



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South
Jersey Shore

Volume 14, Issue 02

February 2012

February Services "Love"

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>February 5</p>	<p>Our Love Affair With Football <i>Lay speaker Jack Miller</i> For decades, Sunday church attendance has been dropping, and on any given Sunday, the chance of having more men in attendance than women is about as likely as an Eagles Superbowl appearance. Meanwhile, interest in spectator sports continues to rise. What makes the NFL such an attractive religion?</p>
<p>February 12</p>	<p>Throw Me Something, Mister <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> This could easily be a sort of critique on how society forces excluded groups to beg... but it won't be. It is Mardi Gras season, when we can all be princes or paupers, or even both at once. "Love baby, love. That's the secret, yeah."</p>
<p>February 19</p>	<p>Bard in UUSA Part III - Revenge of the Myth <i>Lay speaker Michelle Tomko</i> This final installment of Michelle Tomko's series is taking place during <i>love month</i>. To capture the mood, scenes selected to dramatize the final three principles will all include famous Shakespearean couples: Macbeth and his lady, Oberon and Titania, and of course Romeo and Juliet. Iambic pentameter will be explained using the balcony scene from R&J! And rounding out this festival of sight and sound will be UUCSJS's talented musicians and singers corralled by the venerable Barbara Miller.</p>
<p>February 26</p>	<p>Robert's Rules of Love -- Newly Revised <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> Dread? Ennui? Or do you approach congregational meetings with an evil grin? What if we saw them as acts of love? What if we saw the use of the democratic process as a sacrament? Would that make Robert's Rules of Order a love manual?</p>

MARDI GRAS
Dance Party

UU Center, Saturday Feb. 18 from 7-10 pm
featuring our own Package Goods Orchestra !
Let's have a party !! Tickets are \$10

Do you Want to Dance?

Our UU dance group has been granted the privilege to perform with Peter Mayer during his service on March 25. We will be dancing to his song, "Holy Now." (listen to a clip here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaGnQc5Vmhs>). We will be having 4 Saturday morning rehearsals leading up to that Sunday. If you would like to dance with us for this occasion, please contact Barbara Miller. Women of all ages and abilities are welcome.

Greenlight Cafe

On the 4th Friday of the month, UUCSJS hosts the Greenlight Cafe, a coffee house where you can sing your songs, read your poetry, dance your dance, tell your stories. Our mission is to provide a space for us to come together and share our gifts. So no matter what your age or experience (children welcome), come and laugh and applaud and share the fun. Audiences are as welcome as entertainers. Coffee and tea are provided.

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.

What is Deep Listening?

Deep listening. . . . is the kind of listening that is not about fixing or advising another human being, or interrupting to tell a better story. It is the kind of deep, attentive listening that can help the soul show up, that can help the soul grow and speak its deepest truth.

-- from Rev Justin Schroeder's blog "The Well" at <http://wellswedidnotdig.blogspot.com>

Fellowship Dinner Approaches Call for Talent

"I do so like green eggs and ham!
Thank you!
Thank you,
Sam-I-am!"

Green Eggs and Ham - Dr. Seuss

Well we can't promise green eggs. But it is a pot luck so who knows. We are however searching for UUCSJS's biggest hams! The fellowship dinner is fast approaching and we need you to ham it up. If anyone is interested in performing a short and clean act, contact Barbara Miller ASAP. Don't be shy, all of you budding comics, dancers, and musicians. You may have aged out of *American Idol* auditions. But we still want you!

Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Celebrating 50 Years of the JPD

JPD ASSEMBLY - APRIL 13-15, 2012

Arlington, VA

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Peter Morales, President, UUA

We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Joseph Priestley District on Friday night. On Saturday we will explore the present with a vast assortment of workshops and a special conversation with the Gathered Here process.

Gathered Here will give shape to a shared vision for the future of our faith and the ways in which we, as religious leaders, will advance our faith on local and national levels. Based on Appreciative Inquiry, an approach to organizational change that builds on what's working rather than trying to fix what's not, the process will engage you and other UUs, congregations, and groups in conversations that forge new relationships and create new possibilities for the future of Unitarian Universalism.

