



# Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore

Volume 11, Issue 05

May 2009

## May Services

We meet at our UU Center, Pomona Rd and Liebig Street, Galloway NJ (near the north entrance to Richard Stockton College).  
Services are at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

<b>May 3</b>	<p><b>Ethical Eating, Part I</b>  <i>Lay leader Michael Cluff</i>  Michael will discuss the environmental and ethic implications of what we eat, from factory farming to mass-produced organic. Are there inconvenient truths even pro-green Unitarians need to hear?</p>
<b>May 10</b>	<p><b>Ethical Eating, Part II</b>  <i>The Reverend Rosemarie Newberry</i>  Our minister will present her view on ethical eating from a non-vegetarian view. She believes that there is a way to follow our faith and principles and still eat animals.</p>
<b>May 17</b> <b>Service at 11:00!</b> <b>Potluck Brunch!</b>	<p><b>Paul Winter's Earth Mass/Missa Gaia</b>  <i>Lay leader Barbara Miller</i>  Music Director Barbara Miller will lead this service as we experience recorded selections from Paul Winter's Earth Mass/Missa Gaia. Missa Gaia integrates world music with songs from the wild to celebrate the whole earth as a sacred space. UU composer Jim Scott was one of the principal musicians involved with its creation.</p>
<b>May 24</b>	<p><b>The Legacy of Liberal UU Ministers</b>  <i>Guest speaker Frank Kowalczyk</i>  MaryAnne Kowalczyk's husband Frank will interview three historic women: Miss Olympia Brown, the first Universalist-ordained minister, Dr. Mary Augusta Safford, a pioneer in frontier Unitarianism, and Dr. Caroline Julia Bartlett Crane, journalist, suffragist, public health crusader, and pacifist.</p>
<b>May 31</b>	<p><b>Coming of Age Service</b>  <i>Led by our Coming of Age RE class</i>  All this past year, the COA teens have been asking "Big Questions", such as "what is the purpose of life?", "what do you have faith in?", and "what are your hopes and dreams for the future?", as they explore their own personal beliefs and values as emerging Unitarian Universalists. They will be sharing their personal credos with the congregation in this special service that is not to be missed.</p>

**SATURDAY, MAY 2 – UUCSJS SPRING VOLUNTEER LANDSCAPE WORK PARTY**

*(see page 7)*

Please note that the Potluck Brunch, Sunday May 17 for the congregation and our B&B guests will be *in lieu of* our usual 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday brunch, which would have been May 31.

## Words from... The Reverend Rosemarie Newberry



In the last few years I have not been able to keep up with technology. I do have a cell phone that has a camera, MP3, internet, contacts list, calendar, email. However, time and technology's progress has left me in the dust. I do not have a flat screen, nor HDTV, but I do have cable. Besides my cell phone, I do not have a digital camera, still nor video. I do not have an iPod, nor iPhone. And only after my 5 year old computer fell to pieces, did I go out and get a new laptop – amazing what I could purchase for only \$700.

One of the latest technologies that I have adopted is Facebook. It turns out that many Unitarian Universalist ministers are on Facebook. This past week, I read on Facebook that a minister friend of mine has made a commitment this month to live on a Food Stamp diet. That means he is living on \$21 a week for food. The comments back from his friends are interesting, about how to make that work (no animal protein, no fresh produce, lots of rice and beans and peanut butter). I can hardly imagine. The result of reading all the commentary is that I have been thinking a lot about how very difficult it is for the poor. Not only do they lack decent medical care, they also lack the ability to have adequate nutrition. And that is just the start; the list goes on, and on, and on.

My reflections on the difficulty of living for the poor are a good result of being on Facebook. One thing that I like to do on Facebook, as do several of my minister friends, is to use it as a way to share information about social ills and responsibilities. It is a wonderful forum not only to keep connected with high school and college friends, but also to pass on information. It seems better than passing on tons and tons of email. So, if you are on Facebook, look me up. I will "friend" any member, youth, staff and friend of the congregation. Right now I have 137 "friends". Most are ministers, but some are members of this congregation and other congregations that I have served. Technology, and Facebook, gives us all an additional way to practice our faith.

