

Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 13, Issue 11 November 2011

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.

November 6 Set your clocks back one hour!	Indifference and Complicity: Reflections on Kristallnacht Lay speaker Michael Cluff Seventy years ago this week, the world watched while Nazis looted and vandalized Jewish communities throughout Germany, offering a glimpse of what was to become the Final Solution. Despite these horrors, the Nazis faced little resistance. In the spirit of "Never Again," we reflect on what might keep good people from doing the right thing.
November 13 Special Congregational Meeting	Let It Be a Dance Pastor Charlie Dieterich The title, from a song by Ric Masten, assumes that life already is a dance, we just have to let it happen. Stop worrying about the upcoming holidays and come enjoy! Perhaps we will even get you up and moving!
November 20	We Gather Together Pastor Charlie Dieterich Don't forget the cranberry jelly Yes, Thanksgiving is almost here, and it is a chance to reflect on our blessings.
November 27	Poems to Honor the Earth Lay speaker Penny Harter In the Preface to her book Lizard Light: Poems From the Earth, Penny writes: "I have written these poems in response to Earth's geological and evolutionary history, its place in the cosmos, and our place as part of the whole I am consistently aware that we are on a planet, and that it is alive We need poems that speak of universal concerns and point out that all beings exist as integral and inter-connected parts of the larger community of the universe. Poems that affirm." She will share with us poems that sorrow for the harm we have done and continue to do to our planet, and poems that joyfully praise Earth's gifts to us and our deep connections with it and the cosmos.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 11:15 a.m.

to vote on additions to the bylaws regarding the new COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY.



From Pastor Charlie Dieterich:

Listening

"When you get what you want, but not what you need . . ."

As we enter the darkest quarter of the year, the part of the year where a concept of "home" is most important, I am reminded of the song "Fix You" by Coldplay, and the line quoted above. It is a somewhat funny turn of phrase, and is a bit of a pun on an old Rolling Stones lyric, but it also holds a deep truth.

What are our deep needs? Are you holding tight to your personal needs, or spending too much time with wants? How are they different?

In his amazing address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. Martin Luther King retold a biblical story of someone who wanted to be fixed... felt that his deep needs were not being met. Jesus' advice was: "Nicodemus, you must be born again." And I believe that many Fundamentalist Christians will look to those words, perhaps adding the words "in Christ" to them.

But in Dr. King's address he turned the concept. Nicodemus lived in an oppressive society which could not be changed, and so his salvation could only be individual, much as 19th century Universalist theologian Hosea Ballou's understanding of Atonement was an individual act.

Dr. King turned it to see the nation as a system. He said: "Now, when I say question the whole society, it means ultimately coming to see that the problem of racism, the problem of economic exploitation, the problem of war are all tied together." And then he said "What I am saying today is that we must go from this convention and say, "America, you must be born again!" He had shifted salvation from the individual to the system.

Twentieth century Universalist theologian Clarence Skinner, too, held an understanding of atonement, or of salvation, as a systemic act. Individuals cannot be born again, for we are all bound together by relationship, and there are not enough cabins in Idaho for each of us to isolate. Skinner called the world transformed a "Vision Splendid."

So, America, do you get what you want, or get what you need? I know it's a transformative question, but these are becoming transformative times. Do we, in this country, serve our human needs?

What will be our Universalist understanding of the 21st century world? How can we, as a collection of individuals, work toward transformation? To understand what our world needs, the first step is to ask, and the second one is to listen. I am not a part of the "Occupy Wall Street" effort, but I am reading their signs, and I am listening. As a congregation which respects diversity, our strength is in the multiplicity of voices, ideas and priorities. We think with our heads, and feel with our hearts. It is a beginning.

This month we have a variety of topics in worship, from the horror of the days when Jews were "illegal aliens" in Germany, to celebration of dance and prayers of thanks, ending with mother earth. Come, join in the life of this community. And remember that if your family is gone or scattered, you have a family here on Thanksgiving Day.

- Pastor Charlie

Pastor Charlie has regular office hours from 10 am to 2 pm Wednesdays at the UU Center.

Feel free to call the office for a half hour appointment (he has his own mailbox on the answering machine), or send him a note at minister@uucsjs.org.

Did you miss a Sermon?

Many of our previous sermons are available for reading on our web site, and more recently, some are available in video format. If you've missed a Sunday or want to go back and read or listen to a previous sermon, just visit www.uucsjs.org/sermons.html

Thanks to Richard Grzywinski, many of our sermons are now video-recorded and available for our congregation on YouTube. Please note that **music used during the service is subject to copyright laws** both with respect to performance and the material performed.

