\bigcirc NEWSLETTER \bigcirc

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 12, Issue 06

June 2010

June 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.

June 6 Annual Meeting after the service	RE Sunday and Flower Communion <i>Coordinated by Heidi Jannsch and the RE Classes</i> <i>"Once, in a beautiful, faraway land there fell a Truth."</i> Based on the book <i>"Old Turtle and the Broken Truth"</i> by Douglass Wood, this service for all ages will be presented by our Children's Religious Education students. The service encourages us to be mindful of the small and wonderful truths in our lives and to be thankful to those who help us recognize these truths. Don't forget to bring a flower for the flower communion.
June 13	A Place to Live for Everyone Guest speaker Rohn Hahn Our guest will be speaking about the need for people to advocate for affordable housing within our communities. The many gains made by New Jersey to provide afforable housing since the Mt. Laurel decision in 1975 are threatened by proposed legislation in the State legislature, and by the rhetoric of Governor Chris Christie who has warned that he wishes to gut the Council on Afforable Housing. Mr Hahn hopes to provide some education about this struggle and to offer suggestions on how people can become involved.
June 20	Revelations of Fatherhood <i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i> Readings, original and published poetry, and singing with music selected or composed and performed in a collaborative effort by the UUCSJS Men's Discussion Group. The service will be based upon the themes of "fatherhood" and "maleness." Message: Lessons learned or impressions gained from my father and/or from being a father, presented by several UUCSJS members.
June 27	That Good Ole Time Religion, Universalism! Guest speaker Donna Renfro, Divinity student Universal Salvation has meant many things, and it always means everyone's included. And helped! Can Universalism help us now, to become the religion for our time? Yes, we can!

Our ANNUAL MEETING will be held following the service on Sunday, June 6.

At that time the members of the congregation will elect members of the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and Representatives to General Assembly, and the 2010-2011 Annual Budget will be voted on.

Absentee ballots are available from Board Secretary, Karen Zindell.



Our guest speakers this month....

Rohn Hahn is Chair of the UU Legislative Ministry and a member of the Board of Trustees of the UU church in Cherry Hill. I have served for four years as the chair of the UUCCH Social Justice Committee and have been a member of the board of the NJ Regional Coalition that worked to have the NJ Legislature to abolish Regional Contribution Agreements. I am a certified financial planner working with individuals to plan their retirement.

Donna Renfro has spent half her professional life in some form of education, and the other half owning businesses. As a UU she's been a lay worship leader and a Director of Religious Education, beginning her second year at Mount Kisco, NY, after 6 years at Lincroft, NJ. She is pursuing a Masters of Divinity at New York Theological Seminary, is in 'Aspirant' status for UU ministry, and is a member of Core of Fire Interfaith Dance Ministry and an Interplay leader.

Our members in demand !!!

Mike Cluff and Richard Grzywinski have been invited to speak at the Ocean County UU Sunday services in Toms River. Mike spoke on May 23 on "Ethical Eating" and Richard will be speaking on June 13 and July 4 on "Truth" and "Patriotism and UU Principles," respectively.

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). June 9: Jim Albertson, folk singer/storyteller – folk songs, ballads and folk tales of "Down Jersey" (which is also the name of his radio show and his album recorded by Smithsonian Folkways Records).



July 14: Marafanyi – West African drum, dance and song in poetic motion

⁷ 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.

Nurturing a Culture of Hospitality – Welcoming the Stranger

by Barbara Miller

We usually look at welcoming from the host point of view. But try looking at welcoming from the perspective of the stranger – how does it feel to be the new person?

Many people are prompted to come to church by a life change, like finding their children at an age where they wish to provide Religious Education, loss of a job or loved one,birth of a child, end of a relationship with their childhood faith. In other words, they are vulnerable.

These seekers are looking for nourishment. Offer it with highquality, varied worship services with wonderful music and inspiring sermons.

See the Holy in the new person. From the Christian point of view, if you want to know Jesus, hang out with strangers. We are the ones who are fed when we feed the stranger. Many Biblical stories illustrate this religious imperative.

Don't be afraid of growing. In any group over 50 members you don't know everybody anyway.

