



# Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South  
Jersey Shore

Volume 14, Issue 07

July 2012

## July Services “Exploration”

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><b>July 1</b></p>	<p><b>To Boldly Go</b> <i>Lay speaker Lauren Porr</i> When you're a UU, you see your principles everywhere. When you're a space cadet, you look to the stars. Logically, our lay speaker this week sees UU principles in the stars. Join Lauren Porr and the Enterprise crew (Ronda Cluff, Steve Hall, Wayne Address, and Jeff Taylor) as they explore the universe with eyes to the telescopes and one hand on the warp drive!</p>
<p><b>July 8</b></p>	<p><b>The Art of Happy</b> <i>Guest speaker Catherine Wieczorek</i> Our souls long for it, our lives are spent pursuing it, yet how many of us describe ourselves as "happy"? This elusive state called "joy" is not simply a by-product of our consumer culture, attaining a certain status, or achieving a certain goal. "Joy" has spiritual connotations that go far beyond a goal we are chasing. But how do we get there? How do we become masters of the "art of happy"?</p>
<p><b>July 15</b></p>	<p><b>College Reflections</b> <i>Lay speakers Colin Hutchison, Nick Staab, Julia Utts, Brian York</i> Graduates of our own RE program share how their religious education and experience at UUCSJS has carried into their young adult lives.</p>
<p><b>July 22</b></p>	<p><b>Speaking in Tongues</b> <i>Lay speaker Bud Smith</i> From a small interracial group of earnest seekers in Los Angeles 1906, to over a half billion today, the Pentecostal movement has spread worldwide. But how can we make sense of the strange phenomenon of “speaking in tongues?” Is it mass delusion? Psychotic influence? Or something more? We’ll consider the practice in terms of primal spirituality and see how it may inform our own search for truth and meaning.</p>
<p><b>July 29</b> Shared Meal after service; Drumming Workshop 12:30 <i>see page 2</i></p>	<p><b>Beyond Light Bulbs: Covenant and Collective Action</b> <i>Guest speaker Matt Meyer</i> Ours is a faith guided by covenant. As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that some things are better accomplished in community. A spiritual life is one of those; social justice work is another. Join us for a service of rhythm, music, covenantal community and collective action.</p>

### *About our guest speaker:*

**Matt Meyer** graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2004, where he studied hand drumming and world music. During that time, he also studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Since then, Matt has led music and worship for hundreds of services in congregations all over the country.

He has led worship for convocations at Starr King and Bangor Theological seminaries, for Harvard UU seminarians and has been Artist in Residence at the Southwest UU Summer Institute (SWUUSI) and at Star Island RE Week, and was the guest speaker for this year's JPD worship arts festival. Matt currently serves on the UUA's Council for Cross-Cultural Engagement.

He has led services and workshops for several of the national UU Musicians' conference, UU district gatherings, the Contemporary Worship conference, SUUSI, and Young Adult conferences in Oregon, Wisconsin, Ontario, Maryland, Iowa, New Mexico, Illinois and Massachusetts. He has also led music for the last seven general assemblies.

Matt is honored to have performed a diverse repertoire with Ysaye Barnwell (of Sweet Honey in the Rock), Pete Seeger, Emma's Revolution, Peter Mayer, Jim Scott, Nick Page, The Halalisa Singers, Samba Tremeterra, and Bloco de Afrobrasil.

Matt is also a founding board member of the [Lucy Stone Cooperative](#), an intentional community and center for social justice based in the values and tradition of Unitarian Universalism.

### **Do You Have Room for a Guest?**

UU Musician Matt Meyer will be presenting our service and a drumming workshop on July 29. Matt will be taking the train from Boston on July 28. If you live fairly close to a train station and have a spare bed or couch, could you host Matt the evening of July 28? Also needed is someone to pick him up at the train station.

Please contact Barbara Miller to offer your hospitality to Matt.

---

## **EXPLORATION**

After sleeping through a hundred million centuries we have finally opened our eyes on a sumptuous planet, sparkling with color, bountiful with life. Within decades we must close our eyes again. Isn't it a noble, an enlightened way of spending our brief time in the sun, to work at understanding the universe and how we have come to wake up in it? This is how I answer when I am asked—as I am surprisingly often—why I bother to get up in the mornings.

-- Richard Dawkins

No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit.

-- Helen Keller

## **Drumming and Sprituality Workshop**

**July 29**

Matt's "**Drumming and Sprituality**" workshop is a chance for people of all skill levels to participate in hands on rhythm-making. The workshop includes instruction on basic technique, as well as information on the origins of percussion instruments from around the world. Participants will also experience the spirituality of community music-making through stories, games and discussions as well as look at how rhythm and music intersect with Unitarian Universalist values. Bring your own drum if you have one, for those who don't, enough will provided. (1.5 hours) Cost: \$10 Email Barbara Miller at [uucsjsmusic@comcast.net](mailto:uucsjsmusic@comcast.net) to register.