Please do not record music offered during a Sunday Service without first discussing it with Barbara Miller, Worship Coordinator. And never post such a recording to a public website such as YouTube without obtaining the necessary permissions. The congregation can be held liable for violations of copyright.



The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

Great news! We have a website! Special thanks to SJAA member Tara McNair for her fine work. Also a shout out to her son Henry for behaving for Richard while she developed the site for us.

What do we need now? Lots and lots of content. We invite the congregation to submit their animal concerns, photos, stories, testimonials, links, quotes and puzzles for review to Cynthia Grzywinski (email in directory). Also, please visit the site at https://sites.google.com/site/sjaauuam/ and let us know what you think.

We at SJAA continue to believe that a commitment to animal welfare is not only a *karmically* great thing to do, but also a wonderful, politically neutral, tangible way for the congregation to come together and accomplish many goals. Think about it. The animals we serve are neither Democrat nor Republican, rich or poor, and most of the mutts we help are both black and white.

It is also one of the few opportunities you have to be utterly and completely altruistic -- as our shelter wards can't repay you, can't write their congressman, and can't get together afterwards and make you a thank you plaque. So why not get involved and enjoy a warm fuzzie right before the holidays.

In November we will be collecting for the Alley Cat Allies in Atlantic City, who care for and spay and neuter cats who are literally dumped on the Boardwalk. To learn more about this dedicated local group, visit them at www.alleycat.org/atlanticcity.

We hope to see you at our next meeting and that you bring your friends. Until then, hug your pets, watch out for deer when you are driving, and consider a yummy tofurky when you spend \$300 at Shoprite!

Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty. -- Albert Einstein

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened. -- Anatole France

I am in favor of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.

-- Abraham Lincoln

If your dog is fat, you're not getting enough exercise. — *Anonymous*

A Message from the President of the Board of Trustees

There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday November 13, 2011, after the service. The purpose of this meeting is for the Congregation to consider and vote on a proposed amendment to the By-Laws that sets forth the composition and duties of the Committee on Ministry.

While our current By-Laws provide for a Committee on Ministry, they are silent as to its role. The Congregation acknowledges this deficiency and it is time to correct it.

The Committee on Ministry is very important to the functioning of a Congregation. Paradoxically, because it is so important, the question of its nature and purpose is one that has no easy answer. Indeed, were there any Unitarian Universalist Scholastic Philosophers, an *a priori* proposition of their school likely would be that the Committee on Ministry is an '*enigma intus mysterio involutus aenigmate*.' It is enough to make one long for a Unitarian Universalist Thomistic school of thought.

Were you to Google "UUA Committee on Ministry," at the top of the resulting list would be: www.uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/44219.shtml. In the tersely cogent first sentence of the first paragraph of this site, it is posited that the Committee on Ministry may be the most misunderstood committee within a congregation. I encourage you to take a look at this and other UUA sites which discuss the Committee on Ministry before the November 13 Special Meeting.

To encourage dialogue within the Congregation in advance of the Special Meeting, the Board held a presentation and discussion after the service on October 23. At that time, everyone in attendance had the opportunity to ask questions and hear the reasoning behind the proposed amendment.

We hope you will attend the Special Meeting as an informed voter. In fellowship, Jim Gentile

Last chance event for 2010 auction

Egg Shell Mosaic, an all day craft

For adults and kids 10 and over UU Center, Thursday, November 11

Come with your children or grandchildren
There is no school. – NJEA Convention!
Cost, \$20 per person
Donated and led by Angela Jones

To register, sign up at the signup table, and put your money in an envelope that is provided.

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, November 3, 1 pm

The November Meeting headed by Arlene Yacka should prove to be both interesting and informative. How many of you know about the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation? Well, you're about to find out! The UUWF is a continental membership organization that advances equity and justice for women through education and advocacy. We will learn of their purposes, their position on Occupy Wall Street, and some of their contributions. These points should inspire some good conversations and opinions. Kathie Benner and Arlene will host some good snacks worth coming for in their own right. Women and friends, come join us for a hearty discussion sparked by excellent points of interest to women. See you there!

-- Arlene Yacka, Circle Leader

Global Chalice Lighting

If your committee uses a chalice lighting, you may want to consider these for the month of November, from UUs in Australia and New Zealand:

May this flame remind us of our own inward light, the centre of our being,

that connects us to all Being and gives us strength and comfort in a troubled world.

Little Red Hen says, Who will make the Coffee?

