NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 12, Issue 09

September 2010

September 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.

September 5	Common Ground Uncommon Guest speaker Dr. Nancy Ashton Using the example of a group on abortion she participated in, Dr. Nancy Ashton will share her thoughts on seeking common ground when people very much disagree. Our families, communities, nations, and the world benefit when we can work together beyond divisive ideas; indeed, the future may depend on this.
September 12 Annual Family Picnic 11:30 – 3:30	Ingathering and Water Communion Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski Mark your calendars for the traditional Water Communion Service on September 12. Our water communion Service this year will be preceded by a short play entitled "I, Water." It is an original first-person account of the history of water written specifically for our UUCSJS congregation. It will use movement, dramatic expression, music, song, poetry, storytelling, and, most importantly, a mural painted by our RE students representing key elements of the story. Remember to bring a small amount of water from your travels or waters having some special meaning to you. We will combine that water with waters from previous years. This tradition has various meanings to UU congregations: some see it as a symbolic welcoming back from summer vacation travels, others as a welcoming to new members, others as a reaffirmation of our sixth principle using water as the symbol of interconnectedness, and still others as a representation of the melding of past with present.
September 19 Congregational Meeting 11:30	Sharing the Flame Guest speaker Joan Priest 3,300 Unitarian Universalists in the Joseph Priestley District come together three times a year to light the flame for others outside their own congregations so that they may have strong congregations and advance Unitarian Universalism. This Sunday UUSJS is celebrating Chalice Lighter Sunday, a special time to focus on this program within the Joseph Priestley District that has helped eight congregations numbering over 750,000 members to get started and to grow. Joan Priest, Director of Development for the JPD, will visit our pulpit and bring a sermon that focuses on sharing our gifts.
September 26	Hope Needs Only Hands and Hearts Guest speaker Marc Adams Marc Adams will speak from his experiences growing up as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister. In an effort to save his own life, he decided at age 16 to rebel against his parents and attend Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he thought he could find a way to change his behavior from homosexual to heterosexual. His experience there changed his life and jump started his journey to self acceptance and personal freedom. He bridges the serious discussion with humor and all-encompassing human compassion.
Sunday Sept. 19th – 11:30 A.M. Are we ready to enter into a search for a minister? This is a follow-up to our July 25th congregational discussion with Rev. Libby Smith exploring the possibility of professional ministry. Notes on that meeting can be found on our website by visiting this link: http://tinyurl.com/LibbySmithWorkshop	

Our guest speakers this month....



Joan W. Priest, after retiring from a career with a regional environmental organization, joined the staff of the Joseph Priestley District of the UUA as Director of Development. She counsels congregations on Stewardship and helped to launch Chalice Keepers, the JPD Endowment Fund for Growth, which now numbers over 120 member donors and is valued at more than \$110,000. Chalice Keepers recently awarded its first grant of \$3,000 to seven congregations in central Pennsylvania to help them hold a combined service for Association Sunday with UUA President Peter Morales. A longtime member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Wilmington, DE, Joan serves on the Wilmington Growth Committee that helped the UUCSJS to get started and continues to act as our Sponsoring Congregation. Joan is thrilled to join us this Sunday and reconnect with many dear and generous friends in our beautiful green church.

The message Joan is delivering is from a sermon entitled *Sharing the Grain*, created by Mark Bernstein, who was recently promoted to a new position as the Regional Growth Development Consultant Central East Region of the UUA.

Marc Adams is the author of nine books including *The Preacher's Son* and *Do's and Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right.* He is a widely accepted authority on subjects ranging from fundamentalism, the religious right, gay civil rights as well as his ground breaking work with his own nonprofit, HeartStrong - a social justice organization providing hope and help to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students who are persecuted in religious educational institutions.

To learn more about Heartstrong, visit <u>http://www.heartstrong.org</u>

Marc Adams' latest book is *It's Not About You: Understanding Coming Out & Self-Acceptance*. It's a practical guide for family and friends of those coming out as well as teachers, social workers and counselors. The book includes a guide for those coming out on how to live life courageously, confidently and consistently.

"I was inspired to write this book after spending the past 14 years interacting with other gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and discussing coming out experiences and the disclosure reactions of their families and friends," Marc says. "While the past decade has brought a little improvement in disclosure reactions, there is a serious need for a modern perspective to guide those on the receiving end of a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person's honesty as well as encouragement for those taking the step to live their lives honestly."

