



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 12, Issue 11

November 2010

November 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>November 7</p>	<p>Sermon on the Rock <i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i> How can we find solace at times of sorrow and despair - those “dark moments of the soul”? Can the “Creation Story” as told by modern-day scientists offer inspiration and a possible answer? Shall we pause a moment and reconsider the extraordinary events that created “us”? Perhaps the Christian Bible provides a clue... must we really be “born again?”</p>
<p>November 14</p>	<p>Adventures of a UU Buddhist <i>Lay speaker Cynthia Grzywinski</i> Cynthia will discuss how Buddhism has affected her spiritual and emotional growth by exploring Buddhism and many of its themes manifested in literature and art. She will describe how drawing on and applying some of Buddhism’s basic facets such as mindfulness (aka “being in the moment”), acceptance of impermanence, seeking one’s own truth, universal compassion, and meditation have helped her more fully experience the wonder of life.</p>
<p>November 21</p>	<p>Adventures of African American Evangelical Universalist <i>Lay speaker Stephanie Garrett</i> Our UU principles speak of inclusiveness but our denomination remains predominately Anglo Saxon, well-educated, and middle class. Come and hear of the path of one African American UU, her evangelical roots in Universalism, and lessons learned as a person of color in our denomination.</p>
<p>November 28</p>	<p>A Remedy for the Hereditary Allergy to Religion <i>Guest minister Rev. Nate Walker</i> Reverend Nate Walker of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia will be explaining how his experience of a UU fellowship in Northern Nevada became the remedy for his allergy to religion, an allergy that was passed onto him for generations. The sermon will serve as a call to the UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore to continue to be the remedy: to welcome those who long to heal their religious past, to collaborate with interfaith leaders to counter the extremism portrayed by the media, to continue to renounce fanaticism, to proclaim reason, to cultivate wonder, to promote religious freedom, and most of all to continue to stand together on the side of love.</p>

UUCSJS Annual Auction
November 13, 2010
6:30 pm
Be There or Be Square!!!



Our guest speakers this month....

The **Reverend Nathan C. Walker** was introduced to Unitarian Universalism in 1992 when his grandma, Mary Coffey, took him to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada. Reverend Nate dually ordained by the Fourth Universalist Society and the Unitarian Church of Staten Island in New York City. In May 2007, Reverend Nate was called by the members of our congregation to serve as the Spiritual Leader and Executive Director of our historic church. He is in his 12 year of serving congregations in various capacities.

Reverend Nate is the co-editor with Dr. Ed Greenlee of the forthcoming book *Whose God Rules a Theolegal Nation?* with foreword by Tony Blair. He received his Master of Education and Master of Arts degrees from Columbia University, where he is currently a doctoral student. He also graduated from Union Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. As a higher education professional he worked as an Advisor at New York University and taught community college in Northern Nevada and in South Lake Tahoe. His leadership has been featured by AirAmerica, Mother Jones, the New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education. To learn more about Reverend Nate's advocacy, research and ministry please visit his website at www.NateWalker.org.

At the 2009 General Assembly, Reverend Nate delivered the 23rd Annual John Murray Distinguished Lecture; was invited by the Joseph Priestley District to deliver his sermon on the death penalty entitled A Letter to My Murderer; and served on a finance panel entitled Abundance in Troubled Times.

Stephanie Garrett, a charter member of UUCSJS, is past president of the UU Congregation of Charlotte County Florida, and the current President of the SW Florida Cluster of UU Congregations. Retired from Federal Service, she divides her time between Cape May County NJ and Port Charlotte Florida. Since retiring, Stephanie moved on to another career, part volunteer part paid, as a Story Teller at Historic Cold Spring Village and as an actor and member of the board of directors of the East Lynne Theatre Company, both in Cape May County.

SAVE THE DATE - February 26, 2011: JPD Worship Arts Festival

8am to 4:30pm

First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE

Special Guest: Matt Meyer, Performer, Educator and Worship Leader. To learn more about Matt, visit <http://www.rhythmrevelations.com/>.