The hospitality committee is pleased that most of the slots for coffee volunteers are filled through to the new year. There are three dates coming up, however, with only one volunteer- Nov 6, Nov 13 and Nov 20. Please check your calendars and see if you could help out on any of these dates. Duties have been simplified- you need only to show up, make the coffee, put out the snacks and clean up.

Do you grow your own food? Well if you don't, you have to visit the grocery store.

Buy Gift Cards any Sunday for Acme & Shoprite.

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%. We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!

A testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit . . .

UNBROKEN:

Book Group to Contemplate Life of a Forgotten Hero in November

"Extraordinarily moving . . . gripping . . . a powerfully drawn survival epic . . . a master class in narrative storytelling." So says *The Wall Street Journal* about Laura Hillenbrand's much-praised 2010 book, *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*. Join us on **Friday evening, November 18 at 7pm in the Library at the UU Center** to talk about this extraordinary story. Tom Celandine will lead our discussion; bring a light snack to share, if you wish.

The words thrilling, gripping, unforgettable, inspiring, and extraordinary recur again and again in descriptions of this retelling of the life of Louis Zamperini, and it comes to us triply recommended by book group regulars. Laura Hillenbrand, author of Seabiscuit: An American Legend, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics



Award, has been called "one of our best writers of narrative history." 1

Of 1,813 reader reviews posted on Amazon, an overwhelming majority of 1,577 award five stars to *Unbroken*. Calling it "one

of the most stunning books of the year," the leading reviewer writes, "I read this book in two days flat ... This is a book that grips you, draws you in and leaves you feeling a slightly better person for having read it." (italics added)

At November's meeting on November 18, we will fix a date in early December for our holiday party and gag gift exchange, further enlivened with book talk about *The Secret History of the Pink Carnation* by Lauren Willig. (Q: How did the Pink Carnation save England from Napoleon?) We'll be looking for an appropriate theme for the occasion, as well.

If you would like to get email reminders and other literary-related notices, contact Judy Pereira. To join the book lovers group, simply arrive at the UU Center at the appointed time. Everyone is very welcome.

 1 Rebecca Skloot, author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Service Auction booklet available for download from uucsjs.org!

The Delusions of the Ego: Making the Case for Waking Up!

"To study Buddhism is to study the mind.

To study the mind is to forget the mind (let go of the ego).

To forget the mind is to be enlightened by the 10,000 things (everything)."

-- a 13th Century Zen Teacher in Japan

There is a universal desire for happiness that drives our needs and attachments to both the material world and the connections with partners, family, community and friends. Even the Dalai Lama writes books directed at Westerners called "The Art of Happiness". But for Buddha, this man from Northern India who lived more than 2,500 years ago, the higher value was awareness, waking up to the true reality of everything. In fact, the very name of Buddha translates as "the one who woke up". Happiness can be a by-product of this process of liberation and freedom, this waking up.

As in the case of many other great spiritual teachers, his followers made his teachings into a religion which enshrines these teachings about how the mind works encasing them in devotional practices. teachings are available to us today from a secular point of view if we want to understand them, use them and apply them to the world we live in from day The UUCSJS Buddhist Sangha (or Community) which began meeting in October, is dedicated to this process of understanding and application. All are welcome to attend the once a month meetings perhaps out of curiosity, intellectual interest or an interest in Buddhism as a religion. However, the need to reduce our self-inflicted suffering, end our sense of separation from the universe, and redefine our investment in the past and future to the deterrent of the present, requires a commitment to changing how our minds work. In other words, already noted, we need to wake up.

This group of spiritual friends comes together to help each other to develop a personal experience of enlightenment and in so doing be able to apply these approaches to all situations. Beyond the personal and practical insights, the Sangha will explore how Buddhist teachings relate to UU Principles, Evolutionary Cosmology, Conscious Studies and Nature. It will approach these goals from a Secular perspective while welcoming any insights and experiences participants have had with traditional

Buddhist groups and teachers. The UUCSJS Buddhist Sangha joins over 100 other UU Buddhist Groups which are meeting in UU congregations around the country. Many of these groups are part of the national "UU Buddhist Fellowship".

Activities will include such core Buddhist methods such as meditation, mindfulness, loving kindness and compassion. Equanimity and sympathetic joy will be emphasized. Traditional Buddhist texts (Sutras) will at times be studied as well as more current books and modern teachers that interest the group. There will be a moderator (Alan Oliver), but all participants will be engaged to share and present what they have discovered. There will be formal and informal presentations and much discussion and interaction.

