

FFWPU USA: Northeast Young Unificationists Hold Spring Fest at Belvedere

Naokimi Ushiroda
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Photos courtesy of Resfred Arthur

A "youth reunion" was the inspiration behind the recent [Spring Festival](#) held at the Belvedere property in Tarrytown, New York. The April 22 regional event also honored Earth Day with an on-site greenhouse cleanup project and special video message from Dr. Sun Jin Moon.

"Our main purpose was to have fun and celebrate spring together with this major outdoor event," said Resfred Arthur, FFWPU USA Northeast secretary general, who coordinated the festival. "Many people from all over the subregion of all ages were able to come out."



It's been four years since the last Spring Fest, which members this year welcomed with great excitement as more than 500 Unificationists participated. "We started the day reviving the Belvedere garden," Resfred said during an April 25 leaders' meeting report. "We put together a raised bed box, filling them with soil, planting seeds, and painting flower pots. There were a lot of different vegetables planted as well."



Resfred said the cleanup project, led by Belvedere Family Church Pastor Justin Okamoto, Mika Rothstein, and Gregg Jones, was "very engaging" and "fun and exciting" - but that was only the beginning.

A video message from Dr. Sun Jun Moon, executive director of the Hyo Jeong Foundation for the Unity of the Sciences ([HJIFUS](#)), highlighted the current state of the environment and our need to respond in a caring manner. She discussed True Parents' vision to solve environmental problems - such as pollution and deforestation - through acting responsibly by loving nature and healing the earth.



"Our members were very inspired by her message," said Resfred. "They felt very enlightened ... about what they can do to be able to help alleviate [planetary] concerns that are arising." Dr. Chung Sik Yong, FFWPU North America regional president, and Rev. Naokimi Ushiroda, FFWPU USA president, shared words on the importance of preserving the earth as well.

A sports tournament led by Denthew Learey and Jake Levina drew a large turnout of young people later on. More than 200 youth either competed or cheered for players during volleyball, basketball, and chess games that had intergenerational participation.

Heavenly USA members performed musical entertainment, and pony rides, face painting, and bouncy

castles were available for kids throughout the day. "Spring Fest was a great opportunity to connect with so many people again," said one parent whose young children enjoyed the range of activities. "Spending some quality time in nature and with each other was my biggest takeaway."



The festival concluded with an evening talent show that featured a number of skilled youth. "It was an incredible show with a warm, intimate setting," said Resfred. "There was a lot of joy and camaraderie inside the building."

Both community members and FFWPU USA leaders expressed their immense gratitude for the successful return of Spring Fest. "[A youth reunion] is something Dr. Yong asked the New Jersey community to organize back in October," said Rev. Naokimi. "I'm truly grateful for Resfred and the whole team who put this together."



Celebrating Earth Day with Spring Fest



Spring Fest is back! Unificationists in the Northeast are celebrating the environment and all things spring this Earth Day, April 22, with a one-day festival for family and friends of all ages.

“It’s been a while, but Spring Fest is back and going to be better than ever,” says Resfred Arthur, FFWPU USA Northeast secretary general. “It’s a full day of activities where you can join any time from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.,” he shares in a new promotional [video](#) for the highly anticipated event.

The Spring Festival, which is being held at the Belvedere estate in Tarrytown, New York, will kick off with a special Earth Day service project.

“We’re going to repurpose an old greenhouse and turn it into a beautiful, organic vegetable garden,” says Pastor Justin Okamoto of the Belvedere Family Church. “I’m so excited for this – I really want this to be a place where we can bring members, have people bring their friends, and get away from the hustle and business of life and just experience nature and feel the abundance that God has given us.”

Pastor Justin says the cleanup project is the perfect way to observe Earth Day while restoring the functionality of the property. “There’s going to be plenty of work to do,” he says, “so be ready to get your hands dirty and soak up those vitality elements. It’s going to be great.”

With a \$5 entrance fee, participants can also enjoy a wide range of other activities at Spring Fest, including photo booths, pony rides, bouncy

castles, face painting, and more. The Blessed Culture and Sports Festival ([BCSF](#)) will be at Spring Fest to host some friendly competition as well.

"We're going to have six-on-six volleyball and three-on-three basketball ... and we'll see who's the best in the East," says BCSF Director Denthe Learey. "And for the first time ever, we'll be having a chess tournament. So whether you're a beginner or a grandmaster Magnus Carlsen, or just someone that's learning chess for the first time, you're welcome to compete."

The festival will also feature a talent show, awards ceremony, and Earth Day message from Dr. Sun Jin Moon, executive director of the Hyo Jeong International Foundation for the Unity of the Sciences ([HJIFUS](#)). She will share about True Mother's heart to save the environment and our role as stewards of the creation.

Initiated in 1970, Earth Day has been celebrated by billions of people around the globe annually every April 22 to promote awareness for the health of our environment. Among other eco-friendly endeavors, True Mother founded HJIFUS in 2017 to address environmental issues through various avenues including scientific research, policymaking and education, while uplifting human consciousness and awareness on the value of nature.

You can learn more about Earth Day [here](#), and get more details about Spring Fest [here](#).

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Loving Nature, Healing the Earth

Hyo Jeong International Foundation
for the Unity of the Sciences



Overview

HJIFUS is Committed to Environmental
Preservation and Regeneration.

The Hyo Jeong* International Foundation for the Unity of the Sciences (HJIFUS) engages in research on environmental problems afflicting Earth and ways to solve them. To this end, HJIFUS and its partners around the globe collaborate on international projects. In addition to searching for solutions based on traditional scientific methods and theories, HJIFUS is opening the door to potential solutions developed from new scientific ideas. More than anything else, HJIFUS promotes a unique perspective of the natural world that we believe can reconcile human beings and nature. With connections to world-level organizations, the Foundation is well-positioned to spread innovative ideas and best practices to leaders, influencers, and people able to take action. This is the official website of HJIFUS (USA), a nonprofit, charitable, tax-exempt research foundation registered in Washington, DC.

Let us actively take responsibility for our Earth to make it the best it can be for generations to come.

Hyo Jeong (孝情) means "filial heart"*

"We cannot go back to the old normal of inequality, injustice and heedless dominion over the Earth...Now is the time to transform humanity's relationship with the natural world — and with each other. And we must do so."

time to transform humankind's relationship with the natural world – and with each other. And we must do so together. Solidarity is humanity. Solidarity is survival.”

—UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at Columbia University, 2020

“The massive abuse of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides has modified the soil and the plants that animals eat. These destructive agricultural practices have altered the food we eat, chemically influencing our microbial flora and microbiota. Consequently, there is an alarming proliferation of not only chronic neurotropic diseases but also cancers that especially affect the younger generation, specifically because of changes in the microbiota.”

—Prof. Luc Montagnier, ICUS XXV, February 14, 2019

President’s Welcome

Welcome to HJIFUS. In the global effort to solve environmental problems, we are contributing through the research and implementation of innovative technologies and the development of educational materials on the environment. I can confidently say that one of the greatest things HJIFUS has to offer is a viewpoint and rationale that elevates human consciousness and human attitude towards nature and the Creator, God. Let us all work together as proud caretakers of our planet and create a world in which we can enjoy nature’s beauty while enhancing the quality of human life.

—Dr. Douglas DM Joo, President, HJIFUS (USA)



Vision

HJIFUS envisions a world where humanity and the natural world coexist in harmony. Such a world would be built on the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values.

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Mission

To protect and restore the environment, HJIFUS seeks to address environmental issues through various approaches such as scientific research, policy making, and education, and to uplift human consciousness and awareness on the value of nature.

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