Cost: \$40 before January 15, 2011, \$50 thereafter

Registration includes lunch and your choice of resource materials. More details will be coming soon.

If you would like more information, please contact Melodie Feather at mkfeather@iglide.net.

Transformative Worship that Works

Every year, the Sunday Service Committee, along with our Sunday Service Coordinator, Barbara Miller, strives to bring to the members and friends of UUCSJS Sunday morning worship services that are both meaningful and memorable. We often come up with themes to help guide our programming of services, such as the series on the 7 principles, and the most recent series "Adventures of a UU... (Atheist, Christian, etc.)". This year, the SSC members met for a summer workshop to see if we could come up with a yearly theme for 2010-2011.

Several members of the SSC have been reading a book by Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz, called *Worship That Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists*. Wayne and Kathleen are co-ministers for the West Shore UU Church near Cleveland, Ohio. They spent a sabbatical year together, travelling across the country, and attending over 30 churches (some UU, some non-UU), to find out what "worked" – that is, what "best practices" they could find for what they termed "transformative" worship experiences. One of the congregations they visited offered a contemporary service that used a liturgical year format that was inspired by the work of Matthew Fox, president of the Institute of the Creation Spirituality in Oakland, California. Fox proposed a five season liturgical year based on broad themes:

Via Positiva - summer; themes of in-gathering and celebration

Via Negativa - fall; themes of contemplation, silence, making room for the mystery

Interlude for Festival Time - from Thanksgiving to Christmas

Via Creativa - winter; themes of bringing something to birth in the midst of winter

Via Transformativa - spring; themes of Easter, resurrection, the transformative power of life, sending forth, transformation by the word

Wayne and Kathleen felt that Matthew Fox's work "suggests creative possibilities for Unitarian Universalists to rethink their liturgical year and a lectionary of potential themes". After we started mapping the types of services that we have held in the past, the members of the SCC agreed that this division of themes might work for UUCSJS as well. Certain services that come to mind immediately fell into one of the above categories. For example – the summer ("Via Positiva") and winter solstice ("Via Creativa") services. We decided that we would attempt to schedule services for the current year to correspond to the different seasons. We also decided that we would try to integrate different service elements to fit the themes as well. You might have noticed that we are trying out a different song to sing the children out to their RE classes. Barbara Miller is trying out different songs for each of the seasons. We are also experimenting with using different chalice lighting words or opening words to fit with the appropriate "Via" themes. Since we do not currently have a minister, part of the Committee's hope with this project is that it will give some continuity and flow to the services, so that members can feel a smoother "transition" between services that might otherwise be lacking. We hope that members will find a spiritual connection with the "Via" themes and service elements. The SSC sincerely hopes that overall, the members and friends of UUCSJS will find that the "Via" project will result in a most satisfying and transformative worship experience. The Sunday Services Committee looks forward to your active participation in this project, and we would be happy to hear your feedback, both positive ("positiva") and negative ("negativa").

Melissa Hutchison, Member of the Sunday Services Committee

September 14, 2010

The End of My Ministerial Journey

(Part 3 – Final)

by Richard J. Grzywinski, UUCSJS Member

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck,
District Executive
Joseph Priestley District
100 W. 10th Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

Rev. Kent Matthies
Unitarian Society of Germantown
6511 Lincoln Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19119-3625

By now, many of you are aware that I've ended my quest for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. It was a very difficult decision but, as time is proving, the correct one. I had completed three courses to date, roughly 10 % of my academic requirements (and I'm happy to say all with the grade of "A"), and was enrolled in three additional courses to be completed this fall, looking to complete all by June, 2013.

In a seminar in which I participated in Chicago on September 1, I requested clarification of what I heard, informally, as the need to disengage from congregational polity (organization and governance) in my home congregation. What I learned was distressing. I was expected to cease active participation in congregational activities immediately, or as soon as possible, and to stop attending services and any further engagement by at least September 2011 and continue doing so for my remaining two years of academic training - and possibly for the foreseeable future.

The rationale for this requirement is understandable. Our new minister will have to maintain the principal identity as the religious and spiritual leader of our congregation. My presence as a student, possible future minister, and long-time member presented a role conflict which would make the new minister's job difficult.

