



News & Information from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton



OCTOBER 2017
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Worship services and religious education for children and youth begin at 10:30 a.m.

October 1

Isolation, Exclusion, and Ostracism as Failed Solution Attempts
– Dr. Maureen Duffy, Pulpit Guest

Isolation, exclusion, and ostracism result in well-known and damaging physical, psychological, and social consequences. Yet, individually and collectively, we persist in attempting to solve problems by employing these tactics. The sermon will address the personally and socially destructive consequences with a call for acceptance and accompaniment.

Maureen Duffy, Ph.D., is a consultant for those who have been impacted by workplace bullying and mobbing. She is also a family therapist working with targets and their families. She is the co-author of two recent books about mobbing, bullying, and aggressive behavior in the workplace and in schools.

Lay Leader: Kimberley Bouchard

RE Ambassador: Arthur Freeheart

Greeters: Ben & Reg Budelmann, Linda Kenny, Pete & Kathy Wyckoff

Social Hour Hosts: Cynthia Bansak, Heather & Jeff Rousell, Gabrielle & Ashley Clover

Collection Counters: David Doran, Ruth Baltus

Library Table: Lorraine Olendzenski

October 8

Being Comfortable Being Uncomfortable – The Rev. James Galasinski

Growth and exploration are hallmarks of the path of meaning. However, blazing new internal paths can be uncomfortable. Trying new foods may quite literally leave bad tastes in our mouths. But the magic happens outside of our comfort zones.

Worship Associate: Mark Berninghausen

RE Ambassador: Esther Katz

Greeters: Janet Green, Jon & Kathy Montan, Julie VanDuyne & Ken Hebb

Social Hour Hosts: Dan Kuelgen, Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel & Ryan Hicks, Gwen & Sean Cunningham

Collection Counters: Pat Gengo, Tim Opdyke

Library Table: Arthur Freeheart

October 15

Nurturing A Spirit of Abundance - The Rev. James Galasinski

We live in one of the wealthiest countries in the history of the world. Yet, at times we live with a scarcity mindset. If

our lives focus more on gratitude and sharing I think this congregation will remain a beacon of abundance in a culture of scarcity.

Worship Associate: Sarah Bentley-Garfinkel

RE Ambassador: Wil Rivers

Greeters: Pat & Albert Glover, Oscar Sarmiento & Lilian Trevizan

Social Hour Hosts: Louise Bixby, Lonie Bogett, Jon Rosales & Matilda Larson

Collection Counters: Jon Montan, Lorraine Olendzenski

Library Table: Desiree LeBoeuf

October 22 – Annual Meeting

Changing the Narrative – The Rev. James Galasinski

For there to be social equity there can't just be changes in laws; there need to be changes of heart. In order for there to be changes of heart, we need to change the stories we tell ourselves. Narratives of fear or anger are everywhere. We can't do justice in fear and anger. We need to change the narrative. Today, we will join with hundreds of other UU congregations across our nation in a second White Supremacy Teach-in.

Worship Associate: Valerie Ingram

RE Ambassador: Anna Sorensen

Greeters: Judy & Shaili Singh, Rajiv & Geetika Narula, Charlie & Lila Hunnewell

Social Hour Hosts: Annual Meeting Luncheon - Volunteers Needed

Collection Counters: Lonie Bogett, Will Siegfried

Library Table: Eden & Harper Terrell

October 29

Multigenerational Worship: Halloween – The Rev. James Galasinski & Carol Zimmerman, DRE

We have three saints pictured in our stained glass. We live in Saint Lawrence County. But what are saints exactly? In this multi-generational service all ages are invited to wear costumes as we explore our heroes of faith. We'll also feature scary music on the organ!

Worship Associate: Theresa Witmer

RE Ambassador: Todd Moe

Greeters: Jason Shirtz, Margaret & Bart Harloe, Claire Fargo, Milner Grimsled

Social Hour Hosts: Erika Barthelmess & Natalie Panshin, Sally Vrooman, Morolake Odetoyinbo & Kara McLuckie

Collection Counters: Valerie Ingram, Lorraine Olendzenski

Library Table: Arthur Freeheart

ON THE CALENDAR

Please print and post!