Little things you can do:

- During coffee hour, talk to 2 people you do not know well, before talking to your friends.
- A simple "Hello, I am glad you are here" can be more welcoming than an "interview"-style conversation. If the new person wishes to share more, they will let you know.
- Move away from the refreshment area after serving yourself. (OK, I admit that is my opinion and it was not shared at the workshop.) Literally welcoming guests to the food table is a profound demonstration of hospitally.
- Limit use of acronyms without explanation.
- Say goodbye to the guest; it will be their last impression of us.
- Sit in the middle of the row so people do not have to crawl over you to find a seat.
- Sit in the front of the room.

Radical Hospitality is more than friendliness. It is a spiritual discipline, a way of being. It is who we are at our best.

(notes from the May 1 JPD workshop in Silver Spring, MD attended by Will Parsons and Barbara Miller)

REFLECTIONS by President Jim Gentile

Whether one celebrates its arrival with the sweet sounds of the Gershwin lullabye "Summertime" from Porgy and Bess, the timeless reference to "eight track playin' all your fav'rite sounds" in War's 1976 classic song "Summer," the old-school rap treasure "Summertime" by DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, the Less than Jake punk version of "Summer Nights" from Grease, or The Who's version of "Summertime Blues," the fact of the matter is that summertime is here.

Accordingly, I ask you, what are you doing reading this newsletter when you should be on the beach or in at a barbeque, ethically consuming your favorite summertime fare?

The Congregational meeting is June 6, please use your best efforts to attend and participate.

Rev. Libby Smith will be giving us a message on Sunday, July 25 about what to reasonably expect from a part time minister. She will present a workshop after the service on that same issue. As this directly relates to where the congregation next will go on the issue of a minister, everyone is urged to attend.

Please help make the coffee on Sundays.

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.

Board Meeting Notes

May 11, 2010

- Plans for July 25 Service by Libby Smith and Congregationwide workshop about part-time ministry are proceeding.
- Next Board meeting will be held to coincide with the Murray Grove Retreat, namely, on Saturday, June 12 from 10-noon, and 1-3 pm at Murray Grove.
- Social Justice committee requested the Board's approval of a workshop to be presented by Rev. Om Prakash: "Doing the Best Work in the Community for Real Change" on Sunday, October 3. This will voted on at the June meeting.
- SJ Committee also requested the Board's permission to take a second collection on June 13 to financially satisfy our membership in UULMNJ. This fee amounts to about \$5 per congregation member.
- In response to flooding in Tennessee and Kentucky in early May, the Unitarian Universalist Association has set up a relief fund to help UU congregations that have suffered losses. Collection will be taken during May 23, in addition to usual collection.

At the May 11th board meeting, there was a concern expressed that current staffing levels reflect a reality different from the reality of a year ago when the Administrator was anticipated to be essentially a Secretary for the Minister. Because of the current economic realities and the Board's obligation to efficiently manage the financial assets of the congregation, a restructuring of staff was necessary. As a result the position of congregational administrator was eliminated. Friday, May 21, was Tricia's last day of work with us. If you have further questions, please talk to any of the board members.

Next Board meeting – Saturday, June 12, 10 am to 3 pm at Murray Grove retreat.

Committee Meeting schedule

6
Adult RE, Social Justice
Children's RE, Interweave, FUUN
Sunday Services
Membership
Potluck! Please, no committee meetings.

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2009-2010

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

UULTI by-the-sea UU Leadership Team Institute August 26 -August 29, 2010 Ocean Grove Retreat Center, NJ



UULTI by-the-sea (Unitarian Universalist Leadership Team Institute) is a 3 day residential learning experience that seeks to renew and deepen our understanding of the call to leadership and to equip individuals and congregational teams with practical tools and powerful ideas that can transform their congregation.

Who should attend?

A team of leaders from your congregation including board members, ministers, committee chairs, religious education professionals, treasurers, administrators, musicians, and other current or emerging leaders. Individuals or small groups are welcome and will be matched with others from similar congregations for group learning experiences.