Steve Jobs in his now famous commencement address at Stanford University in 2005 said, "Life is short. Don't waste your time living someone else's life." Likewise this Sangha believes life is short and we must make every effort to "wake up". Also, there will be an effort to not "live someone else's Buddhism". This effort is a process of introspection, creativity and sharing and hopefully will make a positive contribution to the whole congregation.

Meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of the month from 10 am to 1 pm at the UUCSJS Center. Topics are announced in the Mid-Week Announcements.

At Murray Grove – Coffeehouse Wednesdays

7:00-9:00, \$10 per person; doors open at 6:30. Bring your favorite appetizers and/or desserts to share, and BYOB.

November 9: Frank Fotusky, virtuoso acoustic blues guitarist and singer.

HANDMADE HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR at Murray Grove

Free admission - refreshments served!

Get your holiday shopping done with local handmade artists!

A portion of the proceeds benefit Murray Grove

Capital City Crafts (Jewelry) • Deep Shade Creations (Chainmail Jewelry) • DinoKnits - by Amanda Neyenhouse (Knitted and felted items) • Green Cow Studio Hand Crafted Soaps • Leaf Pile (Art from repurposed and recycled material) • Nyman Decoys (Wood carvings - feathers, decoys) • Original Abbie (Art blocks and original design Tees) • Pinelands Basketry • Uriah Creek Apiary (local honey) • Swirl Girl Designs (Original Tees and photographic art) • Wench Wear (Original Pirate-themed Tees) • and more...!

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS October 2011

The **Regular monthly meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** on October 18, 2011, began with the sharing of joys and concerns before moving to the agenda, and we welcomed Pastor Charlie Dieterich who was attending for the first time.

- Finance Committee Report Committee Chair and Board member John Searight distributed "UUCSJS Fund Balances 10-18-11" and reported that in general, we are holding our own. The committee plans to closely monitor the Reserve Fund, however.
- Treasurer Prim Reeves proposed that the December newsletter carry a reminder that it can be advantageous for tax purposes to pay pledge balances before the end of 2011.
- Chairman Searight suggested we might want to consider in the future a special push for mortgage pay-down. He also described preliminary planning for the 2012 stewardship campaign, already in progress.
- Prim Reeves complimented the present work of the Finance Committee as "back on track."
- **Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Prim Reeves presented the detailed "Financial Report for September 2011," noting that things look better than in August, with income over budget (even though still down year-to-date), and expenses slightly under budget.
- Treasurer Reeves reported that quarterly reports have been sent to all staff and committee chairs monitoring a budget except for Building & Grounds, to be dispatched shortly.
- The changeover to Paychex continues to go well, she said, with responsive customer support.
- Bookkeeper Kathleen Hartnett is in the process of sending out First Quarter Pledge Statements.
- The treasurer also complimented our official "Depositor" Kim Trotto, for the hard work she does each week making timely bank deposits.

Finally, President Gentile touched on the fact that Treasurer Prim Reeves' term expires in 2012, and said the search for a replacement should begin well in advance. The treasurer continues to work actively to try to make the job easier in the future.

· Committee on Ministry

- Informational Session (on 10/23/11)

The Board began by deciding on the order of business for this meeting, to be held after Sunday Service on October 23. There will be an opportunity for those attending to ask questions, and an "open mike" period lasting as long as needed for all voices to be heard.

The Board discussed the question of what we mean when we talk about "ministries" of the congregation. Also, the need to revisit the concept of "covenanting," both congregation-wide and within committees, was raised.

- Congregational Meeting (on 11/13/11)

The Board reviewed provisions for the conduct of meetings under Robert's Rules of Order, and talked about how the Special Congregational Meeting might unfold. Parliamentary procedure is used to provide for smooth, orderly, and fairly conducted meetings.

In accordance with the bylaws, <u>absentee ballots</u> will be available from the Board secretary and in the church office at least one (1) week in advance, and must be received by the secretary before the meeting is called to order. (<u>Proxy voting</u> is not available when amending the bylaws.)

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sun., November 13, 2011 at 11:15 a.m., for the purpose of approving the new bylaws governing the Committee on Ministry [Section 8.1 c) ii) of Article VIII], as recommended by the Board of Trustees.

• Second Collection for BuxMont Fellowship – Responding to a JPD-wide effort, it was moved and seconded that the Board of Trustees allocate the amount of \$250 under the budget item "Growth Grant" (line 20) to support the BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Warrington, PA, which suffered significant building damage due to flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee in early September. The motion passed unanimously.

It was agreed that there should not be another second plate collection right now, this having been approved in each of the last two months; only one extra collection per month is permitted.