We will finish out the District Assembly on Sunday with President Peter Morales speaking to our future and helping us set our course for the next fifty years in the Middle Atlantic region.

We will also feature great worship, fellowship, and exhibits as we gather for this special weekend. Plan now to attend. Space will be limited and we expect a full house.

Joseph Priestley District Awards - UUs are invited to nominate youth, young adults, and UU congregation members of all ages for recognition awards given by the JPD. The JPD Awards Committee looks forward to receiving nominations and to recognizing the individuals that are making significant contributions to Unitarian Universalisms.

Pastor's Page

A Typology of Social Concern

This month I thought I'd give you some insight into how I think about social justice issues. As Richard Grzywinski reconstitutes the Social Justice ministry team, we have a chance to tailor our program to serve different communities in different ways. We can engage differently, depending on the type of need and the goals of our work.

Back in in 1973 Thomas E. Price wrote an article called: "The Four Types of Social Concern," an idea picked up by Rev. Richard Gilbert in his book *The Prophetic Imperative*. Price makes the distinction among four relationships between a religious institution and society: social *service*, social *education*, social *witness*, and social *action*.

In Social Service, needs of people are met. Our providing food to the Community Food Bank is an example of social service. More actively, serving turkeys to the homeless on Thanksgiving would be a Social Service program. Filling sandbags before a flood would also be Social Service, but there are deeper questions... why does the river flood, or why is river flooding a bad thing? Why hunger?

The act of meeting the homeless community could also be, for our participants, a form of Social Education. This point of human contact with a group we do not normally interact with provides an opportunity for reflection as to why homelessness exists and how our culture picks winners and losers -- and even why the world is divided into winners and losers.

Social Education often takes the form of religious pilgrimage. In a pilgrimage, one goes to a sacred site and becomes open to its reality. A true pilgrim looks beyond the holy relics to behold the social systems that created them. Social Education also includes research and group reflection. This must be done with cultural humility -- you are entering someone else's world, and they, and only they, know their reality.

In the Occupy Wall Street movement, many people were moved to describe their life situations on cardboard signs -- photographs of these circulated on the Internet. For them, it was a way of being visible. This was Social Witness. They were speaking their truths, inviting Social Education of others who visited the sites, or websites. Most signs did not propose answers, concentrating on being witness to society's moral choices. In addition to those suffering from economic forces, some sign holders were "allies"-- not directly affected, but willing to stand with those who suffer.

Being an ally is important in Social Action. When we've seen the effects of oppression, when we have educated ourselves in the societal structures responsible for an immoral or oppressive situation, and those witnessing for the problem, then we might be invited in to Social Action -- action which might actually change systems and improve society. Working with excluded persons to eliminate laws which restrict marriage rights is a form of Social Action.

Social Action isn't giving people fish to eat, it is responding with those needing access to food, being an ally, being willing to learn, and working toward structural change.

Our February theme is Love. Love is the basis for Social Concern: Social Service, Social Education, Social Witness and Social Action.

Pastor Charlie

2012 JPD Worship Arts Festival

Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, MD
Friday and Saturday, February 24 & 25, 2012

Are you interested in meeting UUs from other congregations? Looking for new ideas for worship? Seeking personal growth in speaking, singing, and/or leadership? Want to be challenged to serve your church more? Then you don't want to miss the 10th JPD Worship Arts Festival at the UU Church of Rockville, Maryland, on February 24 and 25, 2012!

Our featured presenter this year is the Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, author of *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation* and *Reframing Hope: Vital Ministry in a New Generation*. Rev. Merritt is quickly becoming known both in the USA and around the world as one of the 'go to' voices who teach the church how to truly engage young adults on their own terms. "I'm writing with enormous hope," Carol explains in *Tribal Church*, "because a generation of young, spiritual, progressives adults is wandering, looking for a place to finally rest." In her second book, *Reframing Hope*, Carol took the next step and expertly described what kind of collaborative, action-oriented faith this new generation seeks.