**Rosemarie has office hours on Tuesday mornings from 9 am to noon. Call the office at 609-965-9400 or send her email to make an appointment. She will also meet with folks in the evening, with an appointment.**

**Reverend Newberry's email: minister@uucsjs.org**

### *Our guest speaker in May:*

**Frank Kowalczyk** has been married to MaryAnne, one of our newest members, for 46 years.

Frank retired in 2003, having been an engineering manager in the nuclear power industry, both in the design of new plants and also in radioactive waste management. I am a Registered Professional Engineer in New Jersey, previously registered in six states.

Since retiring I have transferred my problem solving skills into local historical research, being a member of the Stafford Township Historical Society, the Ocean County Historical Society, and the Tuckerton Seaport. I have developed power point presentations on several local historical topics, including the Powhatan Shipwreck off LBI in 1854, the Tuckerton Railroad, the Life Saving Service, and the Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Manahawkin.

In 1995, Frank became a Unitarian Universalist when he joined the Montclair Unitarian Church, and since 2003 has been a member of UU Ocean County Congregation.

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### *Sources, a UU Cantata*

performed by the UUCP Adult Choir and Chamber Ensemble

**Friday, May 8, 8 pm**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

\$15. Information or tickets: 609-924-1604, ext. 16

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**REMINDER!**  
**Saturday, May 2, 8 pm**  
**at our UU Center**  
**Folksinger Peter Mayer**  
**DON'T MISS IT.**

**Tickets are \$15 (\$17 at the door)**

If you are not familiar with his work, go to [www.petermayer.net](http://www.petermayer.net). In the words of our own Steve Fiedler, "this is one concert you don't want to miss."

One of Peter's songs, *Blue Boat Home*, is in our turquoise hymnal. This was one of Stacy Hagan's favorite songs, which was played at her memorial service back in December 2007. You can read more about our amazing Stacy at [www.caringbridge.org/nj/stacyhagan/](http://www.caringbridge.org/nj/stacyhagan/)

**REFLECTIONS FROM  
UUCSJS PRESIDENT  
PAUL UTTS**

This is my second to last Reflections after writing them monthly for almost six years. When John Searight asked me to serve as Board President in 2003, I agreed, forgetting all about the tradition of writing the monthly Reflections. When Mariann, who has edited the Newsletter since near the beginning, called to ask where my Reflections was, there was only silence. She saved me -- writing a nice piece introducing me and told me to be ready in August. My first

Reflections I was nervous and intimidated, writing for a group as bright as this, with professional writers and academics. At the time, Reflections was on the front cover of our newsletter and I did not want to embarrass myself, or more importantly, the congregation. (I did manage to get it moved to the inside later.)

It turned out OK, nobody ridiculed me, no *fatwa* was declared, and I even got some positive comments. A recent compliment that moved me: a man I had never met told me he enjoyed my Reflections and thought I would be older. I took it to mean either I looked young for my age or sounded wise for my years; either way, I liked it. My wife Helen, along with Mariann, is my proofreader, and for a while, I would gauge the success of an article if Helen was crying by the end. For those who have witnessed her during Joys and Sorrows you know it doesn't take much, but it was at least some measure.

We went through the first Capital Campaign and the Reflections tended to be cheerleading for our new building, but there were also many events -- successes, deaths, family issues, and congregational issues -- that merited comment and I tried my best to bring some personal touch to the topic. Typically, I would tie a past or present event in my personal life with the "business" of the congregation. Some were stinkers, but some hit the mark with different people at different times. I have saved most of them and hope someday my children or perhaps their children will be able to glimpse a part of me they may have missed. I never thought I would do this for six years, but didn't want to leave until the building was finished.

