



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 12, Issue 04

April 2010

April 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.

<p>April 4</p>	<p>Fulfilling the Promise <i>Lay speaker Paul Utts</i> What commitments do we make to ourselves and to each other as Unitarian Universalists of the South Jersey Shore? Paul Utts, past president of our Board of Trustees, will share his thoughts.</p>
<p>April 11</p>	<p>Books and the Spirituality of Reading <i>Guest minister Rev. Tim Barger</i> Consider that humans are the only beings who read. Reading is a passion for some of us, and it all started with “once upon a time.” The influence of books and stories on the self and on religious life is special. This sermon addresses the wonder of books, the spirituality of reading, and what is sacred about text.</p>
<p>April 18 Adopt-A-Road Cleanup</p>	<p>Good and Evil: Hope and Heroism in the 21st Century <i>Guest speaker David Chapman</i> Why do good people, people with high ethical standards and sound theological beliefs, often fail to keep their decisions and actions at the same level of goodness as their moral guidelines? Dave’s talk involves a look at good and evil in light of the science of our 21st century, and what it means for us individually, socially, and spiritually. Dave makes a call for a new definition of heroism and moral character.</p>
<p>April 25</p>	<p>Justice and Equality for All! <i>Lay speaker Alison Maxfield, LSW</i> Unitarian Universalism is built upon the foundation of justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We strive to make the world a better place; but, how do we proceed? UU's also believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person; but, how can those with low self esteem believe they are worthwhile? This sermon will examine oppression, diversity and how to become an ally for the oppressed.</p>

Coming up in May:

Bicentennial of Maragaret Fuller's birth – May 23, 2010

author, editor, journalist, literary critic, educator, Transcendentalist, and women’s rights advocate....

Today we consider Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) one of the guiding lights of the first wave of feminism. She helped educate the women of her day by leading a series of Conversations in which women were empowered to read, think and discuss important issues of the day. She empowered generations to follow through her ground-breaking writings, especially her landmark book *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.



Our guest speakers this month....

Tim Barger, a 2009 graduate of both Meadville Lombard Theological School and The Humanist Institute, is a Unitarian Universalist minister-in-training who lives in Norristown, Pennsylvania. In 2008-09 he was ministerial intern at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, and his home congregation is First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, New York. Tim comes to ministry after a previous career in publishing.

David Chapman is a resident of Flemington and a native of New Jersey. He's won numerous speaking awards and his interests include music, psychology, philosophy, comparative religion, the Jersey Shore, surfing, fly fishing, strong coffee and good wine. David says: "For those of you who are Giants or Jets boosters, don't hold it against me, but I'm a Philadelphia Eagles fan. However, I do consider one of the true highlights of my life to be able to have seen the New York Giants defeat the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl." In the next year David hopes to be able to begin studying for his Masters of Divinity with the intention of becoming a minister in the Unitarian Universalist Church. On the weekends in the warm weather David and wife Janice spend their time in New Gretna on Pilgrim Lake, near Long Beach Island.

Murray Grove Happenings

The **Rainbow Circle at Murray Grove**: Gatherings, Celebrations, Workshops/Trainings and Support for the **GLBT Community** happen monthly! All Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex folks and their allies and supporters are encouraged to come! Future dates will vary, but it's on a Sunday once each month, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm (free will donation), followed by dinner (\$5 per person suggested minimum donation). RSVP at 609-693-5558 or murraygrove@murraygrove.org

Grove Gatherings at Murray Grove: Musical/Artistic Coffee Houses. Every second Wednesday of the month: 7:00-9:00 entertainment - \$10 per person; and join us before the show for a potluck dinner 6:00-7:00 pm (BYOB). A variety of artists will perform and visual arts will be incorporated, in English Folk Music Club form, where performers can share their craft and engage the audience.

On Wednesday, April 14, popular blues guitarist and singer Frank Fotusky will perform. Frank plays Acoustic Blues in the style reminiscent of the great East Coast "Piedmont" players: sophisticated syncopation with finger-picked guitar, resulting in a sound that resembles that of the ragtime piano. This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the *Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission*, in conjunction with the *New Jersey State Council of the Arts/Department of State*, a Partner Agency of the *National Endowment for the Arts*.