Sunday, October 1

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal
9:15 a.m., Get-Acquainted Coffee
9:30 a.m., UShare Meeting
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

Monday, October 2

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Wednesday, October 4

8:00 a.m., Building & Grounds Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m., Church Council Meeting

Thursday, October 5

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

Saturday, October 7

8:30 a.m., Canvasser Training

Sunday, October 8

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE

Monday, October 9

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation
7:00 p.m., Social Action Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 10

11:30 a.m., American Red Cross Blood Drive
1:00 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting
4:30 p.m., Welcoming Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Second Tuesday Chalice Circle
7:00 p.m., UU 101

Wednesday, October 11

7:00 p.m., UU Men's Group

Thursday, October 12

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice
7:00 p.m., Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 15

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal

10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE

10:30 a.m., Canvass Kickoff

Monday, October 16

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, October 17

6:00 p.m., UU 101

Wednesday, October 18

6:30 p.m., Religious Education Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m., Third Wednesday Chalice Circle

Thursday, October 19

4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice
6:00 p.m., SURJ Meeting
7:00 p.m., Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 22

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m., Worship & Children's RE
11:30 a.m., Annual Meeting

Monday, October 23

Noon, Mindfulness Meditation

Tuesday, October 24

7:00 p.m., Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 25

7:00 p.m., UU Men's Group

Thursday, October 26

Office will be closed today
4:30 p.m., Handbell Choir Practice

Sunday, October 29

9:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m., Worship and Children's RE

Tuesday, October 31

7:00 p.m., Let's Talk About Race

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

Minister, The Rev. James Galasinski

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

Sara Trimm, Congregational Administrator

Carol Strome, Choir Director

Betsy Kepes, Music Coordinator

The Reverends Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(315)386-2498 • office@uucantonny.org • www.uucantonny.org

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

UU 101: Tuesdays, October 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. and October 17 from 6 to 9 p.m.

This introductory course is intended for those who are thinking about becoming members or recently became members of the church. We will cover the theology and history of the UU movement and will also explore how our church functions. The second session will start out with a dinner. Childcare is available upon request.

Let's Talk About Race: Tuesdays October 31, November 7 & 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Limited to 8 people, we will explore our own cultural background and how that influences our perception of others. We will learn about white privilege, implicit bias, systems of oppression, and intersectionality. However, the main component of this class is having open and honest dialogue about race. Willingness to share your personal stories and unpack our cluttered past is a must. Please bring your discomfort.

Please sign up in advance by emailing office@uucantonny.org

Be sure to check out information on the first Social Justice Initiative conference on page 10.

FROM OUR MINISTER

The Call of Wild Geese

The past two to three weeks have been pretty much cloudless blue skies and warm sun. And you know what? We deserve it. We endured such a wet and cool summer.

Despite the hot and humid September days I still feel the call of autumn. Just a few hundred feet beyond my backyard is a huge farm field where geese like to congregate. They fly right over my house as my son leaps and points whenever he hears their honks. Their calls are to each other, encouraging each other through their long journeys. I can't help but think of Mary Oliver's exquisite poem, "Wild Geese." She starts by telling us we "don't have to be good... you just have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves." Despite our despair, she goes on, "wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again."

I have seen Canada geese overhead since I can remember. One friend in grade school would hold his arms as if holding a shotgun pointed at them. I have also seen them on the ground. Canada geese have been a nuisance in most parks. Who likes to step in their poop? And they can be so feisty! But my relationship to wild geese has evolved since reading Oliver. It is the kind of poem I want to commit to memory. The kind of poem that is more akin to a prayer. In fact, the poem is #490 in our grey hymnals.

The geese that fly overhead remind me that no matter what happens, life calls us on, faith calls us on. In a way, it is the call of Unitarian Universalism. This year's Canvass Team chose as its theme: "Renewing Our Commitment."

Renewing – We are doing something again. Something that once was new, we are reviving.

Our – This is us. We own it. We are the congregation.