I have had a peek at the nominating slate for the new Board and it is great. It is just the right mix of skill sets, personalities and intellect that the congregation needs at this time. Two key members are coming off: Richard Grzywinski and Kathie Benner. Their unique skills will be missed, but I trust, will be used to great effect in other areas of our congregational life. Kathie has been the heart of the Board since July 2005, and Richard, who joined the Board in July 2006, donated a year of his life to build our beautiful building. Both have supplied a reasoned wisdom to our deliberations that made mindful progress possible. We are blessed by their service. The new Board will be charged with developing policy and coordinating our many committees to implement and enhance our strategic plan.

At our Shared Ministry service last week, Jim Gentile spoke of governance, and made the crucial distinction that this congregation has a Board of Trustees, not Directors, just as we have a ministry, not just a Minister. We are about building consensus, and absent that, democratically facing challenges. As a Board, we may not have always gotten it right, but not from lack of trying, and with the noblest of intentions. I think the membership acknowledges our humanness and provides meaningful feedback that is thoughtful, considerate and non-reactionary. If we continue to support each other with respect and encouragement, we can't help but grow and meet the needs of our community.

I am grateful for the trust and patience the congregation has shown me. I joined an incredible Board six years ago and mostly listened. Slowly, with their counsel and leadership, I became more confident of my own abilities and contributed where I could. It has been both humbling and fulfilling to serve this congregation. By accepting my limitations, this congregation has helped me to grow as an individual, learning and exploring as I share this journey with you. To all those with whom I have served on the Board, and members of the congregation who have provided advice and encouragement, thank you. You have given me a great gift. Of course, the journey is not over; although our first two Board presidents left our congregation shortly after their terms, I'm not going anywhere and look forward to continuing our path.

As our Annual Stewardship Campaign comes to a close, your generosity demonstrates the importance of this congregation and its ministry to each other and the broader community. Only through continued generosity can our new building host meaningful programs. We have met each step in our journey so far with an enthusiasm that belies our size. As my service to the Board nears an end, I see a future fulfilling the promise we made to each other: to provide a safe space for learning, growing, and sharing, enriching ourselves and our community in the process.

## UUCSJS Board Notes April 14 and April 21, 2009

If you are reading these board notes for the first time as a member of UUCSJS, we welcome you! Because of a long list of important issues needing discussion and action, the Board met **twice** this month. With the annual meeting approaching (June 7), we set items for the meeting's agenda; official notice of the meeting will be mailed out on or near May 2 to the congregation's members. (This is a good time to note that, if you wish to sign the membership book before the annual meeting, you can see Betsy Searight or Will Parsons to make arrangements.) The main items of business at the meeting will be the approval of the proposed 2009-2010 budget, the election of new members to the Board of Trustees, and the consideration of proposed changes to the bylaws.

To foster better communication between the Board and Congregation, rotating teams of two Board members will make themselves available to chat with members and friends of the Congregation after Sunday services on an every-other-week schedule beginning April 19. We look forward to this personal contact as a way to facilitate increased member interaction with Board members and share up-to-date information.

The Board has approved a draft of building use policies, and will evaluate and edit these as we begin making our facilities available for use by members, and rental to outside groups. We have already scheduled a rental for three mornings a week for dance rehearsals, and have an inquiry from a religious group for some evening use. We are in talks with the Stockton Center on Successful Aging (SCOSA) about the use of our facilities for some of their interesting series of activities, lectures, and programs.

### Nominating Committee proposes slate

#### Board term is up and cannot be re-nominated:

- Paul Utts
- Kathie Benner

#### Board term is up and can be re-nominated:

- Karen Zindell

#### Resigning from the Board:

- Richard Grzywinski

#### Nominated for the Board of Trustees:

- Karen York - 2 year term
- John Searight - 2 year term
- Ruth Eaves - 1 year term (*Richard Grzywinski's unexpired term*)
- Karen Zindell - 2 year term as Secretary

#### Nominated for the Nominating Committee:

- Sharon Gray - 2 year term
- Barbara Clark - 2 year term
- Betsy Searight - 2 year term

Buy **Gift Cards** any Sunday for **Acme & Shoprite**.  
Don't you have to buy groceries anyway??!  
Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%. Buy at the Social Justice table.  
*We also have Fair Trade coffee and tea!*

## UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2008-2009

Officers	Members At Large
<b>Paul Utts 09</b> <i>President</i>	<b>Debbi Dagavarian 10</b>
<b>Richard Grzywinski 10</b> <i>Vice President</i>	<b>Jim Gentile 10</b>
<b>Kathie Benner 09</b> <i>Secretary</i>	<b>Karen Zindell 09</b>
<b>Primrose Reeves 10</b> <i>Treasurer</i>	* date given is end of term, e.g. <b>10</b> means thru 6/30/2010

### UUBookLovers News

At the last book group meeting, to enhance our discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, we were joined by Mehwish, who is the exchange student from Pakistan staying with Barbara and Jack Miller. She contributed some very valuable insights into the discussion, especially about growing up female in a Muslim country. THANK YOU, Mehwish! We certainly had much to think about after the discussion, and many of us came away inspired to contribute to Mortenson's efforts to improve education in that part of the world through his Central Asia Institute. (see Page 7 for more info on this!)

The next book group meeting will be held at the Center on Friday, May 29 at 7 pm. We will be discussing that beloved (?) childhood (?) classic (?) *Alice In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, revisiting the outlandish Mad Hatter, enigmatic Cheshire Cat, and that darn rabbit hole.

For our next batch of selections, please send any book ideas to Helene Gentile. As discussed, we will also take movie recommendations. Please include title, author and BRIEFLY, why the book might be good for discussion. Please send no more than 2 choices.

### MARGARET CIRCLE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7. We will meet at the Center at 1 pm for the Chalice lighting and sharing. After a brief meeting we will break for refreshments & fellowship; followed by a discussion about today's morals from 2 to 3 pm.

Please RSVP to Kim Trotto, who will be hosting; she needs to know how many to prepare for. You can also call Arlene Yacka, this year's circle leader, if you have any questions.

## The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, June 7 after the service

Staff and Committee Chairs, please send your  
Annual Reports to Kathie Benner by May 15.

## Children's Religious Education

On Saturday, April 4 a group of our UUCSJS children (and their parents) participated in a NJ Audubon service project restoring native wildlife to New Jersey marshes. The group set a beautiful example of our seventh UU principle; respecting our interdependent web of life, and they received the following letter of appreciation from the organizers of the project:

Dear Carly, Deanna, Jesse, Casey, Brian, Jack, Joey, Gillian and Neil,

Cristina and I want you to know how much we appreciate you spending a windy Saturday in the mud planting with us. The work you did last weekend will have positive impacts for birds, fish and frogs for years to come. Last week you helped to plant 1,100 cat tail, pickerel weed, aster, and rush plants. What a huge job it was, and everyone rolled up their sleeves and pitched in and helped. You definitely represent UUCSJS well. Thanks again for your help! And thanks to Ron, TJ, Heidi, Sybil, and Karen for their efforts. Big thanks to Kim Peters for organizing!

Beth Cuzio and Christina Frank

On April 19, our children celebrated our first **Children's Chapel**. After arriving downstairs at 10 am, each class organized one element of our service, including opening and closing songs, and the lighting and extinguishing of the chalice. We then gathered together in the downstairs lounge and enjoyed a service filled with story, song and a silent meditation. A special thanks to Ben Cardwell for providing our entrance music on the keyboard, and thanks to all the children for participating in this experimental service; they are all now qualified to become future Sunday Service Committee members!

The Mysteries are solved! Our **Mystery Pals** were revealed at a special celebration on April 26. Many thanks to all the adults who participated in this activity throughout March and April -- the children are so lucky to have such loving adults in their lives.

Our *Being a UU Parent* course will hold its final discussion on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

**Youth Group** met on April 24 for an evening of card games. The next youth group meet will be on May 15 from 7-9 pm for a movie night. All UUCSJS youth between the ages of 11-17 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun and fellowship.

### *Superstars!*

Thanks to all who assisted in our Children's RE classes and/or provided healthy snacks!

