

Choirs from District Congregations Sing National Anthem at NY Liberty Game

The First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn (First Unitarian) and the UU Congregation of Central Nassau (UCCN) shared a wonderful fundraiser for their partner congregation, the First UU Church of New Orleans (FUUNO) on Sunday, June 3. This event was the New York Liberty/Phoenix Mercury game. It was wonderful to see the words "Unitarian Universalists" on the marquee at Madison Square Garden.

Among the highlights were hearing joint choirs of both District congregations as they sang the national anthem together under the direction of William D. Peek, Music Director at First Unitarian. There was a group of some 90 persons comprised of both congregations and their friends and family. Included in the group were the Rev. Charlotte Cowtan and the Rev. Orlanda Brugnola of First Unitarian, and the Rev. Hope Johnson of UCCN. Also in attendance were the Rev. Cheryl Walker, Assistant Minister at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in Manhattan, and Janice Marie Johnson, Director of Lifespan Religious Education at Community Church New York UU in Manhattan. Thank you to Jocelyn Smith of First Unitarian for arranging the group ticket sales and the singing of the national anthem.

The Liberty team is largely made up of the new draft picks, some of whom have only played four professional games, and they were phenomenal together! It was a tremendously exciting game because the score was close throughout and the final shot was within seconds of the game's end. Liberty edged out Mercury in an 83 to 82 win.

A very special moment occurred during the halftime segment when the entire Rutgers Women's Basketball Team appeared in mid-court. They received a standing ovation for their courage and grace during the recent ugly mudslinging by a talk show host.

Aside from being a wonderful fundraiser for FUUNO, it was a wonderful opportunity to support Women's Basketball. This event reminded all comers that working together for something can be great fun!

By the Rev. Hope Johnson
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