

Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 11, Issue 07

July 2009

July 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.

July 5	One Unitarian's View on Religion <i>Lay speaker Carl Benner</i> Carl Benner will present his view on God, organized religions and their prophets. If you hear echoes of <i>The Age of Reason</i> by Thomas Paine, no one will be surprised.
July 12	Mountain Meadow – A Safe Haven for Youth from LGBTQ Families <i>Guest speaker Carolyn Thompson</i> Youth from diverse backgrounds will share their experiences growing up in LGBTQ families.
July 19	Step By Step For Peace <i>Guest minister Jody Kessler</i> This service will celebrate the life, work and teachings of Peace Pilgrim, an American woman who dedicated her life to the cause of peace in a unique and powerful way. Drawing inspiration from this remarkable person who truly “walked her walk” for a peaceful world, we will explore through song, meditation, and sharing from the heart how world peace begins with us and finds its expression through us.
July 26	The Spiritual Discipline of Giving Money Away <i>Guest minister Rev. Ned Wight</i> In August 2006 the Rev. Ned Wight moved from San Diego, where he had completed 13 years as minister of a new UU congregation, to Long Island, where he began his current tenure as Executive Director of the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. Rev. Ned will share insights about his transition from parish ministry to leadership of a unique grantmaking program, as well as his observations about the challenges — intellectual, emotional and spiritual — of giving money away.

Saturday morning, July 18

Register now to be a walker in the **Two-Mile Intergenerational Walk for Peace**. Sign up sheets are available in the vestibule. See Colby for more information.

Parting Words from Rosemarie...



Goodbye and Many blessings:

You (collectively and individually) are a blessing to the world. It has been my deepest honor to have worked with you for this past congregational year. There have been many amazing events and things to celebrate. I will continue to celebrate with you from a distance.

Before I drop out of sight, I do need to apologize to those that I have upset, hurt or disappointed. You are lovely people with high ideals and an amazing ability to transform the world. You need a minister that supports you and your goals. I apologize for not fulfilling that need and other needs that you have had.

I apologize to those that are feeling the loss of their minister. I have been privileged and honored to be your minister and walk with you on your journey of life, even if it was a brief walk together. Some of you have written personal letters and notes to me. I hold all of you in my heart, wishing you a life filled with joy and happiness.

I want to thank the Board, the Committee on Ministry and the staff for their support of a minister. These are wise folks that struggle daily with keeping the best interests of the congregation first and foremost in their minds and actions. I want to thank them for their gentleness and generosity during this transition time. It was a delight working with all of you.

I wish the very best for this congregation as you move into your next phase of being a beloved community.

Rosemarie

About our Guest Speakers...

Carolyn Thompson served as Executive Director of Mountain Meadow for six years and led it through unprecedented growth. She is also the published author of *The Struggles, Experiences and Needs of Children in LGBTQ Families*.

Mountain Meadow is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping youth from unconventional families succeed in school and daily life. Each summer Mountain Meadow (MM) offers a two-week residential summer camp program where 80 youth from across the country learn leadership skills in a community of peers. Throughout the year, MM youth are active in the community through *Keeping It Real*, MM's youth speakers program, which is currently in the process of securing a contract to lead LGBTQ family focus diversity trainings in the Philadelphia School District.



Jody Kessler

is a performing songwriter, recording artist, educator, and ordained Interfaith Minister. She has released four CDs, three of which have won awards for her songwriting and musicianship. In addition to writing

and performing original music, Jody is a workshop facilitator and a leader of interfaith devotional chanting. She weaves together her gifts as a spiritual leader, motivational speaker, teacher, and troubadour into a unique ministry of song and spirit.

Visit www.jodykessler.com for more about her music and ministry.

Ned Wight grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan, and Gresham, Oregon, where he was affiliated with Congregational and Methodist churches. The son of a Unitarian father and an Episcopalian mother, he gravitated quite logically toward King's Chapel when he moved to Boston in 1970.

After securing an M.S. in Public Relations from Boston University, he spent seven years in the public affairs department of the Harvard Community Health Plan and three years in advertising agencies. In 1988, still vocationally dissatisfied, Ned enrolled in the Masters of Divinity program at Harvard Divinity School.

After graduating with a Master's of Divinity degree and ordination at King's Chapel, Ned served as Acting Senior Minister for the First Church in Belmont, Massachusetts, and then for 13 years as minister at Summit UU Fellowship in suburban San Diego, where he was also active in the local Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice.