Workshops include:

Shaping the Service, Vocal Coaching, Paths to Membership, Leading Summer Worship, Sound Systems, Drumming Meditation, Singing Meditation, International Dances of Peace

For more information, visit

<http://jpduua.org/news-and-notes/2012-jpd-worship-arts-festival-reframing-hope>

**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.



The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

Members of SJAA wish to send out our deepest sympathy and support to UUCSJS families who have lost pets recently. The Utts family lost their dog Rosie. Sharon Gray's cat passed away shortly after her move to Florida. SJAA members Anne Peifer and Michelle Tomko are still mourning their dog Sadie. The loss of a pet is devastating. SJAA members are here if you ever need support.

As always, we invite you to join our group. We meet the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:30 at the UUCSJS Center. We welcome *all* ideas and suggestions. Like last month when Heidi and Wendy made homemade dog treats with the RE classes which we took to the *Humane Society of Atlantic County*. Great idea guys! Keep 'em coming!

In February, we will be collecting donations for the Ocean County Animal Shelter in Stafford Township. This is the only shelter providing services to Ocean County south of Forked River. With the strong support of the volunteer group called *Friends of Southern Ocean County Animal Shelter*, this shelter provides care to homeless, abused, and abandoned pets. Among the services they offer is veterinary care, adoption, and a pet food pantry. Like all shelters and rescue groups these days, the Ocean County Animal Shelter is overflowing with lovable, adoptable pets. The shelter needs donations of pet food and litter and of course, if you live in the area, you may want to arrange to volunteer as a dog walker, a cat socializer, a foster parent, or a new "forever" parent to one (or more) of these deserving creatures.

The Things Sadie Taught Me

If you stare at something long enough, they will give it to you.

It is not an official trip to the beach unless you get sand in every orifice.

Be amazed by every day things - like a dog on the television;

bark at it for emphasis.

Love Everybody!

Take plenty of naps.

Cry every once and a while just to hear the sound of your own voice.

There's nothing wrong with a sip of beer now and then.

Everyone wants to play with you at all times --

you just have to find the right toy.

You can swim in *anything!*

Wag your tail until the end.

-- Michelle Tomko

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die
I want to go where they went. -- Will Rogers

Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit,
you would stay out and your dog would go in.

-- Mark Twain

"Beautiful ... Amazing."

— *The New Yorker*

Book Group to Ponder a "Masterpiece," *Cutting for Stone* in February

Is *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese "a masterpiece" or "a bold but flawed debut novel"? Plan to join other book lovers on **Friday, February 17 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library** to add your voice to the mix. Diverse critical opinions¹ may signal the start of a lively debate on the merits of this well-regarded work. Jesse Connor will facilitate the discussion. Bring a light snack to share, if you wish.

Kindly take note, however: begin reading *Cutting for Stone* soon, if you haven't already; the page count in hardcover when the book debuted in early 2009 was 560, and as a Vintage paperback, it's 658 pages!

Abraham Verghese, who was born in Ethiopia in 1955 to parents from Kerala, India, is professor for the Theory and Practice of Medicine and senior associate chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Stanford University Medical School. He attended the Iowa Writers' Workshop from 1990-91, earning a Master of Fine Arts.

His first book, *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story*, about AIDS in East Tennessee, was a finalist for the 1994 National Book Critics Circle Award, and his second, *The Tennis Partner*, was a New York Times notable book. *Cutting for Stone*, his first novel, has been described in shorthand as "an epic love story, medical story and family saga."²

The author's non-fiction and fiction writing are both infused with his view of medicine as a passionate and romantic pursuit, observes one online biographer. He views the bedside ritual of examining the patient as a critical and necessary skill that cements the patient-physician relationship, and has coined the term "iPatient" to describe the phenomenon of practicing medicine by computer. There should be a lot to talk about!

And what are we reading next, you ask? In March, Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*, winner of the 1997 Pulitzer Prize. "Reconsider the writing of Philip Roth if you're disenchanted; I did," says Angela Wexler, inviting us to do the same.

Everybody is welcome to come to book group, no sign-up necessary. Please plan to attend as often as you are able on every third Friday, September through June. For more information and to receive meeting reminders and other occasional literary notices, contact Judy Pereira. Hope we see you there on Friday, February 17.