UULTI is carefully designed to meet the needs of ALL kinds of congregations. From small to large, stable and transitioning, rural and urban, struggling and thriving . . . AND everyone in between! Have you sent a team to UULTI in the past? Sending a new team helps build a critical mass of leaders who share the UULTI experience. Been to UULTI before? Choose a different track and it is a whole new experience! Tracks are:

- Renovating a House for Hope: Led by the Rev. Dr. John Buehrens
- Adaptive Leadership: Led by Rev. Sue Phillips of the Mass Bay District and Douglas Zelinski of Metro NY District
- Faith Formation for the Future: Led by Rev. Sue Sinnamon of the Thomas Jefferson District and Patricia Infante of the Joseph Priestley District

Early birds who register by June 30 are \$295. Visit uulti.org for flyer and more information.



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, June 3, 1 pm

The next meeting of our aftrnoon circle group will be held in the library at the UU center on Thursday, June 3, at 1:00 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. At 2 pm we will have a discussion about the concepts of Yin & Yang.

Kathryn Kelley will be hosting so please let her know if you plain to attend so she will know how many to prepare for.

Olympia Brown Circle - Thursday, June 10, 7 pm

The next meeting of our evening circle will be held on Thursday, June 10 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. After a short meeting we will break for refreshments and then Helene has something fun planned for us.

Please RSVP to Prim Reeves if you plan to attend as she will be hosting.

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.



UU Book Lovers

The next book selection is Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegurt. It will be held on Friday, June 18 at 7 pm in the UU library. Mariann Maene will be leading the discussion. Kurt Vonnegut is considered a master of contemporary American literature. Slaughterhouse-Five is one of the world's great anti-war books, centering on the infamous firebombing of Dresden.

During its meeting on Friday, May 21, books were chosen for next year, and Judy Pereira is the new organizer for the book group.

The Book Lovers will take a summer hiatus, and begin its fall schedule on Friday, September 17, with Tom Celandine hosting a poetry evening. Until then, refresh your recollection, and find a poem that meant something special to you once upon a time, or more recently.

Explore... Díscover... Relax... Reflect... Share... Play I Gatherir

Murray Grove Annual Gathering -Friday, June 11 - Sunday, June 13

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74 off the Garden Sate Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday June 11 to Sunday June 13 - Two Nights. 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 gathering 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 will have a nature/bird walk, some intergenerational games, and Sunday will include a short service in the Thomas Potter Memorial chapel. There is also a labyrinth to experience. The pool will not be available this year. 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, lunch and a portion of the dinners. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids per night, or \$40 per adult for the weekend. A donation of \$10 is requested if you are just coming up for the day. 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 weekend please consider coming up on Friday for the cookout or Saturday for a portion of the day.

During the gathering 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 Sundays or contact Karen York.

Sometimes I sits and thinks, and sometimes I just sits. Satchel Paige (1906 - 1982)

Children's Religious Education

Summer is almost here and so it's time to thank the wonderful teachers who have helped to make the Children's RE school year a success: Katy Cardwell, Michael Cluff, Jim Gentile, Kim Peters, Joe Terrazzini, Paul Utts and Karen York. Thank you all so much for your hard work and dedication to our program! We are so lucky to have you in our classes!

Our students in 5-12th grade have been working diligently on their preparations for the June 6 service: RE Sunday and Flower Communion. Many thanks to Melissa Hutchison for her leadership with the group through May to bring help the story of "*Old Turtle and the Broken Truth*" to life.

The younger students have been wrapping up the Spirit of Adventure curriculum with a few special guests; Kelly Miller presented a juggling demonstration in conjunction with a lesson on famous Universalist PT Barnum, and Lee Campbell helped the group appreciate our interdependent web of life by planting the UUCSJS vegetable garden with the kids on May 23. Congregants are welcome to take home herbs and vegetables from the garden when they ripen this summer.

Our annual gathering at Murray Grove will take place June 11-13 this year, and since many of our teachers will be attending for the weekend, our Summer Sessions will officially begin on June 13. Activities throughout June will be:

June 13 - Kyle Jones - Games

June 20 - Kim Peters - Nature Walk

June 27 - David Shaman - Drumming

-- Heidi Jannsch, Director of Religious Education

UUMAC -Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community 2010 July 18-24, 2010 DeSales University Center Valley, PA

Since 1982, UUMAC has been offering UUs in the Joseph Priestley District a vibrant multigenerational community experience. Our theme this year is "Global Citizenship: UU's and the United Nations", featuring Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the UU United Nations Office. Daily worship will be led by Rev. Addae Ama Kraba of First Unitarian Church of Southold, Long Island. We offer a half-day children's program, an array of workshops for youth and adults, river rafting, contra dancing, music, games and more. Brochure and registration forms are available at www.uumac.org and registration is now open.