Ned served as district trustee on the UUA Board from 2001-2006, for part of that time filling the role of First Vice-Moderator. Since July 2006, Ned has been Executive Director of the **UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock** on Long Island, a congregation-based grantmaking program supporting long-term progressive social change. For replenishment, he likes to sing, talk with friends, and eat chocolate.

REFLECTIONS ON Retiring President Paul Utts

This month's column comes not just from our new Board President, Jim, but from the entire last year's Board of Trustees, who wish to dedicate this column to our former President, Pau Utts. Paul is not one to sing his praises, so we are doing it. As Kathie noted, "To write about Paul's performance is to put a spotlight on a person who seeks neither attention nor praise." We are writing this column not to discomfit Paul, but to note publicly how much we value his leadership and collegiality.

Paul is a charter member of our congregation and a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Maybe that explains why he has always been sociable, fair and reasonable. You may know that he runs a pest control company, is married to Helen, is father to Julia and Alex, and brother to Marsha Hannah. We are grateful for having the wonderful Helen as a member of our congregation – the support behind Paul, and a warm, loving, intelligent, thoughtful person in her own right. (She also happens to bake delicious pies!) And their children bring us their talents, too – Julia, a truly gifted writer, who will be starting college in the fall, and Alex, who has matured into a caring young man. The congregation has seen these two grow up before our very eyes from inquisitive rambunctious children to the emerging adults we see today. The UUCSJS is infinitely richer because of Paul and his family.

The accomplishments of our former UUCSJS President are many, and would take a year's worth of columns to describe. What we note here are just a few of his many talents and treasures. Paul has strongly supported our annual canvass and fundraising, and worked with the finance committee to make our new building a reality. His accomplishments are too many to name, but two that cannot be forgotten are his enduring commitment to teaching in Children's RE, and his rich tenor vocals in our choir.

More than tangible accomplishments, Paul gives us unique intangibles. In Kathie's words, "He is absolutely aces at getting individuals to see beyond their own individual visions" and his "highly moral character has provided a most evenhanded leadership and judgment as we have had to make -- our policies." Paul does not need to take the easy route; he meets challenging situations head-on. Even when taking action is highly uncomfortable, he doesn't shirk from difficulties.

Karen Zindell talks about Paul's strong communicative abilities: "Then I started noticing the actions underlying all the talk – but when he showed up at my father's house in response to my desperate need . . . and spent hours painstakingly perusing pieces of my Dad's paper puppets, I developed a deep love and respect for his wisdom and compassion." Paul's capacity to give to others is one of his most profound gifts. Kathie notes that in our break with George, Paul "gave us stability at a time when that was so important." Debbi believes that Paul is "a gentle person whose brilliance glows through utmost modesty." He gives without even realizing the impact he has on others. To wit, is Karen's realization that "working with Paul has truly grown my soul."

Phrases and adjectives used to describe Paul include honest, moral, worthy example, leader, problem solver, a master. As Prim says, Paul is the "soft-spoken voice of wisdom, both in writing and speaking."

So to our gracious and gifted friend, who has served three consecutive terms as President, and will continue to be an indispensable member of our congregation, we wish you well. And we thank you profoundly for all you have given – a bounty of time, treasure and talent.

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Officers	Members At Large
Jim Gentile 10 <i>President</i>	Ruth Eaves 10
Debbi Dagavarian 10 <i>Vice President</i>	John Searight 11
Karen Zindell 11 <i>Secretary</i>	Karen York 11
Primrose Reeves 10 <i>Treasurer</i>	* year given is end of term, e.g. 11 means thru 6/30/2011

Default Committee Meeting schedule

1 st Sunday	Adult RE
2 nd Sunday	Children's RE
3 rd Sunday	Sunday Services
4 th Sunday	Membership, Social Justice
5 th Sunday	Potluck! <i>Please, no committee meetings.</i>

Book Club hiatus

The UU BookLovers group is taking July and August off and will resume meeting in September. If anyone would like to receive e-mails of the group, please send your e-mail address to Helene Gentile.

Escape to Vermont! October 9-11, 2009

Fifteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, nature walk, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 15, \$275 (single) and \$475 (double). After August 15, \$325 (single bed) and \$525 (double bed).

For more information visit <http://fallweekend.wordpress.com>.

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%.
We also have Fair Trade coffee and tea!