¹Opening quotes are from the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Kirkus Book Reviews* (12/15/09), respectively.

²Abraham Verghese biography (Amazon.com)

Perhaps congregations should focus outwardly rather than simply being satisfied with creating communities of like-minded people. "What if we move from the (perhaps arrogant) statement of being 'like-minded' to seeing ourselves as 'like-hearted'—coming together to offer our gifts to the world?"

-- Terasa Cooley, "Learn Out Loud" at <http://learnoutloud.blogs.uua.org>

Children's Religious Education

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, February 2, 1 pm

The Margaret Fuller Circle will meet in the UU Center Library on Thursday, February 2 at 1 pm.

We will start the meeting by sharing any poignant happenings in the past month that would be of interest to the group and a brief business meeting, followed by refreshments served this month by Prim Reeves.

Betsy Searight is our program coordinator for this month presenting our topic "Our Human Nature Towards Self Deception". We will read a column written by David Brooks in the *New York Times* on November 14, "Let's All Feel Superior" as a background for our discussion. Participants might want to think ahead on the following questions: When did I, or someone I know, act courageously in standing up to erroneous or hateful group thinking? And we might enter the confessional box and tell of a time when we did not, and which we now regret. We might look at how believing what one wants to believe rather than what is factual has entered into our political thinking today. Betsy Searight is preparing questions to guide our discussion.

Sounds like an interesting soul searching program. Come on out and do some soul searching. Might be surprised at what you find!

--Arlene Yacka, Circle Leader

Adult Religious Education

Adult RE sponsored an extremely well received workshop on Journaling for Memoir Writing. The workshop, taught by Bob Baum, ran for 3 weeks. The eight participants learned how to keep a journal as well as how to take one event in their lives and create an interesting story. The group has decided to meet once a month to share experiences regarding their ongoing writing. People who did not attend the workshop are welcome to attend. Please see Bob Baum for details.

The Adult RE committee meets the first Sunday every other month and is seeking new members. If you are interested in joining, or have an idea for an RE course, see Charlie Roberts (Adult RE chairperson) or Marsha Hannah or Kathleen Hartnett.

♪ Where Did We Come From? ...

What Are We? ...

Where Are We Going? ♪

Songs have been used as titles for some of our recent Sunday services, and January in Children's Religious Education brought this song to mind.

Where did we come from?

As part of our observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, our 5th-7th grade class had two visitors who shared their memories of discrimination and segregation. Bob Baum shared his experiences of serving in the military down South and his observations of cliques while a middle school teacher, and Bob Gillies talked about his experience of discrimination while growing up in New England. Having our members share their personal experience with our children brings these events to life, and teaches the kids that UUs just like themselves contribute to important changes in the world.

What are we?

Our 5-7th graders are exploring the different beliefs held by Unitarian Universalists, and are compiling a belief survey of the adults here at UUCSJS to learn about the diversity of beliefs that are held by our members while the Coming of Age class is exploring their own beliefs and studying Forrest Church's seven paths to understanding ultimate reality.

What we are is also reflected by the things we do. This month Michelle Tomko and Anne Peifer joined three of our classes with a lesson on Henry Burgh the founder of the ASPCA and led a project making dog treats for our furry friends. Michelle and Anne brought the treats to the Atlantic County Humane Society, enabling our kids to live out our seventh principle.

Where are we going?

The folks who visited and shared with our classes this month helped our children to think about where we've come from, what Unitarian Universalism is, and how we can each make a difference in the world. The experience in Sunday morning RE is much richer when adult congregants are part of the discussion and activities. Where we go from here depends largely this participation – if you have an experience or ability that you feel would enrich our classes, please feel free to contact me at sjsdre@gmail.com and many thanks to Bob, Michelle, Bob and Anne for sharing with us this month!

Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.
- Albert Einstein

Example is leadership. - Albert Schweitzer

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
January 2012

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 6:30 pm in the UU Center Lounge, President Jim Gentile presiding, and opened with the sharing of joys and concerns.