"The purpose of this book is to educate those interacting with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people not only about the impact of their reactions but to provide a path to correcting an inappropriate reaction," he continues. "Coming out is a gift of honesty and this book lights the way to accepting that gift and maintaining relationships based on love. Readers at every place in their journey will find something new here."

Singing Meditation Sunday, October 3, 2 - 5 pm Princeton, NJ

The workshop, co-sponsored by Fellowship in Prayer, is open to anyone interested in participating in Singing Meditation. This Princeton session will include toning, a short introductory lecture, a taste of sacred circle dancing, and conclude with a Singing Meditation session.

Singing Meditation is an interfaith spiritual practice and, accordingly, the songs for this session will be drawn from a variety of spiritual paths. The 2 -5 minute intervals of silence will be undirected and may be used for contemplation, meditation or prayer. You do not need to be an experienced singer, able to read music -- or a Unitarian Universalist – to participate in this joyful workshop!

Cost is \$20 at the door, but \$15 if pre-registered by September 30 (by phone 609-924-6863 and ask for Linda Baumann, or by email to lbaumann@fellowshipinprayer.org with "singing meditation" in your header.)

A follow up session is planned for Wednesday, February 9 7 pm at Fellowship In Prayer and plans are in the works for a spring weekend at Murray Grove.

Note: Barbara Miller is planning to attend, so contact her if you are interested in going and/or carpooling.

As long as we live, there is never enough singing.

~Martin Luther

A song will outlive all sermons in the memory. ~*Henry Giles*

Life is a song. Love is the music. ~ *Author Unknown*

The only thing better than singing is more singing.

~ Ella Fitzgerald

You've gotta' dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt. Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth.

~ William W. Purkey

Sing out loud in the car even, or especially, if it embarrasses your children.

~ Marilyn Penland

Second in a Series...

My Ministerial Journey

by Richard J. Grzywinski, UUCSJS Member

I hope you enjoyed my last report in the previous newsletter. Did it give you a good idea of the ministerial formation process?

To meet the formal education required for a minister, the Meadville Lombard Educational Model requires 30 credits to complete. These are obtained through class (traditional college graduate level courses -16 credits), praxis (or field studies -11 credits), and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE -3 credits).

In my last report, I told you about the three courses I had already completed. Each one counts for 1 credit, so 3 down and how many to go? Well, because I'll need 16 class credits to complete the curriculum, that means I'll need about 13 more classes to be completed between now and June 2013.

I am going to have a very busy Fall season, but I'll be doing what I love so that's not too bad, huh? Starting in about two weeks, I am taking two classroom courses – both on-line using state-ofthe art interactive computer technology: MoodleTM and LiveText©. I am excited to see how this works out.

One course is offered by Meadville Lombard and is entitled "Hebrew Scriptures." It is taught by the Rev. Dr. Nicole Wilkinson Duran of Villanova University. This course is described as the study of:

- the library of laws, narrative, and poetry that is known as the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament and
- the variety of interpretive strategies that have been used to understand that library.

We will discuss the pre-history of the documents, the influence of oral tradition, and the texts' tantalizing relationship to ritual, myth, and history. Students will become familiar with critical methods of reading and converse with the great diversity of perspectives on the text that we find in scholarship, in the church, and in popular culture.

The second course is offered by the Starr King School for the Ministry (the only other UU Seminary) and is entitled "Buddhist Traditions of South Asia." This course introduces the Buddhist traditions as they originated in India and developed throughout South and Southeast Asia. I chose the latter because Alan Oliver and Cynthia Grzywinski have heightened my interest in the Buddhist philosophy. Cynthia will be speaking on Buddhism at UUCSJS on November 14.

Also this Fall, I am beginning my praxis. Overall, praxis requires 11 credits in Field Studies, i.e., Community (3 credits), Congregational (4 credits), and Leadership (4 credits). I will complete my Community studies portion first, by working at least eight hours per week as a volunteer at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission under the supervision of Rev. Steve Bybee. This work will continue for 12 weeks in the Fall and will continue again for 12 weeks in the Spring. While doing this field work, I am required to develop and meet goals set by Rev. Bybee, complete certain readings, participate in weekly internet and phone meetings, prepare reports and memos, and review videotaped assessments by my Meadville Lombard professors.

According to Meadville Lombard, the above Community Studies Sequence provides students with the opportunity to engage in integrated practice and reflection in their theological education, thus enriching their academic study and their ministerial formation and identity.