You're Invited!!

The Committee on Ministry is hosting a farewell potluck picnic for Rev. Rosemarie Newberry on Saturday, July 11, 2009 from 3 to 7 pm at the UU Center.

We will provide the hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hotdogs. You can bring salads, sides, drinks or desserts.

There will be a sign-up to help coordinate the potluck offering, which will also serve as an RSVP to help us plan the amount of food to purchase. If you have any questions contact Karen York. Please plan to join us!



MARGARET CIRCLE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2. We have been meeting in the Library at the Center, but this month we will be having a Summer Party at the home of Barbara Clark.

We will begin by lighting the Chalice at 1 pm and then we will share with each other the important events in our lives that happened this past month. After a short meeting we will have refreshments and fellowship. The pool will be open so bring your bathing suit if you want to take a swim.

Please RSVP to Barbara Clark or Kathryn Kelley so we know how many to plan for. All women are welcome and guests are encouraged.



2nd Annual Murray Grove Drum and Dance Retreat!

Express yourself creatively and spiritually!

August 14-16, 2009

Workshops on Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, and

African Dance and Belly-Dancing: *Ancient practices with roots in ritual, religion and celebration!*

Only \$250 per person for the weekend, double occupancy, including meals! (\$225 if registration is received before July 1, 2009!) Or sign up just for the Saturday afternoon and evening session for \$75. Space is limited, so register early!

Murray Grove Save the Dates:

WORK WEEKEND – October 11-12

UU NEW YEARS at Murray Grove, with Rev Craig Hirshberg – December 31, 2009-January 1, 2010

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MISSION: Broadening Religious Imagination

POTENTIAL

Dr. Harold Clark and I attended an international professional conference in New York City this June where we heard a speaker who has devoted twenty-five years of her life to assisting villages in underdeveloped countries identify and realize projects that have enhanced the lives of all of the residents of the village.

She said that the key to her success has been that she focused on using the existing institutions and power-centers to recognize the potential for the village to create a project that would give the village much joy.

It reminded me of the saying by Rev. Theodore Parker, one of our Unitarian pioneers, "In church matters, why is it always work, work, work, and duty, duty, duty? Where is the joy?"

For us, at UUCSJS, there is much joy in our beautiful green new building, our landscaping and the surrounding woods, and the joyful expression through music at our Sunday Services, and the many smiling faces. For those of us who are educationally minded, there is the additional joy of facilitating or participating in spiritually nourishing adult religious education programs.

Yet, we have much more potential as we all discover our personal ministry as, for example, Allison Woolbert has in achieving measurable successes within our Congregation, our UU District, and now at the UU United Nations office in New York City. If you have yet to discover the spiritual and other benefits of engaging in your personal UU ministry, consider enrolling in the "Discovering Your Ministry" course when it is offered this fall. You will be glad you did.

According to the Institute for Noetic Sciences, there are four key shared principles that can help us identify and realize our individual and collective potential for new insights and capacities, as are often found in the teachings of the world's religions (i.e. Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Native American), and the more modern outgrowths such as creative arts therapies or the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

These are:

- **Intention** – a conscious motivation and willingness to access higher levels of human potential
- **Attention** – an increasing awareness of mind, body, and behavior
- **Repetition** – steady, repetitive engagement of new behaviors
- **Guidance** – both *external*, as in the form of spiritual texts, teachers, like-minded communities, and synchronous events, and *internal*, as in the form of an inner voice, intuition, the felt sense of bodily wisdom, and dreams.

If you want to find out more about making a difference in our individual and collective congregational lives, come to the next Adult Religious Education Committee Meeting on

Sunday, July 5, 2009, and share in the pleasure of being with like-minded dedicated Unitarian Universalists.

We will be talking about our plans for the summer and fall. Is there a subject you would like to learn more about? Is there a "course" you believe would be helpful? Your ideas are welcome. You can make a difference in how our congregation identifies our individual and collective potential for innovative and meaningful adult religious education experiences as we work together to broaden our religious imagination.

-- Barbara J Clark, Chair, Adult Religious Education

Interweave GLBTQ Corner



THE DALLAS PRINCIPLES

On May 17, 2009 in Dallas, Texas, twenty-four thinkers, activists, and donors gathered to discuss the immediate need for full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States. Collectively they prepared "The Dallas Principles."

Interweave has voted to accept as its social justice principles those same principles.