When I returned home from Chicago I traveled to Wilmington to meet with Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, our District Executive, and I then met with Rev. Kent Matthies at the Unitarian Society of Germantown in Philadelphia. My understanding gleaned in Chicago was confirmed in both meetings. I also talked out the issue with Cynthia, at our Men's Discussion Group meeting, and with several friends in the congregation.

It was a choice between my (and Cynthia's) spiritual home, UUCSJS, or my ministerial aspirations. I chose the former. In hindsight, one might call this a "no-brainer."

The following is my letter to Revs. Speck and Matthies:

Dear Richard and Kent:

Thank you both for your kind and candid advice regarding my ministerial aspirations. In hindsight, this was a process that I should have proceeded through much earlier in my discernment period. Now, after consulting with you, with friends in my home congregation, and, of course, with my dear wife Cynthia, I've decided that continuing to pursue the ministry is not the appropriate course for me. I intend to withdraw from Meadville Lombard immediately.

While I know there were more intellectual and spiritual challenges ahead, I was confident that each could be met and overcome, as they have been since I began this journey. However, having to break the close relationship I have with my home congregation was one challenge which I saw as undesirable, impractical for many reasons, and, perhaps, insurmountable. I have long struggled with the knowledge that some disengagement from congregational life was necessary in the future. Having recently come face-to-face with the actual timetable (more immediate than I had imagined) and the thoroughness of this withdrawal, I concluded that it would be unwise for me to proceed along my path any longer.

This past weekend, I had the pleasure of participating in our annual Water Communion Service. It was built around an intergenerational play I had written in Rev. Dr. John Tolley's "Art & Aesthetics in Ministry" class at Meadville Lombard. I worked with more than 20 enthusiastic and giving members of my congregation - youth and adults. By all accounts, the service was engaging and inspiring. This event capped and sealed my deliberative process. I realized that at age 65, my energies could best be utilized serving Unitarian Universalism locally and globally, and supporting our principles, outside of the ministry.

As our congregation struggles with the choice of a new minister, I hope to participate more fully in that process and work to ensure the success of whomever we engage.

Blessings to you both,

Richard J. Grzywinski

Cc: Tina Porter, Meadville Lombard

The Native Experience: Honoring Native Americans

Sunday, November 21, 2010 - 5 pm

sponsored by the Earth Honoring Tradition group
at the Unitarian Society of Germantown

Please join us to celebrate Native American month on November 21 at 5 pm. There is much wisdom inherent in our land's original cultures, all intimately attuned to the earth's spirit. We will evoke this spirit through crafting, story telling, drumming, and singing,

then finish by giving thanks with some simple native foods. An event not to be missed! This is an intergenerational event. Please let us know if you are planning to come so that we have enough craft supplies and food.

Contact Wally Moyer (Wallywbm@gmail.com) or Amy Hostetter if you want to volunteer to help or need more information.

Notes from Board Meeting Oct 12, 2010

The Board granted permission to Cynthia Grzywinski to form a chapter of the UU Animal Ministry.

John Searight reported on the retiring of one of the internal loans to the congregation in the amount of \$58,000. He also reported that the \$28,454 being held in escrow by Galloway Township will be released a year early, in January 2011 rather than January 2012. This is great news!

Committee liaisons clarified as follows:

Adult Religious Education – Joe Terrazzini
Building and Grounds – Heidi will communicate action items to Board
Children's Religious Education – Karen York
Finance – John Searight
FUUN – Karen Zindell
Green Sanctuary – Jim Gentile
Interweave – Prim Reeves
Membership – Deb Dagavarian
Social Justice – Jim Gentile
Sunday Services – Karen Zindell

Next Board meeting – Tuesday, November 9, at 6:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

UU Book Lovers --

Japanese-Americans Are Focus of Book Club in November

A slim book of surprising power is the Book Club choice for discussion in November. We will meet on Friday evening, November 19 at 7 pm in the UU Center library to talk about *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka. Available in paperback, there is still plenty of time to read this remarkable book about the internment of a Japanese-American family in 1942. *The New York Times* called it "Mesmerizing . . . [Otsuka has] lyric gifts and narrative poise, [a] heat-seeking eye for detail [and] effortless ability to empathize with her characters." Jesse Connor will facilitate our discussion.