Commitment – It is hard to build religious community without some level commitment.

We are renewing our commitment to our free faith, to ourselves, and to Unitarian Universalism in the North Country. We are renewing our commitment to hope, to beloved community, to the mystery that is all around us. We are renewing our faith with our fellow travelers as we hear the calls of each other, honking and persuading us onward. We are hearing the calls of peace and contentment despite the despair of the world.

Geese that travel together can fly farther than they could alone. We are better together. We don't have to be "good." We just have to let our soft animal selves love. The world calls to us like wild geese, "over and over announcing your place in the family of things."

Blessed Be, The Rev. James Galasinski

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A year ago, as part of the "Startup Weekend" Church Council set a goal to read *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss. With a new ministry beginning it was an opportune time to examine how the church was functioning. Three years of interim ministry had provided some insights into what was working and what could be improved. The question then became how to look at ourselves in a way that would yield some answers. UUA Congregational Life staff recommended this title as an appropriate guide.

This book, which we read over a period of nine months, provided concrete ideas about various aspects of church governance such as Council roles and responsibilities and productive working relationships between staff and volunteers, and it generally addressed issues common to church organizations. It was easy to see our church in many of Hotchkiss' examples (not all of them flattering).

One very important takeaway from this book is how to approach setting goals for the church. The author actually simplifies the "what and why" of church in the following way:

Start with the question "What is the mission of your church?" All goals should relate back to this mission. The work of the Church Council, staff, volunteers, and congregants is to support these goals.

So, the immediate goal is to decide on a mission statement. We have a mission statement from 20+ years ago but times have changed! We have turned a page, and we should have a mission statement that reflects who and where we are today. I challenge anyone to tell me what our old mission statement is without looking it up. I have looked it up, more than once, and I still don't remember it.

The goal is to come up with a mission statement that is a single, simple sentence anyone can remember and recite. Our mission statement should be a visible part of our church, displayed in many places, from the sanctuary to our stationery.

Church Council is intent on getting everyone involved in the discussion about our mission. We have a Mission Team of Kathy Wyckoff, Todd Moe, Danny Thomas, and Judi Cohen. In the coming months you will hear more from them and see a number of opportunities to weigh in, from Coffee, Conversation & More to other small group discussions. Please lend your voice to what will be an important discussion of who we are and what we want to say about ourselves.

Barbara Beekman, Church Council President

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, October 22, immediately after the service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the [2018 Church Council slate](#). Everyone is welcome, but only members may vote.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PONDERINGS

"We create change: in ourselves, in the world." ~ UUA website

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to our faith not just on Sundays but seven days a week. We stand on the side of love, justice, and peace. We hang signs on our church declaring Black Lives Matter. We put signs in our yards stating what we believe. We attend rallies to speak out against injustice. We attend religious education classes and faith development ministries. What other ways to you live your faith?

Our Religious Education program offers opportunities for all ages. We are now overseeing the Coffee, Conversation & More ministry, which covers topics related to social action, environmental action, welcoming, library,

and religious education. We provide weekly faith development inspirations, which come out of our children's religious education program but can be utilized by anyone to deepen their faith practices during the week. Check our website for details.

This month we will be starting a traveling chalice program, two chalice kits available for congregants to sign out for a week. Included with the chalice will be a few books to inspire your faith development, table topic cards to spark personal thoughts or conversations with loved ones, and a journal to share how the traveling chalice and the resources have inspired your faith. Look for the chalice kits in the social room after worship.

If you have any other suggestions for how the RE program can support your faith development, please send me an email at dre@uucantonny.org or find me on Sunday after worship. As stand on the side of love, justice, and peace, may we create and find meaningful ways to grow in our faith. May it be so. Blessed be.

Carol Zimmerman, Director of Religious Education

On the RE Calendar

Tuesday, October 10	Second Tuesday Chalice Circle Gathering, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, October 10	First UU101 session, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, October 11	UU Men's Group, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, October 17	Second UU101 session, with dinner, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, October 18	Religious Education Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 18	Third Wednesday Chalice Circle Gathering, 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 22	Coffee, Conversation & More, 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday, October 25	UU Men's Group, 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 29	Multigenerational Halloween Worship Service
Tuesday, October 31	First Let's Talk about Race program, 7 p.m.