### ***Happenings at Murray Grove:***

**Camping in the Grove!** - August 12-16, 2012:

5 days of fun-filled summer adventure for children in 3rd through 6th grade. If you love games, art, swimming, music, nature and bonfires, our camping experience, where Universalism traditionally began, is just for you!

Visit [murraygrove.org](http://murraygrove.org) for details.

---

**Summer is here!**

**Try some new items on your grill:  
fish instead of burgers; veggies like corn,  
zucchini, peppers, portabella mushrooms.  
Get creative!**

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!**

---

After all these years, I am still involved in the process of self-discovery.

It's better to explore life and make mistakes than to play it safe.

Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.

-- Sophia Loren

Fear is a question. What are you afraid of and why?

Our fears are a treasure house of self-knowledge if we explore them.

-- Marilyn French

In wisdom gathered over time I have found that every experience is a form of exploration.

-- Ansel Adams

## *Pastor's Page*

The month of July has a long string of associations in my mind. While beach weather starts in June down the Shore, July 4th weekend was really the first good beach weather where I grew up in Massachusetts. Our family had one spot we loved to go for my father's two week vacation, one of several simple cottages just across a dune from Cape Cod Bay. The bay beaches were never very rough, not good enough for any sort of surfing except windsurfing... but that was much later.

At low tide my brother and sister and I would be released to the sand flats... a huge area of sand and tidal pools to play catch, Frisbee, tag and any other game except, perhaps, hide-and-seek. Our favorite activity was building sand castles. We preferred the free-form type rather than anything made with a mold. The sand was dense enough that we could make tunnels under walls, create secret chambers and add "dribblet" turrets at the corners. Sometimes we would tell each other stories about who lived in the castle, and why it was, for example, pentagonal...

But the best part was when the tide came in, and the sand bars got smaller, and smaller, and smaller, until the castle walls were breached or overtopped, or stepped on by young cousins who didn't understand the ritual of defeat each castle had to endure. An hour later we would be swimming in the water, now five feet deep over the castle foundation.

We built our sand castles of the most readily available substance - sand - and rarely decorated them with driftwood, shells or other items. We used creativity and an artist's eye to decorate our castles, though the decorations all ended up looking like more sand. And we knew that however fine our creation, time and tide would take it away. The best would become legend, spoken of reverently at supper that night.

Years later we went back to that beach, with children in tow, and tried to pass on the tradition. But they had other plans -- mud fights and damming the streams between the flats, hermit crabs and walking way out into the water. Soon that craft we perfected will be as forgotten as the one used to make Stonehenge.

There is no home movie, and very few photos. It does not matter. It was our special memory, and, like sand through your fingers, all we can do is let it go!

Happy July.

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](mailto:minister@uucsjs.org).

## Summer Homework

Happy Summer! For some of us, summer is not very different from the rest of the year. Perhaps you have a short vacation, but other than that, it's still work, work, work. Or perhaps family burdens keep you busy, and the only difference is that the thermostat is set to "Cool" instead of "Heat."

For others, summer is completely different from the rest of the year. Perhaps your life is academic, and summer is a good time to read, freed from the early morning school routine. Or maybe you are expecting to earn most of your money during the summer tourist season, or growing season, or harvest season.

My summer will be mostly away from UUCSJS. Last year I worked straight through the summer, then moved to NJ just in time for Irene, and then starting work here. The year before that I had to work on selling my father's house up near Boston. So this year I plan to travel a bit and take in some classes. I'll also settle in to my new place, and maybe even go swimming.

Yes, you can send me an e-mail, but be patient, I am not always online. And yes, you can text or call during the day, but the phone may be off - leave a message! Other members of the Caring Team will be more able to help you with pastoral care issues. I know that there are things we have to plan for the fall... if you want to ask a question, send me an e-mail with as much background as possible. It's hard to look at the office calendar when I'm in western Virginia!

You are always welcome to send me an e-mail with a book or movie recommendation.

This spring I gave the congregation three assignments for "Summer Homework," and I thought I'd remind you of them...

The first one is simple: save some water from some event this summer... a cousin's wedding, a day at the beach, a water bottle from a hike... whatever event you want. Save an ounce or so, and bring it to our Water Ceremony this fall. We will use it to bless our teachers' hands and perhaps for other rituals this year.

The second comes from the John Muir service and the Bill Moyers interview with Jonathan Haidt (see [billmoyers.com](http://billmoyers.com)) It is to ask yourself "what is sacred to me?" Further, listen to those who you disagree with. Listen for times when others make you angry. And instead of dismissing their points of view, assume good intentions; ask them what is sacred to them, and how sacred beliefs lead to their viewpoints.

And the third is to meditate on Dr. Howard Thurman's advice to do what makes you come alive. To ask yourself what makes you come alive, and maybe ask others that question too.

May your travel always be on time, may your potato salad always be delicious (and properly refrigerated) and may peace be with you.