Next on the schedule is our special holiday edition of the Book Club to be held a week early on Friday, December 10 downstairs in the UU Lounge. The evening will feature *individual short readings* of whatever kind, offered by each and every one of us to reflect our thoughts, emotions or remembrances about this special time of the year. Essay or poem, futuristic or traditional, amusing or serious, your offerings are most welcome and will set the tone for the evening. It has become customary to share an assortment of desserts, each of us contributing some luscious delight.

Peering ahead to the new year, we will begin with *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* in January, followed by *Shanghai Girls* in February. Please contact Judy Pereira if you would like to get Book Club reminders and other literary-related notices.

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, Nov 4, 1 pm

The Margaret Circle will meet for its November 4 meeting in the Center's Library at 1 pm. We will look forward to soul searching and a thoughtful discussion by sharing that which we are most grateful for this year. A hand-out will be provided about Gratitude from an article by Dianne Harmony in *Science of Mind* magazine. The discussion will be led by Kathryn Kelly. We will break at 2 pm for refreshments. All ladies are welcome to join us -- you will be pleased you did.

Olympia Brown Circle

Meeting for November has been cancelled.

Women's Spirituality Circle - Sunday, Nov 28, 11:30 am

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 28 at 11:30 at the Center. This group reads & discusses a chapter or two each month of a book pertaining to spirituality. We are presently using *A Seeker's Guide* by Elizabeth Lesser. We will be discussing The Landscape of the Heart, Chapter 9, pages 173 - 193. Elizabeth defines spirituality as fearlessness, as a way of looking boldly at life and death, as a brave search for the truth about existence.

If you are interested in attending this group or if you have any questions please contact Kathryn Kelley, Circle Leader.

All women of the congregation are welcome at these meetings. It's a good way to get to know other women in our congregation better and gives us a chance to get to know you. Please consider attending.

Interweave Movie Night!

Friday, November 5 from 7 to 9:30 pm

MILK

Interweave will be hosting this award winning movie about the life and impact of Harvey Milk, a gay man who changed the face of American politics. What is sure to be a lively discussion will follow. Children must be supervised. Donations appreciated. Light refreshments will be served.

From imdb.com: Upon moving to San Francisco from New York City in 1972, forty year old Harvey Milk gains focus in his life as a gay activist in the city's Castro district. Gay rights activism turns to political activism as Milk decides he can be a more effective voice for the gay community as a politician. Milk becomes the first openly gay man in the United States to be elected to political office when he wins a San Francisco supervisor seat in 1977. His many political battlefronts include one with the national anti-gay Save the Children crusade, led by singer Anita Bryant.

Sean Penn's performance as Milk won him an Oscar for Best Actor, and the writer for Best Screenplay. The film was also nominated for Best Picture and Best Director. (2009)

Circle Dinners coming to UUCSJS

January 15, February 19, April 16, May 21
(all Saturdays)

*Note date change: no March dinner;
extended through to May*

Circle Dinners are informal in-home Saturday night potlucks -- a cherished tradition in many UU congregations (see <http://tinyurl.com/circle-dinners>).

We are launching Circle Dinners in January, 2011. You sign up for 4 great dinners with stimulating conversations and getting-to-know-you opportunities with changing groups of 8. The dinners are potluck, so everybody shares in the preparation.

You can't plan on all 4 Saturdays? Ok, you're needed on the Alternate list. Then you have a chance to be called to sub for someone with a conflict. Don't miss this chance to participate in some fun with other UU's!

Please mark your calendar and plan to sign up during coffee hour on Sundays in November, or contact Barbara Miller to indicate your interest or questions. We will be assembling a small and efficient committee to manage the Circle Dinners.

**From the Environmental Task Force of the
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry
of New Jersey:**

Say NO to the PurGen Plant!