Note: if you have questions about this family-friendly experience, talk to Karen York. She and Brian have been there multiple times and can give you the scoop.

Too many old folks?

Here are some thoughts from Andrew Mertz, JPD Director of Youth and Young Adult Programs:

I hope there is no surprise here, but to effectively minister to young adults you need to have an excellent ministry in general. There is some good evidence out there that shows if you have a sizable number of young adults active in your congregational life, then you have a very healthy church. It's like an indicator species.

In biology there are indicator species, which, if present, indicate a healthy and well balanced ecosystem. For instance, if you find a caddisfly near a stream, they indicate that there is enough nutrients in the soil, air flow, insects, and moisture. It also indicates there is little pollution in the water, drought or erosion from loss of plant life, and so on. While other species can successfully adapt and still survive during hard times like when there is less sun, too much rain, a disease or whatever, the indicator species can't. It is the most fragile type of organism in the ecosystem, and its presence is a good sign.

Now does that mean that if you do not have Young Adults in your worship, adult education, leadership, or social action that you are a terrible ecosystem? No. Just like the caddisfly, the lack of just one of the important components of church can prevent the species from taking hold. Sure, an insect or young adult can visit from time to time, but for them to stick around and make it their home conditions need to be right. There are always unique needs different cultures have, but the vast majority of people come to church for the same reasons. Community, worship, deepening spiritual lives, and service are just some of the big ones. If there is a lack of indicator species in your congregation, consider assessing the areas of ministry that you offer.



Youth group of two just as worthy as 18

from uua InterConnections:

Tandi Rogers Koerger, program specialist for the UUA's Pacific Northwest District, writes on her blog, "Putting Religious Education in its Place," about the year when there were only two youth in her congregation's youth group. The previous year there had been 18, but 16 graduated.

In a piece titled "Cheese Fries," she says "Our congregation made a bold decision. They funded the two-member youth group as if they were the rowdy 18." Koerger said she and the youth hung out that year, doing things like debating the UU appropriateness of current musical lyrics, and eating cheese fries at Denny's.

Koerger says both youth are now in their 20s.

"They look back at our youth group year with just the three of us and are grateful that the congregation saw them as legitimate and worthy of the effort. Religious education is implicit in the decisions we make as a congregation, including fiscal decisions. Religious education is nestled in those leaps of faith and small actions that say, 'We see you. We need you. You are worthy."

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

The June calendar of the Social Justice Committee (SJC) features several important events. First up, the 9th Annual Trans-Health Conference (a program of the Mazzoni Center), will be held June 3-5 at the Philadelphia Convention Center where we will host the UU information table with 10 other supporting congregations. Focus of this unique conference is promoting transgender health and wellness in mind, body, spirit, and community; the event is free and open to the public. SJC will also be active at Mullica Township Green Day on June 5 and Cape May Harbor Fest (by invitation) on June 19, offering eco-friendly merchandise for sale and engaging in conversations with members of the larger community. Volunteers who would like to work as a team at the tables for any of these three June events are most welcome. You don't need to be an SJC member to help out; get in touch with Angela Jones.

Members of the congregation surely have noticed the **letterwriting campaign** going on at the Social Justice table for the past several weeks, urging us to contact our State representatives regarding a new bill in the legislature "*that would drastically change the way New Jersey regulates affordable housing development*" and undo past progress, according to the Economic Justice Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey (UULMNJ). The Task Force has crafted a "**Position Paper on Affordable Housing**" to explain the issues in detail; you can access it at <u>www.uulmnj.org</u>. If you haven't yet called or written your representatives, it's not too late. Updates on this UULMNJ effort also can be found online.

On Sunday, June 13 we will be fortunate to have **Rohn Hein** of the **UULMNJ** on hand to deliver the sermon on "Affordable Housing." The Board has approved raising funds for the UULMNJ by means of a special collection that day. As stated on their website, the purpose of the organization—a statewide network of the 21 New Jersey UU congregations—is "to provide a comprehensive structure, network and resources to empower the moral voice and actions of our Unitarian Universalist principles and values in the public arena ... through Education, Research, Advocacy, Witness, and Service." We hope that our congregation can contribute generously to reach at least the equivalent of \$5 per member for this important voice on social justice issues in New Jersey.