"In order to achieve full civil rights now, we avow:

1. Full civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals must be enacted now. Delay and excuses are no longer acceptable.
2. We will not leave any part of our community behind.
3. Separate is never equal.
4. Religious beliefs are not a basis upon which to affirm or deny civil rights.
5. The establishment and guardianship of full civil rights is a non-partisan issue.
6. Individual involvement and grassroots action are paramount to success and must be encouraged.
7. Success is measured by the civil rights we all achieve, not by words, access, or money raised.
8. Those who seek our support are expected to commit to these principles."

For more information, talk to Allison, Prim, or any member of Interweave, or visit www.thedallasprinciples.org

-- Allison Woolbert



Children's Religious Education

June 14 marked the final day of Children's Religious Education classes for the 2008-2009 school year and our parents took some time to appreciate all that our Children's RE committee and teachers had done throughout the year by contributing treats for an Appreciation Luncheon. Our teachers enjoyed a variety of entrees and desserts thanks to our generous parents. Before taking their leave for the summer, each teacher received a special surprise: a thank you message from one of their students. If you would like to express your appreciation to our teachers for their work presenting our children's program, our dedicated class leaders this year were: Karen York, Prim Reeves, Kim Peters, Katy Cardwell, Paul Utts, Victor Maene, Brenda Yunker, Kathie Benner, Jim Gentile, and Joe Terrazinni. Thank you all for a great year!

Although there are no formal RE classes throughout the summer, members of the congregation are invited to lead a Summer Session for the children. Each week during the Sunday Service, one member from the congregation will guide the attending children through an activity of the leader's choosing. If you would like to lead the children on one of these summer Sundays, contact me at sjsdre@gmail.com.

If you are looking farther ahead in the year to participate in the Children's RE program, don't hesitate to let me know if you would like to be a classroom lead teacher for a segment of the 2009-2010 Children's Religious Education school year beginning in September. I am at work this summer reviewing some new and exciting curricula for the upcoming classes; all that is needed now are dedicated volunteers who are willing to explore, share and learn each Sunday with the kids. Being an RE teacher doesn't mean you need to be certain in your own beliefs, just to have an open mind and an open heart and be willing to share your time. If you fit this description and would like to teach, let me know at your earliest convenience.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

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](http://www.uumac.org) website at www.uumac.org. Also, talk to Karen York, who has attended this excellent family week in the past!



Peace is Patriotic!

Please plan to join us and be part of our fifth annual "Peace is Patriotic" contingent in Galloway Township's Fourth of July Parade. This parade, which winds its way through Historic Smithville,

is billed as the largest parade in South Jersey. We always have a warm reception from the crowds as we hand out red, white, and blue wrapped tootsie rolls and American flags. We have fun and get a little exercise while spreading the message of peace and diplomacy. All are welcome to attend, including pet dogs (leashed); we need lots of children to help hand out those treats! (We are supporting peace and not making a political statement, so please -- no political t-shirts). For onlookers, the Parade starts at 9:00 am. We assemble at 8:30 am in the Smithville Town Center (where Yoga Nine, JD's Pub, and Foodtown is located); look for location **I-71**. If you have questions, call Richard Grzywinski on his cell.

"What do Unitarians Universalists believe?"

If you mention to a friend that you are a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, they may ask, "What do Unitarians Universalists believe?" When people ask that, what they really want to know is why *you* are a member of UUCSJS. If you hesitate in your response, you may lose an opportunity to have them attend a service.

Memorize and have ready a quick reply -- something like: "We are an open-minded, multifaith group. We are bound together not by a shared theology, but by shared values." Or something equally succinct that explains what attracts you to our community. Then tell them why you are a member of UUCSJS.

One response I give is that religion is much less about what we think than about what we have a passion for. I have a passion for treating people with respect, for working toward justice and peace, and for respecting the environment. You can say, "If you believe in that, we have the same religion. If you would like to meet other people with that religion, attend services with me this Sunday."

