 6 pm, Gallery
Church Council Meetings – Meets Quarterly 6:30-8 pm
Finance Committee – 3rd Wednesdays, 6 pm, Gallery
Shelter Committee – 2nd Sundays – 9:30-10:30 am
Shelter Kitchen
Galley35 at Community (Art Group) – 1st Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm, Gallery

Quarterly Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 26,
12:45 pm, Assembly Hall
Everyone is welcome to attend.
Lunch will be available

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 29
12:45 pm, Assembly Hall
Everyone is welcome to attend.
Lunch will be available

Christmas Eve Services
Tuesday, December 24
4:30 pm – Candle Lighting
7:30 pm – Annual Händel’s Messiah Concert
No Tickets Required-Free Will Offering Taken
Events Calendar for February 2020

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
7:00 Street Singers

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
6:30 Board of Trustees

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
2:00 Breathing Exercises with Nafisa

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
10:45 First Saturday Feeding
7:00 Full Moon Ritual
8:00 People’s Voice Café

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Shelter Meeting
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour
12:45 Volunteer Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
7:00 Street Singers

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
6:00 Finance Committee

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
2:00 Breathing Exercises with Nafisa
7:00 Esperanto Society

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
8:00 People’s Voice Café

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:45 UN Global Affairs
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour
12:45 Volunteer Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Presidents’ Day
Building Closed

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
7:00 Street Singers

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
6:30 Board of Trustees

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
2:00 Breathing Exercises with Nafisa

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
6:00 Gallery35 Artists’ Reception
8:00 People’s Voice Café

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
7:00 Street Singers

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
2:00 Breathing Exercises with Nafisa

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa Degani
8:00 People’s Voice Café

FOR MORE Adult Religious Education and Opportunities/Events see pages 7-8

Reverend Peggy Clarke, Senior Minister
Jil Novenski, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth
Esther Rosado, Director of Adult Ministries
Gerald A. Brown, Director of Music
Valerie Lynch, Membership Coordinator
Jeffrey Loveland, Finance and Operations
Reverend Bruce Southworth, Minister Emeritus

HOLIDAY ISSUE

The Community Church of NY Unitarian Universalist
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Tel: 212.683.4988

ISSUE: Ninety Two
Here At Community, Opportunities, Calendars and much more...
Deadline for March/April/May issue February 1, 2020