Consider Joining a Chalice Circle

Chalice circles, also known as "covenant groups" and "small group ministry," are a vital part of our congregation. Groups of 10 to 12 people meet regularly, usually monthly, to reflect on and discuss significant life topics. Whether the topic is "good and evil," "mindful living," or "letting go," the conversation is respectful and car-

ing and leads to greater understanding. In each session, all participants have an opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply. The time together is structured: groups begin and end with centering readings and often include a time of silence before the sharing begins. James will facilitate a group on the third Wednesdays at 7pm and Carol will facilitate a group on the second Tuesdays at 7pm. If you are interested, please contact James at minister@uucantonny.org or Carol at dre@uucantonny.org.

THANK YOU THANK YOU...

- † Dick Mooers for another masterful job of painting and varnishing our exterior doors, and varnishing the front vestibule steps leading up to the sanctuary.
- † Gary Hoose for repairing and painting the black bench in the Roomer Room. Gary discovered that the bench was built by Max Coots in 1961 and installed a plaque to recognize Max's handiwork.
- † Bobbi Haldane for purchasing corner guards to protect the walls in the basement RE space.
- † Pete Beekman and Gary Hoose for installing the automatic door opener, and Stefan Grimberg for completing the electrical wiring.
- † Arianna Whittaker and Esther Katz for providing childcare during our Teaching Ministry Workshop.
- † Esther Katz and Jenn Whittaker for sharing the Acting DRE role on Sunday, September 17.
- † Wil Rivers for coordinating the Spirit Play Training.

JOYS AND SORROWS

- † Congratulations to Theresa Witmer and Carol Strome, happy grandmas of Madeleine Rose Grigel Gohier, born August 26, in Toulouse, France, to Theresa's daughter Julia and her husband Olivier.
- † Our hearts are with Shirley Boeheim following the death of her husband, Fred, who passed away in late August after a long illness. Although the Boeheims had not lived in the North Country in recent years, they were long-time members of the church.

If you would like to share wishes or condolences, contact information can be found in the [church directory](#).

WELCOME!

New (or feel like new) people are invited to a Get Acquainted Coffee on Sunday, October 1, at 9:15 a.m. in the Romer Room. Join the Welcoming Committee to learn more about the church and meet some new folks. This will be an informal gathering with coffee and snacks. Childcare will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Heather Rousell, Welcoming Committee Chair

CARING CIRCLE

If you are a newer member of our church, you may not yet be aware of the Caring Circle. The Caring Circle is people who respond when our members experience special needs and challenges due to illness, birth/ adoption, death, and other life changes. The impact of these challenges can be eased somewhat by our caring for one another, person-to-person, family-to-family.

How does it work? To be a part of the Caring Circle, complete the simple form on the [Caring Circles page](#) on the church website. On the form, you can indicate which caring actions you would be willing to provide when needs arise. This might be helping with transportation to a doctor's appointment, bringing a meal to a family, or helping with a memorial service reception. It can be as simple as sending a card to someone having a tough time. When a need arises for the type of need you have indicated, you will receive an email request. Please be assured that when you are contacted about a need, you are free to decline if the timing of the request is not good.

Finally, if at any time you or another church member has a “Caring-Circle-type” need, please contact Caring Circle Coordinators, Esther Oey and Natalie Panshin (their personal contact information is in the [church directory](#), or email caringcircle@uucantonny.org).

If you have a need that requires pastoral care, please contact our minister, The Rev. James Galasinski (minister@uucantonny.org). By letting us know of the needs that are out there, you enable us to do the work for which our committee was designed, and help us create the type of caring environment that allows our church to live up to our UU values.