Also this Fall, I will be working under a "Teaching Pastor" who has volunteered to mentor me along my journey. Rev. Kent Matthies of the Unitarian Society of Germantown, a UU congregation in Philadelphia, has offered to fulfill that role and I am looking forward to meeting him soon.

Lastly, I am completing the process to become an "aspirant" pursuant to UUA requirements for the ministry. I will be meeting with the Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, the District Executive of our Joseph Priestley District, who will conduct the first interview for the process on September 2.

By the time you read this, you may have attended the August 29 service that constitutes my report to the congregation as your delegate to GA, and I will already have attended a required 3-day symposium beginning August 30 in Chicago planning my upcoming work. Also, on September 12, we will be doing the Water Communion Service based upon the play entitled "I, Water" that I wrote for my class in "Art & Aesthetics in the Ministry" last Spring. On November 7, I will be delivering my "Sermon on the Rock," the core of which was prepared in my "Preaching" class.

So, it will be a busy fall, but a most rewarding one for me.

MURRAY GROVE HOMECOMING 2010:

A Mid-Atlantic UU Celebration of the 240th Anniversary of John Murray's First Universalist Sermon in America

Friday Sept. 24, 7:30 pm: Rev. Michael Dowd, America's Evolutionary Evangelist, will present an oral/ musical/ multimedia slideshow on "Science and the Sacred: An Inspiring Vision of Humanity's Future."

Saturday, September 25, 2010, 10 am-4 pm: Rev. Michael Dowd on "Passion for Life: Science, Evolution and Inspiration." Plus, an intergenerational performance of "Oh Jonah" by UUCMC; Music; Workshops; Fellowship; Fun; MNY Store. Under the big white tent!

Saturday Sept. 25, 6-9 pm: "Healthy People, Healthy Planet: How Our Food Choices Affect Our Health, Happiness, and the Future of Our Planet" – View and discuss the film "Diet for a New America" and enjoy a gourmet vegetarian meal (\$20).

Sunday Sept. 26 - 10 am: Sunday service in the historic Potter Chapel with Lincroft's Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst. Stay the night Friday and/or Saturday: \$40 B&B per night! Or a weekend package for \$100!

REFLECTIONS by President Jim Gentile

A special Congregational Meeting will be held on September 19, 2010. The agenda is whether the Congregation should activate a Ministerial Search Committee to begin its process. I thought it would be helpful to discuss those portions of the Congregation's By-Laws which govern this process.

Our By-Laws distinguish between a "called minister" and a "contract minister." The "called minister" is called by the Congregation, and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Congregation. A "contract minister" is one who serves for a specific period of time as defined by an Agreement negotiated with the Board of Trustees. Each of the three ministers who have served the Congregation since its founding have been contract ministers.

When there is a vacancy in in the position of minister, it is anticipated that the Ministerial Search Committee will be activated. The Search Committee identifies, screens and brings forward candidates for consideration for the position of Minister. In 2008, the Congregation was searching for a contract minister, and the Search Committee made a recommendation to the Board after it completed its search. The Board accepted the recommendation and then negotiated the Agreement.

The Candidates for the Search Committee are nominated by the Nominations Committee. The slate of nominees then is placed before the Congregation, which elects the members of the Search Committee. The By-Laws provide that the Search Committee consists of five members: one member of the Board of Trustees and four other members of the Congregation.

The issue of contracting with a minister is a touchstone issue for many members of our Congregation. It is important that all members be offered an opportunity to be heard. However, a Congregational meeting does not offer a particularly effective forum of discussion, given the time constraints under which we all operate. Accordingly, I urge all of us, over the next few weeks, to begin to discuss this issue among ourselves as we slug down coffee after services.

In addition, for those members of the congregation who are inclined to offer detailed comments or to engage in spirited discussion, Mariann Maene has created a "Ministry Page" in the Members Only Section of the Congregation's website (many thanks to Mariann for setting this up). At the Ministry Page, members can view a video of Libby Smith's July 25 Message on being a Part Time Minister (many thanks to Michael Cluff for recording the message). In the alternative, if you (like me) prefer hearing voices in your head, you can click on the written version of Libby's Message and read it. In addition, the notes from the workshop held after the July 25 Service are on the Page under the title "Summary of Workshop" (many thanks to Karen York for creating this document from the flipcharts generated at the workshop), so you can review the topics discussed and comments made by the Congregation during the workshop. You also will find in this Section of the website that you can make written comments upon the topic of seeking out a minister, can review the comments made by others on this issue, and engage in a "Point-Counterpoint" if you are so inclined.* It is hoped that this will provide the Congregation with helpful insights into what individual members are thinking and feeling as we form our individual opinions before voting on September 19.