-- Membership Committee Chair Will Parsons

I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it. -- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration

Thursday, August 6, 7-8:30 pm

Stockton College (location TBA)

We are pleased to announce that we will once again have the opportunity to hear first-hand testimony from survivors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This year on August 6th, the actual anniversary of the detonation of atomic bombs on Hiroshima, we are honored to be able to feature two survivors. Many of you will remember the event we co-sponsored two years ago when Mr. Sato gave such compelling and touching testimony about his experiences and the experiences of other *hibakusha* (literally, "explosion-affected people") who survived the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This year's event is co-sponsored by the Atlantic City Area Friends (Quakers), and the Coalition for Peace and Justice, who have taken the lead each year since 1982 in holding an annual commemoration. We are pleased to announce that Stockton's Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center has also joined as a co-sponsor this year. Members of UUCSJS's Social Justice Committee are working on the room location, securing an introductory speaker, publicity, and various aspects of hospitality and hosting our two speakers. We are also reaching out to find a Japanese translator. (If you know of someone, please contact me.) **Please mark your calendars now for what is sure to be memorable event.** In a week or two, when we have a flier (electronic and hard copy) ready, we'll be asking you to help spread the word to your neighbors, co-workers, and friends.



This drawing by 5th grader Ayaka Fukumoto of Ujinahigashi Elementary School is one of the winners in the Children's Peace Drawings Competition, started in commemoration of "International Year of Peace" of the United Nations in 1986. Every year drawings on the theme of "peace" are solicited from elementary and junior high school students in Hiroshima City as well as overseas sister and friendship cities.

You can see more at tinyurl.com/childrens-peace-drawings

See more drawings on the next page:

From a Hiroshima survivor:

"[This American Quaker] is the one who persuaded and encouraged me to speak of my experience to foreigners in English even though I had no confidence in my ability ... of the English language. Gradually coming to like and trust Americans, I realized that, had the Japanese possessed the A-bomb, we, too, would have used it. The real enemy, therefore, is not America. It is war and nuclear weapons. Those weapons must be abolished."

A Weekend of Peace Thru Arts & Music!

Second Annual Peace Pilgrim Celebration July 17-18-19, 2009

Hosted by PeacePilgrim100.org

Friday, July 17, 7 pm

An Evening with Jody Kessler

Zion Lutheran Church, 312 Philadelphia Ave.,
Egg Harbor City NJ

**Saturday, July 18, 9 am (Registration 8 am)
2-Mile Intergenerational Walk for Peace**

Start at Peace Pilgrim Park
500 London Avenue, Egg Harbor City, NJ

Saturday, July 18, 4 pm - dusk

Old-fashioned Community Picnic

Bring a covered dish to share!
Art exhibits, children's activities, drum circle,
educational program about Peace Pilgrim
at Peace Pilgrim Park
500 London Avenue, Egg Harbor City, NJ

Sunday, July 19, 10 am

Joint Unitarian/Quaker Spiritual Service

Interfaith Minister Jody Kessler presiding
At Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the South Jersey Shore
Pomona Road & Liebig Street, Galloway Twp., NJ

Some more childrens Peace Drawings:



[THE MAINICHI NEWSPAPERS' Prize]
Notre Dame Seishin Junior & Senior High School Seventh Grade
Hatsune Okano



[Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education Superintendent's Prize]
Notre Dame Seishin Junior & Senior High School Seventh Grade
Ikuko Tsuyama



[Soroptimist International of Hiroshima's Prize]
Yoshijima Elementary School Third Grade
Mizuho Sumoto



[Hiroshima Mayor's Prize]
Notre Dame Seishin Junior & Senior High School Seventh Grade
Rima Shimizu



[Hiroshima Mayor's Prize]
Midorimachi Elementary School Second Grade
Tsuyu Shimono



[Hiroshima Municipal Board of Education Superintendent's Prize]
Seno Elementary School Sixth Grade
Syoko Miyamoto



[Hiroshima Mayor's Prize]
Asakita Junior High School Ninth Grade
Atsuko Shishido



[Hiroshima City Council Chairperson's Prize]
Ochiai Junior High School Eighth Grade
Hoshika Taya



[Hiroshima City Council Chairperson's Prize]
Ozu Junior High School Eighth Grade
Mai Shiozaki



[Excellence Junior High School Category]
Inokuchidai Junior High School Ninth Grade
Kentaro Otaku

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister

vacant

minister@uucsjs.org

Music Director

Barbara Miller

music@uucsjs.org

Director of Religious Education

& Staff Coordinator

Heidi Jansch

dre@uucsjs.org

Church Administrator

Tricia Berko

office@uucsjs.org

Newsletter

Mariann Maene

newsletter@uucsjs.org

Electronic Communications

Sharon Gray

uucsjs@yahoo.com

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Jim Gentile, Primrose Reeves,

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**P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240
(609) 965-9400**

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240**