Our sUUPERstars are:

Judy Pereira, Jessie Aprill, Jesse Connor, Ted Ellis, Jon Luoma, Tom Celandine, Deb Giacomoni, Joe Terrazzini, Sybil Schriever, Melissa Hutchison, Helene Gentile, and Brenda Yunker.

-- Heidi Jansch, CoRE (Coordinator of RE)

-- *Explore -- Discover -- Relax --  
-- Reflect -- Share -- Play --*

## Murray Grove Annual Overnight Friday eve & Saturday, June 19-20

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and overnight at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74 off the Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday June 19 to Saturday June 20. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this overnight is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots.

Friday night there will be a cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we often have an early morning nature/bird walk, a visit to the Thomas Potter Memorial chapel, followed by intergenerational games. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy and a swimming is available (weather permitting). Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event.

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. We have 22 beds available if you want to stay overnight. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$20 for adults or \$10 for kids for the overnight with food. A donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and please do not let the cost keep you at home. If you can't join us for the full overnight please consider coming up on Friday for the cookout or Saturday for a portion of the day.

During the retreat we will need help with the cookout, campfire, and with organizing activities and intergenerational games. If you have a hobby or activity to share with folks (meditation, astronomy, arts & crafts, folksongs, folk dancing), this is a great time to share it with other members of the congregation. If you are interested in attending or participating, look for more information and sign up sheets on Sunday or contact Karen York.

### UU Mid-Atlantic Community (UUMAC) 2009

July 19 - 25, 2009

DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

This year, this week-long family experience will feature Jim Scott, UU activist and musician, and the theme will be "The Creativity-Ecology Connection".

For information visit the uumac website at [www.uumac.org](http://www.uumac.org).

*Also, talk to Karen York, who has attended this excellent family week in the past!*

### SATURDAY, MAY 2 – 9 am to 2 pm SPRING LANDSCAPE WORK PARTY

There are lots of outside tasks, enough to fit everyone's physical abilities, from mulching, planting, picking up brush, weeding -- and the list goes on and on -- to be done on our property. Please consider helping out for an hour or two next Saturday, May 2, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. We have some tools and gloves but feel free to bring any favorite tool you might have.

# ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

The Adult Religious Education Committee has a **Golden Opportunity** to offer all members and friends of our Congregation.

This is an opportunity for you to make some interesting new discoveries about the **Principles and Purposes**, about Unitarian Universalism, and about our Congregation.

This will also be an opportunity for us to make our UUCSJS voice heard at the national UU General Assembly when it considers making changes to our UU Principles and Purposes.

You have an opportunity to be a part of this denomination-wide process of reflection on the **essence of what Unitarian Universalism stands for**.

We UUs don't have a dogma or a creed, but we do have a set of written Principles and Purposes that have been adopted in a democratic manner and which we use as a helpful guide to our congregational practices and our life journey. Do you know what these are? Can you recite them from memory? **Do you agree with the changes that are being proposed?**

(See the Commission's full text at [UUA.org/documents/coa/081219\\_boardreport.pdf](http://UUA.org/documents/coa/081219_boardreport.pdf))

**Barbara Clark**, Chair of the Adult Religious Education Committee; and Board Member **Prim Reeves**, will facilitate a workshop in which you can learn more about the proposed changes and cast your vote after the Sunday Service on May 3, 2009. All members and friends are welcome to attend. There will be some pizza and soda to help hold off the hunger pains.

**Our UUCSJS Adult RE "Spiritual Buffet" offerings during May**

**Discovering Your Ministry**, led by **Marsha Hannah, Colby Tippins**, and **Karen York**. A 4-week course that uses readings, reflection, small group discussion, and artistic expression to identify your unique gifts and talents, and consider how to use these gifts to make a difference in the world. The workshop format is a small group discussion and so it provides an opportunity to connect deeply with some other members of the congregation. **April 30, May 7, 14, 21** (Thursdays) 7 pm. Sign-up sheets are available.

**Spirituality Discussion Group**, led by **Marsha Hannah** and **Seerat Emmanuel**, meets every second Sunday after services. Currently exploring *The Seat of the Soul* by Gary Zukav. Please feel free to join any Sunday. No sign-up is required, just come and join the discussion.