Global Chalice Lighting for April:

Au nom de la Miséricorde et de la Compassion :

Suivant les traces d'Ibn Arabi, maître soufi,

nous laissons se dilater nos coeurs, afin de les rendre capables d'êtreindre toute forme spirituelle ou existentielle.

Notre cœur, pour celles et ceux qui cherchent, est devenu une église, un temple, une synagogue, une mosquée, un sanctuaire,

une citadelle pour les humbles, les souffrants et les minorités d'où qu'elles viennent.

Nous croyons en la religion de l'Amour, qui n'a pas de genre, vers laquelle se dirigent les histoires personnelles.

Car l'Amour est notre religion et notre foi.

In the name of compassion and loving-kindness :

Following the path of Sufi master Ibn Arabi,

we open our hearts wide so that they may grow to embrace all forms of spirit and existence.

For the seekers that we are, our heart has become a church, a temple, a synagogue, a mosque, a sanctuary,

a citadel for those who are humble, those who are suffering, those who come from and those who remain in the margins of minority.

We believe in the religion of Love : Love which has no gender; Love in which all our own and unique stories shall one day converge.

Love is our religion ; Love is our faith.

REFLECTIONS by President Jim Gentile

In the March newsletter, it was noted our Annual Stewardship Campaign is underway. The theme established by the Annual Stewardship Campaign Committee is "Fulfilling the Promise, Working the Dream." Throughout the coming weeks, each of you will be visited by members of the Stewardship Committee, asking your input as to the work and workings of the Congregation and asking you to consider how you can support both. Clearly, we are a congregation that is blessed with all that we have, all that we have become, and with the promise of a rich and diverse future.

As you consider your support of the our congregation, both financial and spiritual, I offer you the words of James Baldwin, a philosopher and novelist, which offers a sobering challenge when being asked to contribute to any undertaking:

"It is rare indeed that people give.
Most people guard and keep;
they suppose that it is they themselves
and what they identify with themselves
that they are guarding and keeping,
whereas what they are actually guarding and keeping
is their system of reality and what they assume themselves to be.
One can give nothing whatever without giving oneself –
that is to say, risking oneself.
If one cannot risk oneself, then one is simply incapable of giving."

What I take most from these words is that true giving is not an easy thing to do. However, as we look around at our tradition, and at all that our Congregation has accomplished, let us be inspired by the genuine giving which has built all that we have, and understand that it is through giving that we will build a rich and diverse future.

Jim

**Please note! Board of Trustees meetings are ALWAYS open to the public.
Any member can observe – no advance “permission” or “RSVP” needed – just SHOW UP!**
Board meetings are the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

Notes from Board Meeting March 9, 2010

As of newsletter press time, minutes from the March Board meeting had not yet been approved.

Next Board meeting – Tuesday, April 13, at 6:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Jim Gentile 10 *President*
Debbi Dagavarian 10 *Vice President*
Karen Zindell 11 *Secretary*
Primrose Reeves 10 *Treasurer*

Ruth Eaves 10
John Searight 11
Karen York 11

Committee Meeting schedule

1st Sunday Adult RE, Social Justice
2nd Sunday Children's RE, Interweave, FUUN
3rd Sunday Sunday Services
4th Sunday Membership
5th Sunday Potluck! *Please, no committee meetings.*

UU Book Lovers

The selection for April is Tea Time for the Traditionally Built, from The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series by Alexander McCall Smith. The series, a gentle, heartfelt, and humorous look at life in the African country of Botswana, relates the adventures of Madame Precious Ramotswe, a woman who appreciates the beauty and tranquility of her country and clings to its old-fashioned values. The next meeting will be at 7 pm on Friday, April 16 in the library at the UU Center.



Greenlight Coffeehouse

The next Greenlight Coffeehouse will be Friday, April 23, 7 to 10 pm in the Sanctuary.

Come out for some joyful noise!

April flours bring May cookies!

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!

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, April 1, 1 pm

The next meeting of our afternoon circle group will be held in the library at the UU center on Thursday, April 1, at 1 pm.

We will begin by lighting the chalice and sharing anything of a personal nature that we would like the others to know about. After a short meeting we will break for refreshments.