Natalie Panshin, Caring Circle Co-Coordinator

CHOIR & HANDBELLS

Bonjour from France! Separate information about the choir and about handbells is below, but we’re starting this column as a joint effort. Now in the final week of our month in Toulouse, we’re continuing to enjoy our newborn granddaughter, Madeleine, while also absorbing the history, culture, and nature of our September “home” in southern France. Of course, we’ve been hearing plenty of MUSIC – from street musicians of every possible variety and style of music, to the organs, church bells, and singing in centuries-old cathedrals. We’ll be bringing back some ideas – ringing, singing, & other - inspired by our time here. À bientôt – see you soon!

- Carol Strome and Theresa Witmer

Choir

The adult choir rehearses three Sundays a month at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room downstairs, and performs in church twice a month. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome to join! We sing a variety of music from many time periods, styles, and cultures, and with varying levels of difficulty, from simple unison songs, to four-part choral works. Our goal is to enrich the worship experience through the emotional power of music. Music reading ability is helpful, but not required. If you are interested in singing with us, contact me choir@uucantonny.org for more information, or just show up at a rehearsal and we will be glad to see you!

- Carol

October Choir Schedule

October 1	rehearse at 9:00 a.m.
October 8	no rehearsal
October 15	rehearse at 9:00 a.m., sing in church
October 22	rehearse at 9:00 a.m.
October 29	rehearse at 9:00 a.m., sing in church

Handbells

The Handbell Choir will continue to play in church one Sunday each month, starting in October. Would you like to be part of this wonderful group of ringing musicians? Every week I look forward to working with this friendly, helpful, and dedicated group of people!

We rehearse on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 pm in the Social Room, starting on September 28. The ability to read music is helpful but is not a requirement. The ability to keep a steady beat is very helpful! Each person plays one or two bells, so it takes a minimum of eight ringers to perform our music.

If you’re interested in playing or have any questions, please talk to me or send me an email at handbells@uucantonny.org. You might also want to chat with one of our core of ringers, who would be glad to tell you about handbells: Judy DeGraaff, Bobbie Hart, Maggie Hockett, Toby Irven, Margaret Mauch, Stevie Michaelson, Natalie Panshin, Eileen Raymond, and Eden Terrell.

I'm researching music for handbells that is less strictly Christian and that uses some of the beautiful sounds from other sources and other cultures. That might require doing some of my own arranging, which will be a fun new project!

- Theresa

October Handbell Schedule

September 28	first rehearsal at 4:30 p.m.
October 5, 12, 19	rehearsal at 4:30 p.m.
October 22:	rehearse at 9:00 a.m., play in church
October 26	rehearsal at 4:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE Coming Soon - UU Pollinator "Bee" Garden

Last fall as part of the Coffee, Conversation & More series, beekeeper Mark Berninghausen shared his experiences and knowledge about the importance of bees and their health. We can all help by not using pesticides and creating healthier habitats for bees and other pollinators.

In addition, the EAC is working with Buildings & Grounds to do our part by creating a pollinator garden in the front of the church. The old and expansive juniper in the middle of the front yard will be replaced with colorful and blooming perennials. The garden will be visible from the street and provide an opportunity to share our commitment to healthy ecosystems on our own property within the Canton community.

This will be work and we are calling for many hands (including kids!) to help this fall and throughout the gardening cycle. *Please volunteer to be on the Bee Team!* Project teams are a great way to engage in church activities without requiring membership in a committee. The RE Maker Space class is already exploring ways to get involved as a follow up to the bee house activities completed a few years ago.

We have two specific needs:

- Consider thinning some of your own pollinator friendly perennials to share with church (see the link to a suggested list below - they should be brought to church on work party dates).
- Join us for a work party in October - dates will be determined soon and announced through e-news and other electronic media.



Questions or interest? Contact Sue Powers to get involved.

Resources for additional information:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsEasternUS_V1.pdf

<http://pollinator.org/guides>

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

If you stop by the Max Coots Library, you may notice some changes! Kate Whitehorne and Joan Kepes have been hard at work, reorganizing the children's books. They have withdrawn quite a few of the picture books, and assigned some to new categories: Science, Religion, Multicultural, Death and Dying, Poetry, Social Concerns, etc.