The Legislative Ministry has taken a stand against an experimental coal/chemical plant and carbon dioxide storage project called PurGen. This plant is intended to be located in Linden, New Jersey.

The PurGen plant would process coal for energy and send the carbon dioxide waste through a 100-mile pipeline under the Raritan Bay, injecting it into "permanent storage" underneath the seabed off Atlantic City. This is in one of the most densely populated areas of the country, in an area that is already designated an "Environmental Justice Community" because of extreme environmental stress resulting from earlier polluting facilities.

Building this plant undermines the advantages of refocusing our energy industry on renewable sources rather than on the continued use of fossil fuels. Building a coal plant that sequesters carbon dioxide does nothing to change the harmful practices of coal extraction.

The jobs created by this plant could just as easily be created by building cleaner energy sources.

Gov. Christie spoke out AGAINST the PurGen plant during his campaign, but he has recently been silent on the topic. Now is the time to remind him that this plant is a bad idea for New Jersey!

We joined the StopPurGen Coalition in an effort to join our voices with others who oppose this plant. Please visit their website www.stoppurgencoalplant.org for more information.

The Best UUCSJS Event of the Year is Coming!!!!

Our Sixth Annual Service Auction will be held on

Saturday, November 13, 2010 at 6:30 pm

in the UU Center Sanctuary. You can choose from many practical or beautiful items, handmade crafts and art, delicious homemade delicacies, a variety of services from babysitting to therapeutic massage, and -- best of all -- the exciting and wonderful events, dinners, parties, and activities! Admission is only \$3 for adults, \$1 for children 12-18, and no charge for the kiddies! Come one, come all -- you'll have a blast!!

Ministerial Search Progress Report

The Nominating Committee is working to present a slate of candidates to the Congregation for the Ministerial Search Committee, by mid-December. We are very surprised in the number of interested parties who have offered their time and talents for this Committee. We are developing a list of interview points to discuss with each potential candidate. We have taken advice from former Ministerial Search Committee Members as to the commitment involved in this Search.

Thank you all for your support.

Sharon Gray, Betsy Searight, Jesse Connor and Paul Utts

How to Cook a Healthy, Environmentally Friendly, and Ethically Responsible Holiday Meal



Join Christine Scalfo-Glover* at the UU Center, Wednesday, November 17 at 7 pm, for a cooking demonstration. The class will include recipes, handouts, and a generous tasting of each recipe. See a listing of the menu at the Social Justice Table and sign up to reserve your place. The cost is \$25/person (due in advance) and space is limited. Contact Angela Jones for more information.

*Christine Scalfo-Glover is a Board Certified Holistic Health Counselor, Institute of Integrative Nutrition graduate, Culinary Business Academy trained Personal Chef, and member of both the American Association of Drugless Practitioners and the United States Personal Chef Association.

"The body is like a piano, and happiness is like music.
It is needful to have the instrument in good order."
-- Henry Ward Beecher

Children's Religious Education

This Fall our littlest students were introduced to the Unitarian Universalists Principles and Promises in their SpiritPlay class, while our 3-5th graders have been hearing creation myths from many different cultures and traditions: the Kalahari Bushmen, the Miwok Indians, the Early Greeks, the Hebrews and the Mayans. Throughout November, this class will focus on what scientists have to say about the origin of the universe and life on earth. Our 6th- 8th grade class has been living up to its curriculum title: *You the Creator*. Among other projects, they have designed and created a city and created their class chalice which features an artistic contribution from each of the students. Our high school class has been discussing weighty topics of prayers and the soul.

All of our children's RE students were invited to join in the fun and celebration at the annual Halloween Party. Thank you to the Children's RE Committee for hosting the celebration!

At some time during the next year, our Children's Religious Education will be expanding to include the OWL – *Our Whole Lives* curriculum. *Our Whole Lives* is a series of sexuality education curricula that “helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture.”

The Children's RE Committee had listed as one of our goals in the five year strategic plan offering OWL classes at the elementary school level, and we are pleased to be moving forward with the help of Kyle Jones, who recently attended a training course to introduce us to the requirements of the OWL program. If you are interested in learning more about OWL, see <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/>. The Children's RE Committee will be working during the next few months to organize the program, and hopefully sending another representative from UUCSJS to receive the valuable teacher training.