Take care and please sign up to make the Coffee.

Jim

* To access this Page, go to

http://members.uucsjs.org, click on "Ministry" on the left sidebar (down near the bottom), login if necessary, and you will open to the Ministry page. Review the materials there and scroll down to read any responses or make your own. If you need help with the password please let me, or any other member of the Board, know and we will be happy to help you out.

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Jim Gentile (12), President Debbi Dagavarian (12), Vice President Karen Zindell (11), Secretary Primrose Reeves (12), Treasurer John Searight (11), Member at Large Joe Terrazzini (12), Member at Large Karen York (11), Member at Large

year given is end of term, e.g. 11 means thru 6/30/2011

Board Meeting Highlights August 10, 2010

The Board approved the hiring of Kathleen Hartnett, part-time Bookkeeper.

The Board also discussed plans for the upcoming Congregational Meeting, changes to the Caring Committee scope, charge, and composition, and Personnel policy as regards vacation time.

The full text of the Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed at our Members Only webspace, <u>members.uucsjs.org</u>. Click on Board Agenda/Minutes on the left.

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!

Next Board meeting – Tuesday, October 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the UU Center, downstairs lounge.

Children's Religious Education

It's Almost Time to Ring in the new RE school year!

Last month, our children began working on the September 12 Water Communion Service. Some of our students displayed their artistic talents by creating a mural for the service with Bob Baum and others began rehearsing for the service itself. Don't miss the fruit of their efforts at the service on September 12. *Remember to bring a small amount of water that has some meaning to your family to be added to our congregation's water during this all-ages service.*

Our Religious Education classes will begin September 19. To begin the year Chris Holaday will be leading the teens in *Truth and Meaning*, Paul Utts will lead our 6-8th graders in *You, the Creator*, Kim Peters will lead a *Stepping Stone Year* for students in 3-5th grades, and Karen York will run *SpiritPlay* with the Pre-K -2nd grade students. Below are brief descriptions of this coming year's curriculum.

Spiritplay is a storytelling religious education program. During each class, the storyteller relates a story while presenting visual cues (small objects, pictures) to the children as a way to help the children remember the story. The stories include tales from many different faith traditions, and also introduce the children to some our Unitarian Universalist ancestors.

A Stepping Stone Year draws upon science, myth, Unitarian and Universalist traditions, and other secular and spiritual resources to support children in their inquiry into these important religious questions: How did the world begin? How did life begin? How did I begin? What is right and wrong? Why do people die?

You the Creator is an activity-based program of creative empowerment. Its basic message is expressed in its title: You, the participant, are, can be, and should be one of the creative forces in the world. Students engage in creative activities like role-plays, continuums, drawing, photography, and sculpting.

Truth and Meaning poses questions about the major Western religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) commonly asked by our youth. The material helps youth find meaningful answers to these questions, enables them to apply the truths about these religions to our own Unitarian Universalist history and modern practice; and helps them apply this knowledge and relevance to their own beliefs.

As always, your help is needed to create a strong Religious Education program. Please feel free to contact me to find out how you can assist in (*and benefit from!*) Children's Religious Education.

-- Heidi Jannsch, Director of Religious Education

2nd Annual UU Family Picnic Sunday, September 12th after the water service

The FUUN Committee will supply Burgers, Dogs, Sodas, and Ice. Please bring a dish to share!

Oh Yemaya!

Celebrate African Yemaya, Mother of the Sea

September 5, 4 pm

Yemaya is the compassionate mother who takes all of our prayers, sorrows and woes away. She heals us with Her saltwater womb. She is the one who helps with our children, our home, and having babies. She is the African Goddess of the Ocean and we will be drumming and chanting and meditating to help heal the ocean and all the waters of the earth.

We will also ask for healing around mothering... healing with our own mothers and assistance for those of us who are mothers. Our magick will be sent to the Oceans and the Mothers of the world.

Please wear water colors and bring your drum and/or rattle. If you have neither, you can bring a blue candle to carry.