Why do this you may ask? To provide room for new books in the future! Our book selection is always changing and we are constantly on the lookout for new titles. We have put a lot of the discarded children's books into the Romer Room's book cart and will continue to add to it. The books on the book cart are available for adoption - if you care to make a small donation for any of these, there is a slot in the top of the book cart. All proceeds will be put toward purchases of new books for the library collection. The library is open before and after service on Sundays, so please stop in and check out what we have.

Lorraine Olendzenski, Library Committee Chair

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS & NOTES

The next Social Action Committee meeting will be Monday, October 9, at 7 p.m. The agenda will include a review of our first Social Justice Initiative Conference and a discussion of our Social Action Shared Offerings/SASOs and our Holiday Offering.

The Social Action Committee is hosting a film series on race and injustice.

The first film is the excellent documentary by Raoul Peck, on James Baldwin's views of race in America, [I Am Not Your Negro](#). It will be shown at Cinema 10 (Roxy Theater, Potsdam) on Monday, October 16, at 7 p.m. Discussion to follow.

Ava DuVernay's award-winning documentary about race, justice, and mass incarceration in the U.S. - [13th](#) - titled after the [13th amendment of the US Constitution](#), which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime), will be shown on Sunday, October 29, at 4 p.m. at our church, followed by soup/salad and discussion.

[At the River I Stand](#) will be shown on Sunday, November 12, at 4 p.m., also at our church. This is a documentary about Martin Luther King's work in Memphis on behalf of striking sanitation workers, leading to unionization of the workers and the assassination of King. It is an early instance of the "fusion politics," combining racial justice with workers' rights.

Pat Alden, Co-Chair, Social Action Committee Chair

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The Church of the Larger Fellowship and the Centre for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal invite people with interests in racism and prison work to join a special two-session online class entitled "Embracing an Anti-Racist Worldview for Collective Liberation," on Saturdays October 7 and 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

This training will be taught by Ruth Idakula and Rev. Deanna Vandiver of the [Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal](#) and is based on the philosophy of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond:

The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond focuses on understanding what racism is, where it comes from, how it functions, why it persists and how it can be undone. Our workshops utilize a systemic approach that emphasizes learning from history, developing leadership, maintaining accountability to communities, creating networks, undoing internalized racial oppression and understanding the role of organizational gate keeping as a mechanism for perpetuating racism.

You can learn more about and/or register for the class by logging onto the [Worthy Now \(UU\) website](#). or you can contact Eileen Raymond.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton

Social Justice Initiative

Promoting justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

Inaugural Conference Focuses on Workplace Harassment

The Social Action Committee and other members of the congregation have been working diligently over the past few months, organizing the first conference of the church's new [Social Justice Initiative](#) (SJI). The SJI intends to raise awareness within – and beyond – our congregation about important problems we face in our communities. Through the SJI, the church will present biennial conferences and other activities, to bring together people from across the region to share strategies and resources to address these issues.

We are pleased to announce our inaugural conference, titled *Working Together: Creating Bully-Free Workplaces*. The conference, to be held at the church on Saturday, September 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., will address the problems of harassment and bullying that many people face in their jobs.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Maureen Duffy, a practicing therapist and consultant who has written a number of important books about workplace bullying. Other presenters will include educators, counselors, management consultants, and legal advocates from the North Country, Boston, Buffalo, and New York City. The conference also will feature an exhibit by photographer Torii Bottomley.

Workshop sessions will discuss aspects such as the legal issues involved and the harms done to workers' health and productivity. Particular focus will be given to work environments important to the North Country, including healthcare, education, agriculture, and corrections.

All conference activities are free and open to the public, so please help us spread the word. Pre-registration is requested [here](#).

Besides attending the conference, congregants are invited to help us organize the event during the next few weeks, and we will also need volunteers to help on the day of the conference. If you're interested in helping, please contact sji@uucantonny.org or the [Social Action Committee](#).

The biennial Social Justice Initiative is supported by a generous donation from Paul Siskind and Todd Moe.

If you would like to receive weekly electronic news updates,
please email: office@uucantonny.org
Deadline for the next newsletter: **Friday, October 20**