

**University of Orange  
Report on the 2013 Jan Term**

**The University of Orange Jan Term 2013**

**REDLINING AND RECOVERY IN THE HEART OF ORANGE**

The University of Orange offers an Urbanism Certificate to those who complete the Jan Term requirements. This year, we offered six activities, and the completion of any three met the requirement for the Urbanism Certificate. The offerings were: Urbanism Seminar on Redlining and Recovery, Volunteer Day, Freddy's Garden Design Charrette, Field trip to main streets, film screening of "What happened to Jackson Avenue?" and the ORNG Ink Brunch in support of the group's Indiegogo campaign.

**Seminar: "Redlining and Recovery"**

Led by Mindy Fullilove and Darrell Berger

Description: The Heart of Orange is the area bounded by Main Street to the North, Oakwood Avenue to the east, Central Avenue to the south, and Scotland Road to the west. This area was "redlined" when the federal government mapped cities in 1937. That meant that investment was shunted away from the area because immigrants and African Americans lived there. When disaster strikes an area that has been historically deprived, it is especially difficult for the residents to recover. We will discuss what this means for the strengthening of Orange and the rebuilding of NJ communities hit by Superstorm Sandy.

*Thursday January 10, 7 PM*

*First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex, Parish Hall, 35 Cleveland Street, Orange, NJ*

Comments: an excellent group of 17 students gathered at the church for the seminar. The heart of the evening was a discussion of the Essex County Redlining



Map, created in 1937 and largely hidden from view for intervening years (see it on the table in the photo). There is some controversy about the effect of redlining maps. The racist concepts that underlay their creation are, however, amply supported by the original rating and

summary sheets. Darrell Berger shared a 1938 report created by the Unitarian Association on the prospects for the church in Orange. They found that Orange was not a fertile place for the a liberal church, echoing the assessments made by the redlining teams. The implications for the future of the Heart of Orange were discussed.

### **Volunteer for Sandy Recovery**

The Municipal Art Society of New York is holding a conference on the “Road to Resilience: Recovery from Superstorm Sandy.” New School, 66 West 12 Street, NYC. FREE. We will TAKE the NJ perspective, BRING BACK ideas for our state. Register at: <http://connect.mas.org/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=100701>

*Saturday January 12, 2013 9 AM - 4 PM*

Comments: The Municipal Art Society Conference featured two geologists who had predicted that massive storms could affect the region in exactly the way that Superstorm Sandy did. One of them, Klaus Jacob, said, “We, as a city, a region and a nation are in profound denial that the weather has changed. It is not going back and we need to prepare for what is coming.”



(Photo: Geologists and FEMA response coordinator addressing the MAS Conference)

### **Freddy's Garden Design Charrette**

Led by Stephen Panasci and Jonathan Foster

Help ORNG Ink and Garden State Urban Farms redesign the sideyard at 406 Tompkins Street.

*Sunday January 13, 2 PM*

*Ironworks Studio, 406 Tompkins Street, Orange, NJ*

Comments: An active group of 16 people gathered for the design charrette at Ironworks. After a brief powerpoint for orientation, the participants were asked to reflect on what uses they foresaw for the garden. These were all listed on poster paper. Then each participant was given a paper and asked to layout how they saw the space organized to support some or all of those uses. After an agreeable time designing, the papers were posted on the wall and the leaders reviewed what the individuals had proposed. Many areas of agreement were noted, particularly the importance of the earth oven. The leaders will review what was proposed and get back to us with several proposals that combine key ideas.



### **Field trip: Chomp Chomp Main Street**

Join us on a scavenger hunt for a potluck supper. The main streets of Essex County were all redlined, but the communities around them were given a variety of ratings. Since that time, the cities have had different histories. By visiting a variety of main streets, we can see the differences. We will shop for yummy local food to have in a potluck. This is Martin Luther King Jr's actual birthday and we will have a cake.

*Tuesday January 15, 2013, 2 PM*

*Meet at 501 Central Ave., Orange, NJ*



### **Comments:**

A small group went to see the main streets of East Orange, Orange, and Livingston. The group became interested in the differences in the ease of walking in each of the main streets. A website was consulted, which gave the following "walkability scores" for cities in Essex County:

Irvington	88
Orange	83
S. Orange	83
Maplewood	80
E. Orange	68
W. Orange	51
Livingston	31
Millburn	28

The group also gathered yummy things to eat at Limmins in East Orange and Livingston Bagel in Livingston. No cake, though.

### **Film Screening "What happened to Jackson Avenue?"**

Led by Brooke Hansson

This film was made by teenagers in Jersey City working with U of O urbanism film series leader Brooke Hansson (also a Jan Term 2011 graduate), who were interested in understanding the decline of the main commercial street in the African American neighborhood of Greenville.

*Thursday January 17, 7 PM*

*First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex, Parish Hall, 35 Cleveland Street, Orange, NJ*

Comments: This powerful film detailed the efforts of a group of young people, 8-17, to understand how and why Jackson Avenue declined from the thriving main street of the neighborhood to its current state of disinvestment and dilapidation. We travel with them, our understanding growing along with theirs.

Orange Councilwoman Donna Williams attended and we discussed the Heart of Orange plan. We focused on the "Woody Home for Services" Centennial, as she is the head the T. Colson Woody Foundation.

### **ORNG Ink Brunch with Chef Jesse**

Led by First UU Church of Essex County

This brunch offers an opportunity for the church to be of service to ORNG Ink, specifically helping with the brainstorming for the Indiegogo campaign.

*Sunday January 20, 10:30 AM*

*Ironworks, 406 Tompkins Street, Orange, NJ*

Comments: The ORNG Ink Brunch was organized by the church to support the ORNG Ink Indiegogo campaign. It was part of a new program of the church to go out to be of SERVICE rather than have service in the sanctuary. A rich conversation left ORNG Ink with many new ideas for achieving the fundraising goals.

