

Shaping Change



Transforming Our Congregations & Communities

Fall Gathering sponsored by the
Hudson Mohawk Unitarian Universalist Congregations
and **NY State Convention of Universalists**

Join us in Albany on Saturday, October 21, to learn and share **new skills and strategies for strengthening and transforming our congregations & communities.**

Rev. Dick Gilbert will offer the keynote presentation "Ruminations on the Meaning of Change."

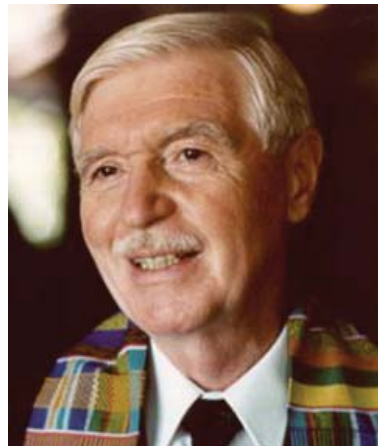
Plus your choice of 8 afternoon workshops, including:

- ▶ What is the role of UUs in Social Change?
- ▶ The Death (and Rebirth?) of Sunday School.
- ▶ How to "decenter whiteness" to make worship more welcoming to all.
- ▶ Finding & embracing our role in the heart of community.
- ▶ Getting Real: Power, Culture & Race.
- ▶ Social Justice Roundtable: Sharing questions & successes.

Cost: \$25 per person to pre-register. \$30 at the door.

See over for a detailed schedule & workshop descriptions.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW at: uuso.org/nyscu-registration-form/
or call the Albany UU office for a paper registration form.



**Saturday,
October 21, 2017**

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

**Albany Unitarian
Universalist**

405 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12206

(518) 463-7135

PLUS

Fri. evening, Oct. 20
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Fellowship & Entertainment featuring
Dan Berggren.



Hudson Mohawk Unitarian Universalists

ALBANY • GLENS FALLS • KINGSTON • SARATOGA SPRINGS • SCHENECTADY

HudsonMohawkUU.org



Basic Schedule & Logistics

Location: All events held at Albany Unitarian Universalist, 405 Washington Ave., Albany NY 12206. **Cost** is \$25 pre-registered or \$30 at the door. **Childcare** is available. Please indicate on the registration form if you need childcare.

Housing: Marriott Towne Place Suites Downtown, 22 Holland Ave., Albany. 518-860-1500 Rate is \$109/night if reserved by Oct. 1. Mention NYSCU or OCTR for the group rate. Home hospitality is available for \$40/night. Contact the Albany UU office at office@albanyuu.org or 518-463-7135.

Friday, Oct. 20: Evening Entertainment

7:00 to 8:30 pm Join us for refreshments, fellowship, and folk musician Dan Berggren. See www.berggrenfolk.com

Saturday, Oct. 21:

- 8:00 Continental breakfast & registration
- 9:00 Opening worship
- 9:15 Keynote presentation, followed by Q and A
- 10:30 Break
- 10:50 NYSCU Business Meeting / HMUU Gathering
- 11:45 Lunch (vegetarian choices provided)
- 12:45 First workshop session
- 1:45 Break
- 2:00 Second workshop session
- 3:00 - 3:15 Closing worship

Descriptions of Saturday Sessions

Keynote: "Ruminations on the Meaning of Change"

"We were made for times like this." The ancient Greek Heraclitus of Ephesus sent a message to the ages when he said the only constant is change. Earth's changing climate is a natural demonstration of this cosmic truth. Both Barack Obama and Donald Trump ran on a "change" platform, with drastically different outcomes. Democracy as a philosophy is based on the possibility of change. Unitarian Universalism as a faith is grounded in the idea that religious growth is a lifetime endeavor. What does change mean to us and how do we deal with it in 2017? *After 44 years in UU ministry, Rev. Dick Gilbert is currently president of Interfaith Impact of NY, and is the author of the Building Your Own Theology adult RE series.*

Workshops — Session 1:

"This is What Democracy Looks Like: What Is the Role of UUs in Social Change?"

Using Interfaith Impact of NYS as a case study, Rev. Dick Gilbert leads a discussion of why and how UU congregations should be involved in changing society. Participants are urged to explore their own congregations' strategies for building the Beloved Community.

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← Thank you to UU Oneonta for help collecting conference registrations & fees.

"Connecting Roots and Wings: Universalism in the Eastern United States and Canada"

When and how did Universalism rise and spread on the Eastern seaboard? What were the cultural trends then and now? Might there be connections to the rise in Universalist identification among many current Unitarian Universalists? *Joyce Gilbert, past president of NYSCU and 5th generation NY Universalist; Rev. Carol S. Haag, Murray Grove Stewardship Chair*

"A New Kind of Cathedral"

In *Memories, Dreams & Reflections*, C.G. Jung wrote of a religious crisis that culminated in a bizarre vision of God atop the magnificent cathedral in Basel. This event had an enormous impact on Jung and his relationship with his father, a stern Lutheran minister. Their dialogue illustrates the ways that dogma can create a barrier to religious experience. *Margaret Maguire Davis is a member of UU Oneonta, a past Treasurer of NYSCU, and a former Trustee of the CG Jung Foundation.*

"The Death (and Rebirth?) of Sunday School"

Some suggest that the Sunday school model of religious education died in UUism more than a decade ago. What RE models and strategies can address our current culture and demographics? Join *DRE Leah Purcell and Rev. Sam Trumbore of UU Albany, who have explored this topic with UU RE professionals and have also explored the Think Orange model.*

Workshops — Session 2:

"Getting Real: Power, Culture, and Race"

An exploration of the ways unarticulated, unexplored, often unseen cultural differences trip up our work for racial justice. When we don't know that we don't know, we are particularly vulnerable to making mistakes, hurting each other, and being bewildered about what happened to all our good intentions. *Rev. Evin Carvill-Ziemer is Congregational Life Staff for the Central East Region of the UUA*

"FAITH+WORKS: Finding and Embracing Our Role in the Heart of the Community"

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), community listening, and First UU of Essex's shift to an outward facing Urban Ministry (The HUUB) in a changing faith climate and what it has meant to make the pivot to this type of ministry over the past few years. *Charles Wirene is Managing Director of The HUUB from First UU of Essex County, Orange, NJ; Greg Giacobe is the church administrator and board secretary*

"Welcoming Worship"

UUs are called to draw the circle of welcome ever wider. But how welcoming is our worship to people of color? Let's examine the presumptions of sameness our very Protestant worship makes and how to decenter whiteness in the precious hour we spend together each week. *Rev. Kimberley Debus is a community minister based in the Capital Region, inspiring congregations to create artful and art-full worship, congregational life, and public witness.*

"Gathering on Social Justice: Justice Leaders Roundtable"

An opportunity for justice leaders to connect and collaborate. Let's talk about how we work for climate justice, immigrant rights, black lives matter, LGBT justice, or other issues. Do you have an initiative that you'd like other congregations to participate in? Do you have a success story to share? Is there a perplexing justice question you'd like to discuss with others who might have faced something similar?