We will be going to Corson's Inlet: Go all the way to the south end of Ocean City, follow Ocean Drive toward Strathmere. A few miles down the road you will see a parking lot and boat ramp on your left (before the bridge); pull in the lot and park. We can either go out and around or through the dunes. The bay and the ocean meet here. It is a very feel-good spot.

We will meet in the parking lot and smudge and then do a group breathing meditation, after which we will begin our procession. Barbara Coloe will teach us the Yemaya chant. When we get to our spot we will do the Ho'oponopono chant for healing of the waters and then drum and sing and dance. Bring a glass jar if you would like to take some ocean water home for your altars.

Silver Queen Corn – locally grown!

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!

Got Stuff?



We are now collecting donation information for the UUCSJS's Sixth Annual Service Auction! Donation forms are available in your Order of Service and by email. They will also be available in October at the Auction Table at the back of the sanctuary. What can you donate? Well, of course, "stuff" (new or gently-used only), services (surfing lessons, resume writing, repair work around the house, etc.), dinners and events (make your own pizza party, a dinner at your home, a trip to the movies for kids, etc.), or handmade items and baked goods (pies, vegan items, pesto, handcrafted earrings and pottery, etc.).

When is this big event? Saturday, November 13.

We have three types of auctions:

- A silent auction for most of the items, services, dinners/events and handmade goodies. For these, you put your name on a sheet of paper with your bid.
- A **chance auction**, for which you buy tickets and bid on items by placing a ticket (or more, depending on how much you want to increase your chances of winning!) in a cup by the item.
- The **live auction**, with exciting bidding on prizes to fit almost anyone's budget.

Remember to donate! And don't wait another week to fill out a donation form! Do it NOW!

Book Club Resumes with "Poetry Night" in September

Book lovers will be happy to hear that monthly meetings resume on **Friday evening**, **September 17 at 7 pm in the UU Center library**. First on the schedule is a chance to share a poem or two in a congenial setting hosted by Tom Celandine, who will offer some sage introductory comments. So, find that poem that meant something special to you once upon a time or enrich our knowledge with a new discovery. Or, feel free to read a couple of your own compositions. Nibbles will be served.

Join us *next* on **October 15** for a discussion of *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay, led by Helene Gentile. This novel begins our trifecta of books thematically tied to WWII.

Set in Paris, *Sarah's Key* interweaves the story of the 1942 "Vel d'Hiv" roundup of the Jews as seen through the eyes of 11-yearold Sarah with the perceptions of journalist Julia Jarmond in 2002 as she researches that infamous event 60 years later. The novel has been called both "haunting" and "riveting."

On **November 19** Jesse Connor leads our discussion of *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka. Described as "elegant in its simplicity," even "incandescent," the story follows the vicissitudes of a Japanese-American family in 1942 as they experience life in an internment camp and encounter firsthand terrible ramifications of WWII-era policy towards American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

The UU Book Club meets on the third Friday evening each month except December, when we select a special date for participatory holiday play reading and enjoy holiday eats. Find a complete list of this year's book club selections on the information table in the lobby of the UU Center. Add your name to our email list by contacting Judy Pereira.

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

MARGARET CIRCLE: With summer coming to an end and fall approaching, it's time for the Margaret Circle to join together in avid discussions. Our first meeting of the fall season will be on Thursday, September 2, at 1 pm in the Center Library.

Kathryn Kelly will lead the group in a discussion of "What the Japanese art of wabi sabi taught me." *Life's not perfect, and that's fine with me*. This subject was first given to us by Peg Gillies. Handouts will be available. Please RSVP to either Kathryn Kelley or Arlene Yacka, Circle Leader, so we can plan refreshments.

OLYMPIA CIRCLE: Olympia Circle will resume on Thursday evening, September 9 at 7 pm in the library. The topic for discussion will be "how I spent my summer". We will also be discussing topic ideas for the upcoming year. Each month a different topic is discussed, so you can "jump in and out" as your schedule allows. Please let Marsha Hannah, Circle Leader, know if you plan to attend so we will be sure to have enough dessert for everyone. **WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY CIRCLE:** This circle will meet on Thursday evening, September 16, at 7pm in the library. Please note that we will now meet on the third Thursday instead of the fourth, as we did last year. Our discussion will focus on Stress, the title of Chapter Seven of Elizabeth Lesser's book, *A Seeker's Guide*. If you would like to attend or have any questions please contact Kathryn Kelley, Circle Leader.