"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage - to know who we are and where we have come from." – *Alex Haley*

At 2 pm Prim Reeves will present a program about genealogy. Genealogy is one of the fastest growing hobbies in America today. We will explore the fun and surprises that crop up when one goes digging into their family story.

Betsy Searight will be hosting so please RSVP to her so she will know how many to prepare for.

Olympia Brown Circle - Thursday, April 8, 7 pm

The next meeting of our evening circle will be held on Thursday, April 8 at 7 pm in the library at the Center. We will light the chalice and begin sharing things of a significant nature that happened since the last meeting.

Our focus this month will be on the life of Olympia Brown, since we decided to name this circle after her. You are invited to look her up and see what you find out about her life so you can contribute to the presentation.

Ronda Cluff will be hosting, please RSVP to her if you plan to attend.

Women's Spirituality Circle - Tuesday, April 20, 7 pm

This circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month, which will be Tuesday, April 20 at 7 pm in the lounge at the Center.

We will be discussing the 5th and 6th chapters (Mindfulness and Daily Practice), of Elizabeth Lesser's book, *A Seeker's Guide*. We will be including a guided meditation using a CD titled Living Meditation.

RE Mother's Group

This group meets occasionally for fellowship and fun. Although nothing for April has been planned yet they will be having a get-together soon. All RE Mothers will be notified by email with details when plans are finalized.

These circle meetings are open to all women of the congregation; it is a chance to get to know the women of the congregation better. We make lasting friendships and always have a good time. Guests are always welcome.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MISSION: Broadening Religious Imaginations

Adult RE will be offering a small selection of programs this spring.

Pam Altaffer is prepared to offer the well-received **Interplay** program again this spring. This workshop offers participants a full day of fun and introspection. The tentative date for the program is May 22, 2010. There will be more information next month.

The second program we will be offering is **Evensong**. This is a series of small group sessions that will be held geographically in Cape May County, Atlantic County, and Ocean County. Anyone who is interested in more information can contact me via email. This program will begin in late May 2010.

In conjunction with the Caring Team we are forming a **Caregivers Support Group**. For more information please see Karen Zindell. This group will meet once a month.

Anyone who has ideas or is interested in specific programming is welcome to attend our meeting on the first Sunday of every month. We welcome all ideas.

-- Marsha Hannah, Chair, Adult RE

Don't forget – March 28 through April 25,

Congregation members will be contacted by a canvasser for a stewardship conversation.



2010 JPD Spring Conference Redefining 'The Good Life': Faith & Values for a Sustainable Future

April 16-17, 2010

Clarion Hotel Park Ridge, King of Prussia, PA

- Friday night coffee house with Rev. Dan Schatz
- Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler, author of *Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living*
- 29 workshops to choose from
- Bookstore with up to date offerings for your congregation
- Exhibits from diverse UU organizations
- Food-filled Friday-night reception with a cash bar. Come meet the JPD Board, Staff and your fellow UUs!
- Family-friendly track programming

For the full conference brochure, visit:
<http://jpd.uaa.org/media/2010%20JPD%20Spring%20Conference%20Brochure.pdf>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010

Minneapolis, MN, June 23-27, 2010



This June, Unitarian Universalist Congregations will gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota for the 49th General Assembly, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The meeting will take place in the Minneapolis Convention Center commencing on Wednesday June 23, 2010 at 8:00 pm, and conclude on Sunday, June 27, 2010 at 9:00 pm. The business to be transacted will be set forth in the official agenda issued in accordance with the Bylaws of the UUA.

You'll hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of entertaining programs and informative workshops, offering excellent support and learning for leaders in our congregations. You'll be able to join the witness for our faith and values, in moving and exciting ways.

If you are interested in attending the GA and possibly serving as our UUCSJS delegate, please see Karen Zindell as soon as possible. Scholarship opportunity application deadline is March 31. Early registrants also enjoy lower rates. If you attend GA as a delegate from your congregation, your travel and registration expenses may be tax deductible. (Consult the IRS or a tax professional.)