On a lighter note, and lest you think SJC only concerns itself with heavy matters, here's a playful side: *Sure we're for ethical eating; how about a little ethical drinking, too?* We plan to show our support for local grape-growing in South Jersey (and just plain enjoy ourselves!) with **a tour and winetasting at Bellview Winery** on **Saturday, July 24 at 2 p.m.** Located in Landisville, near Vineland, we have arranged van transportation from the UU Center for 14 people on a firstcome, first-served basis at \$10 each round-trip. Entrance fee is \$8 per person, and you can order snacks/lunch from the Bellview Winery menu or you may bring your own. Contact Angela Jones if you're interested and/or for van reservations, time schedule to be available soon. For the month of June the Social Justice theme will be "**Home Gardening and Buying Local**." Stop by the SJ table in the lobby throughout the month to see what new information we may have available on these timely subjects. And by the way, if you have a question and the person at the table can't answer it, feel free to write it down and we'll try to get an answer from "behind-the-scenes" experts!

The Social Justice Committee normally meets on the first Sunday of the month, but because of the Annual Meeting on June 6, the next SJC meeting will be Sun., June 13, starting (please note!) exactly at 11:30 a.m. Chairman Angela Jones urges all SJC members to be there for a discussion and vote on our "Umbrella Issue" commitment. Last month's Minutes record that of the two main umbrella issues considered-Peace, and Sustainability & Environmental Justice-the latter was deemed more consistent with current SJC interests, such as Ethical Eating and Climate Change. Attendance was low at that May 2 meeting, and therefore, although it was agreed that the entire committee should vote on the choice of an umbrella issue, such a vote was postponed until the next meeting. At the June 13 meeting Angela will be proposing "Sustainability & Environmental Justice" as the overarching issue that would best serve the congregation. Plan to attend to share your own ideas and opinions; this is especially important because the issue we choose may be placed before the congregation as a whole. Regarding the congregation-wide mission, UUCSJS can look forward to an upcoming three-hour workshop on October 3 to be led by Reverend Om Prakash, "Doing the Best Work in the Community for Real Change."

In early May the **2nd Annual Native Plants Swap & Sale** was enthusiastically patronized and is now well on the way to becoming a permanent fixture on the fund-raising calendar thanks to Jesse Connor's tireless planning and the work of Lee Campbell, Barbara Fiedler, Michele Bellinger and Helene Gentile, among others. Also in May, Angela Jones with Kyle's strong support took on early morning table set-ups and erected attractive displays on behalf of UUCSJS at the **ACUA Earth Day Festival** and **Wheaton Village Eco-Fair**. SJC hosted an evening with **Reverend Bob Moore** of the Princeton-based Coalition for Peace Action on May 12, sparsely attended but meaningful to those who were there to discuss with him where things stand in 2010 for voters deeply concerned about peace initiatives and the continuing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Other topics likely to appear on the June 13 meeting agenda include: UUA Peacemaking Initiative for the June, 2010 GA in Boston; participation in this year's Smithville July 4th parade; possible PowerPoint presentation on animal rights by Richard Grzywinski; Water Weekend on September 12; and a jazz concert on September 19 to be co-sponsored with Coalition for Peace and Justice. Everyone is invited to attend meetings of the Social Justice Committee. "We would love to have any interested people attend—you do not have to be a Social Justice member," repeats Angela Jones. We hope you will join us; there's a lot going on!

- Judy Pereira

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister vacant

Music Director & Sunday Service Coordinator Barbara Miller music@uucsjs.org

Director of Religious Education & Staff Coordinator Heidi Jannsch dre@uucsjs.org

> Church Administrator vacant office@uucsjs.org

Newsletter Mariann Maene newsletter@uucsjs.org

Electronic Communications Sharon Gray uucsjs@yahoo.com

Board of Trustees 2009-10 Debbi Dagavarian, Ruth Eaves, Jim Gentile, Primrose Reeves, John Searight, Karen York, Karen Zindell

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