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

The Our Whole Lives values are:

- Self Worth
- Sexual Health
- Responsibility
- Justice and Inclusivity

Cranberries, Yams, and Mince Pie!

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!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MISSION: Broadening Religious Imaginations

EVENSONG is coming!

What is “Evensong”?

Evensong is an eight-week series of gatherings. It is designed to help people get to know each other in small groups using attentive listening.

If you are a new member or friend, *Evensong* will give you a chance to get acquainted, speak of your experiences and beliefs, and hear from longer-time members.

If you are a long-time member, *Evensong* gives you the chance to spend time with a small group of people, and to get to know and welcome newer folks.

When and where is *Evensong* being held?

Evensong will be held in 4 different locations around our coverage area. It is designed to be held in the geographic areas that members come from.

This year it will be held in Mays Landing, Northfield, Upper Township, and Southern Ocean County. Each host will set up their own schedule; look for the schedules over the next few weeks.

Why should I attend *Evensong*?

Here is what one participant, Heidi Jansch, had to say about *Evensong*:

“Attending *Evensong* provided me with a much needed opportunity to consider spiritual issues in a warm and accepting environment while forming bonds with members of UUCSJS who live in my area. The tone of the gatherings was quiet, contemplative and comfortable, and I formed lasting relationships with folks I might not have otherwise gotten to know. Anyone (especially new members) looking to reflect on their own spirituality in the safety and comfort of a small group should consider participating in *Evensong*.”

How do I sign up for *Evensong*?

There is a general sign up sheet on the membership table just outside of the sanctuary. There will be a meeting with all the host families and facilitators the first week of November. After that meeting the exact dates for each location will be posted. You may sign up on the general list now, or sign up for a specific location once they are posted.

If you are interested in joining the Adult RE committee please see Marsha Hannah or Kathleen Hartnett. The committee meets the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 am.

-- Marsha Hannah, Chair, Adult RE

“Deep listening is miraculous for both listener and speaker. When someone receives us with open-hearted, non-judging, intensely interested listening, our spirits expand.”

– Sue Patton Thoele

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

The Social Justice Committee has seen a month like no other before!

Within the past month, we showed the movie, *Beyond Oil*, which attracted students from Stockton, the Atlantic County College, and members of the local group CURE (Citizens United for Renewable Energy), members of the community, and members of our beloved congregation - about 30 in total! The film ran only for about 15 minutes but spurred lots of discussion to follow. We left feeling that some issues are opposable and even beatable but we need to make the effort to oppose or correct them.

On Sunday, October 3, we hosted Roy Jones, a speaker from the **NJ Environmental Justice Alliance and the National Institute for Healthy Human Spaces**. His presentation was lively and personal, serious and sobering. We cannot be lulled into thinking that our area is free from environmental justice issues just because they are not so easily seen. We have plenty of work to do right here in our own backyard and the SJ Committee is determined to bring these issues to the fore.

We also held our **10/10/10 Work Party** in conjunction with the International Day of Climate Change Action supported by 350.org, an internet-based scientific community which draws awareness to climate change issues and solutions. This event was such a success I am still stunned just thinking about it! Our own Jesse Connor and Jon Luoma led two tours of the building and grounds, drawing attention to the numerous ways our building was designed to be environmentally sustainable. Again, the tours attracted many members of the community, members of the congregation, and local students - many whom we've never met before but hope to see again! Our Social Justice Committee also earned just over \$300.00 at our table outside selling Fair Trade products, books which teach sustainable living, and reusable produce and shopping bags. I can't even begin to express how proud I felt of our congregation, our building, and all that it stands for.

Another accomplishment is just beginning to take shape. We have recently donated almost 30 CFL lightbulbs to Cape May County's **Habitat for Humanity** to be installed in a home that will shortly be occupied in Whitesboro, NJ. When the home is ready for us, we will also be installing a clothesline (which has been purchased already) and a raised bed for a small garden. The Slow Foods group of South Jersey will also work with us to start a planting in the raised bed for the family. In addition, we have put together a small gift bag filled with items from the Social Justice Table as a small way to wish the family luck in their new home. If you would like to be involved with this project, please see myself or any member of the SJ Committee for more information.