For more information visit:

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

An example of the many workshops to be presented at GA this year:

- Beyond "Duh!": UU Youth Speak On Marriage Equality
- Multigenerational: More than a Buzzword
- The Cathedral of the World: Forrest Church's Legacy
- Growing Our Faith By Keeping Our Kids
- Between Sundays: Taking UU Values to Business
- Drumming The Soul Awake
- Community-based Ministries: Out of the Box-Into the World
- Future Generations of UUs: What Will They Value?
- Good Without God: Something Nonbelievers Can Believe in
- Singing Meditation: A Ministry of Song and Silence
- John Murray Distinguished Lecture: Connecting Beauty and Justice
- Peter Mayer in Concert!
- Margaret Fuller: A Woman for the 21st Century
- Radical Outreach/Intimate Support: Rainbow Youth & Spectrum Cafe
- The Necessity of Virtue by Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich:
 - The Key to Happiness
 - Wisdom
 - Courage
 - Compassion
 - Justice
 - Temperance
 - Transcendence
 - Hope

Children's Religious Education

Spring Celebration

April begins with our annual Egg Hunt and Party; many thanks to the Children's RE Committee for organizing this party for the children!

Spring Religious Education Classes

This spring the **Spiritplay** class will focus on stories from our UU tradition, and the **Spirit of Adventure** class will be introduced to some famous UU builders, artists and adventurers, including Frank Lloyd Wright and Daniel Chester French. Our **Bibleodeon** class will be hearing more about Jesus and the influence of the Bible today, while the teen class will be tuning in to **Toons that Teach**, discussing rights and responsibilities in school with sessions from *The King of the Hill* and *The Simpsons*.

Hmmm...

This year's Mystery Pal exchange has begun and will run thru April 25. After several weeks of exchanging clues about favorite things, appearances, and other cryptic hints, all mysteries will be solved at our "reveal party" on April 25. Please speak to Katy Cardwell if you are an adult pal (or the parent of a child pal) and you are not able to attend the reveal party, so alternative arrangements can be made for pals to meet.

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

Announcing:



uu world's new blog focusing on UU Parenting

The blog is hosted by Michelle Richards, a religious educator and mother of two, and is the author of a brand new book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of Raising Unitarian Universalist Children*, available through Skinner House Books.

Recent topics have been:

- Spiritual and ethical growth spurts
- Hell on the playground
- Is Unitarian Universalism for kids?
- Sharing beliefs is not indoctrination
- The unique challenges of Unitarian Universalist parenting

Visit <http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/>

Moving towards diversity from Mark Bernstein, JPD Director for Growth:

Many congregations say, "We want to be more diverse." They want a congregation that better embraces diversity; that holds within its walls a mosaic of people who bring a variety of backgrounds, styles, perspectives, values, and beliefs as assets to the congregation.

We often look around our congregations and assess our diversity based on the number of people who are of color or other minority ethnicity or on the number of people who have an overt disability, either physical or cognitive, or on the number of people who we happen to know are LGBT. But we as a population are diverse in a multitude of ways, ways that are often unseen and unnoticed. We differ in our marital and parental status, religious upbringing, education, economic status, work background, geographical origins, interests, hobbies, skills, and so on.

Embracing all the ways in which we are different creates a congregation where diversity is cherished and where multiculturalism can flourish.

Margaret Mead wrote, "If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place."

We find those gifts in others by questioning, listening and understanding the values, beliefs and experiences that make others who they are. In this way, we move toward growth...in ourselves and in our congregational communities.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce a new season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for similar services and **all proceeds go to our small fellowship**. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson at 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

The SJC sponsored a screening of *Re-think Afghanistan* on March 5, followed by a discussion and opportunity to fill out a survey on the Obama Afghanistan Policy designed and tabulated by Richard Grzywinski. A summary of the survey showed that the majority of the attendees considered themselves to be pacifists, but believed that armed intervention is sometimes necessary for humanitarian reasons. Many raised hopes for a careful withdrawal in a very short time.

Our Adopt-a-Road cleanup on March 14 was a success, despite the bad weather. Many new people came out to help in the effort, which made it both fast and fun. **Our next clean-up is scheduled for April 18**, after service, from 11:30-12:30. There is a sign-up sheet at the SJ table, and as always, we welcome new volunteers.