• **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chair and Board member John Searight distributed his “UUCSJS Fund Balances 1-16-12,” reporting 1) *our reserve fund has increased to over \$23,000* (although \$5,000 will be used to pay off an existing debt on March 1); 2) *our checking account continues to maintain a healthy balance*; and 3) *our building fund has increased slightly*.

The Finance Committee is at work on plans for the annual budget drive with campaign chair Paul Utts, Searight said, adding that “Commitment Sunday” has been moved to March 25 to coordinate with singer-songwriter Peter Mayer, who will perform during Sunday Services that day. [The FUUN Committee is hosting Mayer’s concert the preceding Saturday evening, March 24; see Jeff Taylor or Steve Fiedler for advance tickets.]

• **Treasurer’s Report** – Treasurer Prim Reeves commented that “half way through the year, we’re looking good; not gorgeous, but very good,” and presented her “Financial Report for December 2011.” She called attention to the following: 1) *year-to-date we are \$2,000 ahead in total income, and for December, \$1,100 ahead*; 2) *pledge payments continue to improve, so that year-to-date we are \$4,500 ahead*; and 3) *expenses year-to-date are very slightly (\$10) under budget*.

At the treasurer’s request, the Board discussed at some length how best to handle Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs).

• **Minister’s Report**

Pastor Charlie Dieterich observed that January is flying by for him. From January 22-28 he will be at the UUA’s home in Boston for the first year ministers’ retreat and workshop, then back on January 29 to deliver the sermon, attend 5th Sunday potluck, and host an “open office” to show off his digs and invite us to visit. Then it’s away again to what should be a reflective, calming overnight retreat February 7-8.

Pastor Dieterich reported on recent pastoral care activities, and mentioned ongoing efforts to find new ways to increase interactions with the community and enhance public relations. He went on to describe a possible new avenue of intergenerational activity – exploring local and regional sites of multicultural significance and historical importance. With a wealth of UUCSJS members’ knowledge to tap into as well, fascinating trips could be in our future. A variety of spots are being scouted, he said.

• **Building Use Policy**

There may be a few gaps in the existing policy, President Gentile said, and therefore:

a. *As a point of clarification*, Pastor Charlie Dieterich is designated by the Board to sign building use agreements on behalf of the UUCSJS.

b. *As a point of clarification*, any honorarium for services rendered by the minister goes to Pastor Charlie Dieterich, himself. This was not so stated in his contract, an oversight.

c. *As a point of clarification*, use of the UU Center by other ministers incurs a regular building charge, except that UUCSJS members may use the building for free.

• **Miscellaneous Matters**

– **Charlie’s Ordination/Installation**

It was emphasized by Prim Reeves and acknowledged by the Board that this event will indeed take a great deal of advance planning, thoughtful effort, fundraising, and the like, and that an organizing committee should begin work soon. It was noted that Pastor Dieterich will be in Preliminary Fellowship with the UUA on or about April 1, and that realistically, we might look forward to this big occasion sometime in the fall. President Gentile charged the Board to arrive at next month’s Board meeting ready to suggest an ordination planning committee.

– **Heidi’s Hours**

Operations Manager and Director of Religious Education, Heidi Jansch, is adjusting her office hours to 10:30 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; the Board gave its blessing.

• **Executive Session** – The Board had two items on the agenda for Executive Session: 1) the ministerial contract renegotiations upcoming in February, and 2) a review of staff salaries and benefits for the 2012-13 preliminary budget.

– Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of
the Board of Trustees will be held on
Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

Tickets on Sale Now

UUCSJS is hosting a concert featuring Peter Mayer on Saturday, March 24 at 7:30 pm. The ticket cost for UUCSJS members is only \$15 (advanced sale to the general public will be \$17, and \$20 at the door). Tickets will be available for purchase on Sundays – see Jeff Taylor after the service.

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

**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!

UUCSJS CO-SPONSORS UPCOMING SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING SERIES

I'm delighted to be able to report that Douglas Tallamy will be the keynote speaker for our three part Sustainable Landscaping Series. Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home; How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, was met with wide acclaim and has greatly influenced the sustainable landscaping movement.