• Report on Bylaws Review Status – Debbi Dagavarian reported that the first meeting of the Bylaws Review Committee will take place on Thurs., October 20 at 5:30 pm at the UU Center. In addition to Dagavarian as chair, the committee will consist of Jim Gentile and Prim Reeves from the Board, and signing up from the general membership of the Congregation, Sharon Gray, Richard Grzywinski, Marsha Hannah, and Karen Zindell.

• Miscellaneous Matters

Letter from Murray Grove

UUCSJS has received a thank-you letter from the Murray Grove Association, acknowledging last month's donation of \$200 (budgeted at line 86).

- Social Justice Committee Chair

The secretary announced that Richard Grzywinski has volunteered to lead the Social Justice Committee, having sent a letter to that effect to all SJ committee members on October 18. Noted was that changing its name to "Social Justice Ministry," if confirmed, will require amending the bylaws.

- FUUN Committee Reports

The secretary reported receiving a message from Chairperson Theresa McReynolds that future Board reports will be submitted by FUUN committee member Karen Zindell.

Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm** at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2011-2012

Jim Gentile (12), President
Debbi Dagavarian (12), Vice President
Judy Pereira (13), Secretary
Primrose Reeves (12), Treasurer
John Searight (13), Member at Large
Joe Terrazzini (12), Member at Large
Art Wexler (13), Member at Large

year given is end of term, e.g. (12) means thru 6/30/2012

Are You At Least 25%?

We are now four months into our new fiscal year which began July 1. Soon the holidays will be here with all their joys and demands. Kathleen Hartnett, our part-time bookkeeper, is in the process of sending you a pledge statement so that you will know the status of your pledge to help you with your personal budgeting. If you have not received an email from her by the time of our Auction, please let us know -- it could be in your junk mail box so check that first.

When you get that statement from Kathleen, I'd like you to do a little math. What percent of your pledge have you paid? The statements represent money received through the end of September. That's 25% of the fiscal year. Have you paid almost 25% of your pledge? If not and if it is within your family's budget, please make an effort to bring it current.

There is a bonus in all of this if you file your end of year taxes and take deductibles. All donations received by December 31 will count toward your 2011 charitable giving deductions. In January we will be sending you donation totals for all of 2011.

Meanwhile, I hope to see you at the auction on Saturday, November 5. -- Prim Reeves, Treasurer

The Rev. William F. Schulz, president and CEO of the UU Service Committee, wrote about the Left and the Occupy Wall Street movement on *The Huffington Post* (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/william-f-schulz/why-the-left-is-often-lat_b_1005092.html).

Special Thanksgiving Event

The UUCSJS will be hosting a potluck Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day at the UU Center. Dinner will be at 12 noon. Theresa McReynold's sister Roberta will be cooking a turkey with stuffing and Theresa will bring a Tofu Turkey. Richard will bake some pies.

So all of you out there that have no place to go or just want to share that day with your UU community, let Theresa know. If you are interested in helping, email Theresa McReynolds.

Séance - A Spirituality Practice group will be holding a séance on Tuesday, November 8 at 6 pm for interested members of the congregation under the direction of Scot Edward Henry, a recognized psychic. Participants will split the fee of \$180. If you are interested in participating, please email Debbi Dagavarian.

Smile at Fear

A Retreat with Pema Chodron on Discovering Your Radiant Self-Confidence

We all have fears, but when we look closely at them, we discover that behind each fear resides a basic fear of *ourselves*. We're afraid to look at our habitual styles of thinking and behaving because we might not always like what we see. Ironically it is this fear of honest self-reflection that keeps us trapped in patterns of stress and discontentment.

Here is a vision for moving beyond this most basic fear to discover the innate bravery, trust, and joy that reside at the core of our being.

In this recorded retreat, Pema Chödrön shares teachings inspired by the book *Smile at Fear*, which was written by her teacher Chögyam Trungpa. She and her teaching assistant, Carolyn Rose Gimian, also share practices they received from Trungpa Rinpoche for courageously meeting ourselves in the present moment, including:

- The Windhorse Practice: a three-step meditation on awakening confidence
- Spiritual Warrior training for meeting life with courage and compassion
- Meditation instruction for calming the mind and developing concentration

Saturday, November, 12th from 9 am to 3:30 pm in the Yellow Classroom

Time will be allotted for receiving the teachings and for group discussion.

*Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available at 8:30 am with the workshop starting promptly at 9. Please bring a bagged lunch. There is no charge for the workshop but pre-registration is required as space is limited.

Please email Angela Jones to register.



http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/188431.shtml

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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