Our next SJ meeting is set for 11:30 on Sunday April 11. If you can't make the meeting, please feel free to contact Angela Jones with any comments or concerns. **** We always welcome new members or those who are curious and would just like to see what we're all about. There's a seat at the table for you! ****

Where will you see us this spring? We'll be hosting tables at:

- ACUA's Earth Day, EHT - **Sun, April 25**
- Eco-Fair at Wheaton Village, Millville, NJ – **Sat, May 1**
- Mullica Township Green Day – **Sat, June 5.**

If you would like to be involved, contact Angela Jones via email. Otherwise, hope to see you there!

Our second peace vigil on our property, on March 21, a beautiful sky-blue day, was both moving and inspirational. The vigil commemorating the 7th Anniversary of the Iraq War was sponsored jointly by our Social Justice Committee, The Coalition for Peace and Justice, and the Atlantic City Area Friends Meeting, and was attended by about 60 adults and children. There was coverage (including photos) by The Press of Atlantic City.

Members of our choir led us in singing peace songs, which helped to instill a feeling of community, reverence, and hope for a more peace-filled world to come. Sheila Stoner read a poem written by an U.S. Army Iraq War Veteran and volunteers took turns reading the names of the 94 service men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan while those gathered placed a single daffodil in a vase for each person whose name was read. We also paid tribute to the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens who have been killed. The vigil ended with a rousing and moving song by David Shaman that he had written especially for the occasion.

Thanks to all those members who participated and helped honor those who have been killed in these wars. Special thanks to Richard Grzywinski for organizing the event and preparing an Order of Service, to Angela Jones for her remarks which set the tone of solemn reflection, to Barbara Miller and the members of the choir, and to Sheila and David.

2nd Annual PLANT SWAP & SALE FOR BACKYARD HABITATS

Experienced and new gardeners alike: now is the time to begin potting up some of your extra native plants for the 2nd Annual Plant Swap & Sale scheduled for the 2nd weekend in May, Saturday May 8.

Our purpose is to create and promote more backyard habitat in southern New Jersey by providing local gardeners with a source of inexpensive, or even free, plants. We'll be swapping native perennials, shrubs, and tree seedlings, as well as some non-natives that are especially beneficial to butterflies, hummingbirds, and birds.

Bring three plants to cover the price of admission; these plants will be put into the plant sale or planted in the Center's native plant gardens. You'll receive a coupon for each additional plant you bring, entitling you to swap for your choice of a "new" plant -- up to 10 swaps per person. Plant swappers can also purchase additional plants for \$2 each. If you don't have any plants to swap, you can purchase up to 3 plants for \$2 each. The Swap & Sale will take place, rain or shine, at our Center.

Plant drop off hours:

Friday, May 7 -- 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 8 -- 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Plant Swap & Sale hours:

Saturday, May 8 -- 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Please label your plants ahead of time.

* For more information and lists and links to backyard habitat plants, butterfly and hummingbird plants go to: www.uucsjs.org.

Please note: Invasive plants will not be accepted for Swap & Sale. If you are not sure what is considered invasive ask Jesse or check www.npsnj.org/invasive_species_0103.htm

In addition this year, we will be selling organic, heirloom vegetable plants including mouth-watering tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants.

FULL GREEN AHEAD

The theme of the month for the Social Justice table is **Clean Energy Choices**.

How does the NJ CleanPower Choice Program work?

Conventional electricity comes from a variety of generation sources such as natural gas, oil, coal, and nuclear. CleanPower is electricity generated from renewable energy sources like solar, wind, biomass, and low-impact and small hydro power.

All these sources of electricity are supplied to the power grid that delivers the electricity to all customers in the mid-Atlantic region. In the past, the sources of energy coming into the grid were primarily from fossil fuel power plants.

When you make the CleanPower Choice, more of the energy flowing into the grid comes from clean energy, and less from fossil fuels. The more people who sign up, the more clean power that replaces fossil fuel power. By choosing CleanPower, you're supporting and encouraging the development of renewable resources that are critical to the future economic, security, energy, and overall health of New Jersey. Visit www.njcleanenergy.com for more info.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister

vacant

Music Director & Sunday Service Coordinator

Barbara Miller
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Director of Religious Education & Staff Coordinator

Heidi Jansch
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Board of Trustees 2009-10

Debbi Dagavarian, Ruth Eaves,
Jim Gentile, Primrose Reeves,
John Searight, Karen York, Karen Zindell



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April 2010

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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