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is sponsoring Tallamy's presentation which will take place on Monday, March 19 at 7 pm in the College Center Theater on Stockton's campus in Pomona, NJ. UUCSJS, the Atlantic County Master Gardeners: Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County, and the Task Force for a Sustainable Galloway (Go Green Galloway) are co-sponsoring the presentation.

The second and third workshops in the Sustainable Landscaping Series will take place at our Center. "Backyard Invaders and Native Alternatives" will take place on Monday, March 26 at 7 pm. "Landscaping for Birds and Other Wildlife" is scheduled for the following Monday, April 2 at 7 pm. You'll want to mark your calendars now and look for more details in the March Newsletter.

-- Jesse Connor

It's Not What I Get, It's How I Give

By Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, JPD

We have just finished the highest consumption period in our country. The Christmas season is stretching back to October with displays for the holidays being set up before Halloween. It used to be that the advertising didn't begin until after Thanksgiving. Now we are bombarded with calls to give that special someone something that they don't probably need and to spend more than is sane just so the economy can keep moving forward. It is estimated that 40% of a store's annual revenue comes in during this short period of weeks.

Many of our churches have fallen into a trap of having their members think of the church as similar to a retail operation. People think that they should be receiving some value for their contribution in proportion to what they give. This is a false argument because the church deals in intangibles that can't have a price tag placed upon them. How does one price a sermon that touches the soul and causes one to change your behavior? What about having a child who has been given an open curiosity about the universe and our place within it? Where do you find a listing of costs for a minister sitting with a dying person to bring them some comfort in their final hours? Or what about the young person who learns to sing in a youth choir and has the whole world of music expand before them?

Yet each of these occurs within our congregations and is part of what we do as a people of faith. These and many more opportunities are given to us each week as we come to church to worship and meet our friends and neighbors.

Stewardship is not just the one time a year that you are asked to put some value on what you have received from your congregation. To be a steward is to have been entrusted with the care of something. In this case, it is the church of which you are a member. Each of you is a steward for the congregation who has been entrusted with its care so that it will be there for future generations to come.

Free Workshop: Saving the Planet (And Your Money) One Home at a Time: How to Reduce Your Home Energy and Resource Consumption

The State of New Jersey and federal government have generous (if poorly publicized) incentive programs in place aimed at helping homeowners save energy, sometimes lots of it, to reduce related pollution and, as a side benefit, also saving money on utility bills.

The UU Green Sanctuary Committee is sponsoring a workshop, Saturday, February 11 from 1 to 2:30 pm, and repeating it on Wednesday March 7 at 7 pm to showcase these programs and provide other information about energy savings. Please feel free to bring your family, friends, and neighbors. The government programs are aimed at homeowners, but all who just want to learn are welcome.

Here at the UU Center, we built a cleaner, healthier, more environmentally friendly building, one that is also more economical to light, heat and cool. We want to show you how you can do the same at home, as some members and friends already have.

We'll start by showing you how to access the NJ Clean Energy Program, which offers generous rebates PLUS as much as \$5000 in incentives that can pay up to half of your energy-related improvements, with 0 percent financing for the other half, as you make your home "green" and save money too! The state has set aside almost \$200,000,000 to upgrade insulation, heaters, air-conditioners, and more.

We'll explain why you'll need a certified energy audit of your home, how to get one, and why you should focus first on the "low hanging fruit" the audit identifies, like plugging air leaks and improving insulation to save the most energy at the highest rate of return.

We're also inviting a small number of experts from local green businesses, who can provide information on some of the additional technologies we were able to employ here at the UU Center.

These include rooftop solar-electric systems and geothermal heating/cooling systems. Federal and state incentives, combined with newly emerging creative financing programs can make these technologies cost-free (or better) for many homeowners. But one size doesn't fit all. We'll point you to resources to help find out if it makes sense for you.

We'll also have information about tankless water heaters, energy efficient windows and doors, lighting and more. (Note: This will be an informational workshop. As usual, do your own due diligence if you later decide to get bids for any work on your home.)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Pastor Charlie Dieterich

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

February 2012

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