**Family Money** facilitated by **Ruth Eaves**. A basic introduction of ideas about how to stretch your money and how to include your children and other family members and friends in this process. A bonus: a little about dealing with the stress surrounding these worldwide difficult financial times. 7 pm, **Friday evening, May 1**, at our UU Center. Sign-up sheets available.

**Letting Go of God** facilitated by **Michael Cluff**. Julia Sweeney, once a cast member of Saturday Night Live,

recently suffered a crisis of faith. In this hilarious monologue, Sweeney recounts how this experience led to a struggle with her Catholic upbringing and how she ultimately became an atheist. Sweeney's approach is kinder and gentler than some non-theist memoirs, and is more likely to be appreciated by anyone who has struggled with personal faith. During this two-part program, Sweeney's movie *Letting Go of God* will be shown, followed by a discussion. **Thursdays, May 21 and 28, at 7 pm**, at the UU Center. Sign-up sheets available.

**The Freethinkers**. This popular discussion group meets about once a month with leadership provided by **Jim Gentile** and **Michael Cluff**. Please let them know you are interested.

**Joseph Priestley District Spring 2009 Conference: Navigating Changing Times:** Be sure to ask **Allison Woolbert, Prim Reeves, Rev. Newberry**, and **Barbara Clark** about this conference which took place April 24-25 in Wilmington, DE. They will be excited to tell you all about everything that happened.

### Next Adult RE Committee Meeting

Because of the workshop on Principles and Purposes, there will be no Adult RE Committee meeting on May 3, and we will be planning an alternative time for our June meeting because of the Annual Meeting on June 7.

Our meetings are open to all members and friends. Visitors are always welcome.

-- Barbara J Clark, Chair, Adult Religious Education



## Interweave GLBTQ Corner

Interweave South Jersey is attending the National Equality Rally on Independence Mall in Philadelphia on Sunday May 3. The rally is from 3:00-4:00 pm. Please contact Angela Jones at [abardoe\(at\)msn.com](mailto:abardoe(at)msn.com) for more information. The purpose of the rally is to call on Congress and our new president for:

- Passage of trans-inclusive hate crimes legislation and Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
- Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)
- Support for GLBT health issues
- Equal benefits for same-sex families
- Same-sex marriage Equality

As Harvey Milk said: "All men are created equal. No matter how hard they try, they can never erase those words. That is what America is about."  
-- Allison Woolbert

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### Assistance Needed

Occasional care needed for 95-year-old bedridden lady in Galloway. 2-3 hours per day, evening or weekends as need arises. Care required would involve assistance with eating as necessary and being watchful as she sleeps. No administering of meds, cleaning, food prep, etc. Two friendly dogs in the home. No smoking. Contact Ginni Stadler, whose email and phone is in the Directory.

## What's Up in Social Justice?

The Social Justice Committee is meeting this Sunday with members of the Coalition for Peace and Justice and the Atlantic City Area friends Meeting to plan details of the **panel discussion on Afghanistan and Pakistan** scheduled at our Center on Tuesday, June 2. The inspiration to host this event came out of a discussion at our joint Peace Meeting in February. Members of our committee, the CP&J, and local Friends all had questions about what should be America's foreign policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We all felt a need to be better informed, so that we would be guided in how best to advocate for peace and diplomacy.

Additional inspiration for gaining greater knowledge of Central Asia came this month from our book club's reading and discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. Those of us who read the engaging and inspiring account of Mortenson's efforts to build schools in remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan were left wanting to contribute money to The Central Asia Institute, the non-profit agency Mortenson founded. The agency promotes education, gender equality, generosity, and tolerance in this poor and troubled region of the world. We plan to seek approval to solicit monetary donations at our June 2 event in support of its efforts.