On October 20, we joined forces with the **South Jersey Fair Trade Alliance** to show the documentary, *The Dark Side of Chocolate*, a film which exposes the unethical practices occurring in the chocolate industry. We had about 40 people in attendance, mostly community members and students from Stockton, and sold almost \$100.00 worth of Fair Trade products. Once they taste Fair Trade, hopefully, they will never go back to conventional products.

At the time of this printing, we have not yet had the showing of the documentary, *Coal Country*, and presentation by Christine Guhl from the **Sierra Club**. Yet, I look forward to that event being a great success also. In fact, the SJ Committee has been involved with many other environmental groups recently including: the North Jersey Sierra Club, the NJ Sierra Club, the NJ Environmental Federation, the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, Edison Wetlands, CURE, the Green

Party of NJ, NJ Water Watch based at Rutgers, and more. We have unitedly been working together to oppose the development of the PurGen Coal Plant planned for Linden, NJ. **I have just learned today that the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ has also signed on to oppose the plant.** This past Sunday, we saw an article on the front page of the Press of Atlantic City informing the public about the plant and its positive and negative implications. The groups mentioned above are now in the planning stage of developing a public education campaign for December 4. I will keep everyone informed when the plans are definite. We will need all of your help!

Speaking of help, you can hardly imagine all of the **energy and work** which goes into making these events possible. We sent out over 15 letters to area churches and environmental groups inviting them to our 10/10/10 Work Party. We post our events on Facebook and Twitter and email community members inviting them to our happenings at the Center. We also mail off petitions to our Governor and various representatives and thank you cards to those who have shown support to us. The coffee, tea, and chocolate that you enjoy must be ordered monthly. Flyers are made and posted. The tabling events require enormous planning and then workers to man the tables. This is only a small taste of what goes into making all of these things happen! Therefore, I have two comments:

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all those who put in their time, energy, and resources. Whether you are a member of the committee, a member of the congregation, or just a friend lending a hand - Thank You.

We would love to have more volunteers to help. We are quite literally working day, night, and weekends sometimes. We cannot do it alone. If you can offer help of any kind - big or small - even if it is just posting a flyer in your local community center or library, we would be extremely grateful.

Future events include:

- Nov 7, 11:30 am - Viridian Energy Presentation in the lounge.
- Wed, Nov 17, 7 pm - An "Ethical Eating at the Holidays" cooking demonstration. Space is limited to 20 guests. Sign up at the Social Justice table
- Dec. 4 and 5 - Tabling at the South Jersey Fair Trade Alliance's International Gift Fair at Mainland High School from 10 am-4 pm.
- Dec 4 - PurGen Coal Plant public awareness campaign
- Wed, Jan 26, 7 pm - A presentation by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance entitled, "Building Sustainable Communities".

Please save these dates and get involved if you can. Event flyers can be picked up at the SJ table, please post in your community if possible. More information will be following shortly.

I leave you with a quote by His Holiness the Dalai Lama:

"As people alive today, we must consider future generations: a clean environment is a human right like any other. It is therefore part of our responsibility toward others to ensure that the world we pass on is as healthy, if not healthier, than we found it."

In fellowship,

Angela Jones, Social Justice Chair

Newsletter submission deadline: always the Friday before the last Sunday of the month.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister
vacant

**Music Director &
Sunday Service Coordinator**
Barbara Miller
uucsjsmusic@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education
Heidi Jansch
sjsdre@gmail.com

Operations Manager
Heidi Jansch
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

Newsletter
Mariann Maene
newsletter@uucsjs.org

Electronic Communications
Sharon Gray
uucsjs@yahoo.com

Board of Trustees 2010-11
Debbi Dagavarian, Jim Gentile, Primrose Reeves,
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Karen York, Karen Zindell



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

November 2010

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240**