All of these women's meetings are open to all women of the congregation; you do not need to be a member. Guests are always welcome.

We usually open these meetings by lighting the chalice and have a time of checking in with each other; sharing significant happenings in our lives since the last meeting. There is always good food, enlightening discussions and loving fellowship. Please come out and join us.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

This has been a very busy and productive summer!

As we participated in community events, you may have even noticed our celebrity Bag Monster in the newspaper! The ACUA Plastic Free Ocean event was a big hit and drew much needed attention to the disgraceful amount of plastics in our waters. We were thrilled to be there and to be able to help bring environmental awareness to people in the community with our table display and literature. Our next tabling event is Sunday, September 19 at the Hammonton Green Day festival. Hope to see you there.

We have also started meeting with a group of local residents who are concerned about environmental issues and who wish to move our nation toward the use of renewable energy and away from fossil fuels. They are very committed to engaging in local environmental justice issues and have already started protesting the development of a coal plant in Linden, NJ by writing letters to local papers, and meeting with political representatives and local city council members. This group could use all the help we can get and welcome anyone interested to attend our monthly meetings here at the UU Center. Keep your eyes open for September's meeting date!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Thursday, September 30 at 7 pm. We will be showing a short film called *Beyond Oil*. This will be followed by a discussion which will likely be led by a speaker from the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, a statewide coalition of 40 groups working to achieve environmental justice in New Jersey. Stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, don't forget to visit our Social Justice table. We have complimentary magnets which have phone numbers to call your representatives, petitions against mountaintop removal for coal, postcards to Governor Christie opposing the coal plant in Linden, and plenty of videos for loan -- including my new favorite, *Burning the Future: Coal In America*.

Check out our new Facebook page at: http://tinyurl.com/SocialJusticeFacebook

Starting now, we will be meeting every other month instead of every month. The next meeting will be Sunday, October 3.

- Angela Jones, Social Justice Chair

Fall Celebration Dinner Monday, September 27, 6:30 pm Careme's The Academy of Culinary Arts Atlantic Cape Community College

Adult: \$30, Student/Low Income: \$20

Honored Guest: Linda Long, *Great Chefs Cook Vegan* Dinner music by Adelante, an eclectic fusion of jazz and classical.

See Angela Jones for more information

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult RE has been very quiet over the summer, but we are planning several interesting courses for the fall. Charlie Roberts will be teaching a day long **workshop on Reiki** that is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2010. Look for information on this exciting workshop in an upcoming weekly order of service. There will be a charge for this workshop, but Charlie will donate all proceeds above his expenses to the congregation.

We are planning a 5 session workshop on Voluntary Simplicity that will begin in late September or early October. We will be using a book written by the Northwest Earth Institute. They describe simplicity as "simplicity can be viewed as a movement, a practice, and for many, a purposeful way of living in a complex, consumptive society. This course explores the practice of simplicity." "The course is comprised of five sessions, designed for weekly discussion. Each session includes readings, possible questions for the group, a 'putting into practice' list of suggested actions and 'further readings and resources.' The readings are intended to invoke meaningful discussion. Whether you agree or disagree, you will have an opportunity to clarify your views and values without the need to reach consensus." Each participant will need to purchase the book at a cost of \$20. There will be no other cost for this series of workshops.

The third program we are planning this fall is **"Evensong"**. Evensong has been a popular program in the past and we are pleased to be offering it again this fall. Evensong is an 8 week program that is held in people's homes in each geographic location (Cape May County, Ocean County, and Atlantic County and if we get enough interest, Cumberland County). "Listening is at the heart of Evensong. Evensong invites people to speak to a depth and essence of their response to questions rather than listing quick responses." There will be more information on each of these programs in upcoming weekly announcements and in the Midweek announcements.

The next meeting of the Adult RE committee will be on Sunday September 5, 2010 at 11:30. If you would like to become a member or are just interested in finding out more about Adult RE please feel free to attend the meeting.

Reiki Level I Training Saturday, September 25 - 9:30 am - 4 pm

Reiki is becoming one of the fastest growing of all the alternative healing modalities. Reiki is very simple to use and anyone can learn. It can be used to help yourself as well as others. Over a million people in the United States have acquired the ability to heal themselves and their loved ones using this Japanese hands-on technique. Class will be held in the Sanctuary. Proceeds will be donated to the UU. For more information and/or to register for this class, contact Charlie Roberts – he's in the member directory.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister vacant

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