Our featured speakers for this event will be Professor of History Rob Nichols and Professor of Economics Reza Ghorashi from Stockton College. Rob will have just returned from a sabbatical study in the Middle East; Reza grew up there. We hope to have members of the local Afghan and Pakistani community present as well to add their perspective. If you know of anyone with ties to Afghanistan or Pakistan, please encourage them to attend and **mark your calendars now for 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 2.**

### TAKE ACTION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: BREAK THE PLASTIC and PAPER BAG HABIT!

The average American uses between 300 and 700 plastic bags a year in addition to countless paper grocery bags. We have 2 types of reusable bags to help you break the single-use plastic/paper bag habit for sale at the Social Justice Table. You will find cloth bags promoting UUCSJS on sale for \$3 each. We are also selling ChicoBags for \$5 each. ChicoBags fit in a pocket, purse or can clip on a key chain. Their convenience can help you to significantly reduce single-use bag waste.

## Birding B&B, a Community Event May 15-17, 2009

We have many new people in our community who may not know what our Birding B&B is all about. Here is the scoop. Essentially, we spread the word in UU churches that we will host folks and give them birding tours during a weekend in May, when migration is underway and birds are singing. This year it is May 15, 16, and 17. This program has been successful because we have many people in our congregation with great interest and skill in birding to serve as guides, we have a great location for birds, and this is an interest that appeals to a lot of UU folks. This year we have 19 people coming, and at \$275 each, they will bring \$5225 to our coffers. Because of all the volunteerism involved, our expenses are slight.

Lots of people help to make this happen, and we want to recognize them. John and Betsy Searight have coordinated the **publicity**, registration, and assignments. They are joined by Pam Hendrick, Jon Luoma, Jesse and Jack Connor, Jack Miller, Mike Shanahan, and Kim Peters as **birding guides** and chauffeurs.

Our guests will be staying in the **homes** of Ruth Eaves, Arlene Yacka, Jeff and Marie Taylor, Richard and Cynthia Grzywinski, Jack and Jesse Connor, Marsha and Jerry Hannah, Pam Hendrick and Jon Luoma, and John and Betsy Searight. But before they get to their homes, on Friday evening they will have a **meal** at the Center coordinated by Evelyn Benton, with help from Melissa Hutchison, Debbi Dagavarian, Theresa McReynolds, Paul Utts, Helene Gentile, Karen Zindell, and Colby Tippins. Our guests will be wearing special bird **nametags** made by Will Parsons.

On Saturday, our guests and guides will have a **picnic lunch** at Belleplain State Park, provided by Jeanine Blockus and Kathy Purdy. At the end of the day, they will go to one of three homes for a relaxing **dinner**. The Grzywinski, and the Taylor's are providing two of these dinners, and we are still looking for a third host in the Galloway/Port Republic area. *Can you help?*

Everyone can help by providing some food at the **Sunday potluck**, which needs to feed up to 30 people (guests and guides) who will not be bringing food. Our service on this day will be at 11:00, in order to give the birders enough time to see Forsythe Refuge well.

Some history: We had our first B&B on September 14, 2001. *Yes, three days after 9/11.* The weather continued to be gorgeous, as it was on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and we had a very successful and meaningful event. The Sunday service was held in a picnic shelter at Cape May County Park. This location continued to be our Birding Weekend tradition until we were in the Catholic Campus Ministry Center. We abandoned fall B&Bs, as they are hard to pull off if the weather is really bad. We have had some tough weather in the spring, but with staying in cars, some luck, and some toughness, we have always managed to have fun and see lots of birds.

Our birding event is known to many in the denomination, and it gives us a special identity. And, a total of all the money we have raised through B&Bs is \$30,900. Many of our guests are repeaters, and this year more than half of those coming have been here before. We think that we are doing something right!

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

**Minister**

Rev Rosemarie Newberry  
minister@uucsjs.org

**Music Director**

Barbara Miller  
music@uucsjs.org

**Religious Education Coordinator**

Heidi Jansch  
dre@uucsjs.org

**Church Administrator**

Heidi Jansch (Interim)  
office@uucsjs.org

**Newsletter**

Mariann Maene  
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**Electronic Communications**

Sharon Gray  
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