Pastor Charlie



## The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

Well it happened again. One of our members learned that a friend bought a kitten from a pet shop. Ugh. Most people have heard the term *puppy mill* due to recent media attention. However, we often fail to realize that any animal -- rats, chinchillas, ferrets or kittens -- can be milled. Most animals you see in a pet store have more than likely been milled simply to keep up with demand. Although you are saving the particular animal you are purchasing from a vicious cycle, your dollars also perpetuate that cycle. Please don't do it.

We all know that shelters are overflowing with unwanted mutts and mixes, especially in the warmer weather. But there are also rescue groups that cater to certain breeds. People are forced to give up their pets for a variety of reasons. Moving, death, economics, allergies are just a few of the ways people find themselves surrendering a pet. Often, these animals are up-to-date on shots, house-broken and even obedience trained. You have the opportunity to have that dream breed *and* rescue an animal! So spread the word.

These groups are just a mouse click away. Simply go to your favorite search engine, type in your favorite breed plus the word rescues (e.g., Himalayan rescues) and watch the hits appear. You will find the pet of your desires, help control the animal population and support a welfare organization. Happy hunting!

In July and August, SJAA requests donations for Cape-Atlantic C.A.T.S. (Citizens Altering the Strays), an all-volunteer organization that rescues cats and kittens in danger of losing their lives in shelters and on the streets. C.A.T.S. provides veterinary care and foster care, and finds cats loving, lifelong homes. The group also educates the public about pet overpopulation and the importance of spaying /neutering. Cats and kittens ready and waiting for homes may be visited at Mew To You, a cat rescue and thrift shop on Asbury Avenue in Ocean City, open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day. C.A.T.S. is seeking donations of cat and kitten food, litter and supplies. "Like" the group on Facebook or visit [www.capeatlanticcats.petfinder.com](http://www.capeatlanticcats.petfinder.com) to see kitties available for adoption and to find out more about fostering, adoption, volunteering, or donating to their Mew To You Resale Shoppe.

"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity." - Albert Einstein

"Better to light a candle for one lost dog than to curse the darkness of man's indifference. Saving just one dog won't change the world, but it surely will change the world for that one dog." - Richard C. Call



"This should be required reading for everyone-- from President Obama . . . to migrant rights activists . . . It gave me inspiration."

— Sandra Cisneros (*The House on Mango Street*)

## Book Lovers Choose Ten New Books for 2012-13 Season, Opening with

### *The Death of Josseline*

Subtitled "Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands," *The Death of Josseline* by Margaret Regan is recommended reading for this year's UUA General Assembly ("Justice GA") in Phoenix. For the last decade, Regan has reported on the escalating chaos along the Arizona-Mexico border, exploring a host of urgent issues. *The Death of Josseline* will be our first selection when monthly meetings resume on September 21. (Book group does not meet in July or August.)



For October we will be reading Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, considered by some her finest book. We'll have a chance to compare Austen's Regency England with the Golden Age of Old New York in the 1870s when we read *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the selection for January.

*Into Thin Air* is November's selection. Intending to write merely a standard mountaineering magazine article, Jon Krakauer happened to join the disastrous May 1996 Mt. Everest climb. His resulting personal account has been called "a story for the ages."

December brings us to much-admired British writer Rosamunde Pilcher and *Winter Solstice*. Chilly locales notwithstanding, the author should warm us with her skillful characterizations and natural, easy narratives of everyday life.

Following *The Age of Innocence* in January, for February we're on the coast of Maine with *Olive Kitteridge*. "Olive is the axis around which these 13 complex, relentlessly human narratives spin themselves into Elizabeth Strout's unforgettable novel in stories."<sup>1</sup>

March's selection offers important insights into what might lead a teenager to kill a number of schoolmates or teachers, Columbine style. Lionel Shriver's *We Need to Talk About Kevin* has been called "harrowing, psychologically astute, sometimes even darkly humorous ..."<sup>2</sup>

In April we visit the small village of Edgcombe St. Mary in the English countryside for *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson, with an unusual romance between an unlikely, older couple—the book's namesake and Pakistani shopkeeper, Jasmina Ali.

We change gears in May for *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts, especially appropriate in the month of Mother's Day. Her story begins before 1775 and ends with the finish of George Washington's presidency.

Last but certainly not least, June will find us in the insect-infested Amazon for the well-regarded and long-anticipated *State of Wonder* by Ann Pachett. "Stirring and luminous ... a world unto itself."<sup>3</sup>

All are invited to join the book lovers' group. Plan to attend as often as you can on the third Friday evening of the month, September through June, at 7 PM in the UU Center Library. For more information or to receive email reminders, please see Judy Pereira. *See you in September!*

<sup>1</sup>O: *The Oprah Magazine*    <sup>2</sup>*Publishers Weekly*    <sup>3</sup>*amazon.com*

**Board of Trustees**  
**H I G H L I G H T S**  
**June 2012**

**The new UUCSJS Board  
elected KAREN YORK as President  
of the Board for 2012-13  
and  
re-elected DEBBI DAGAVARIAN  
as Vice President**  
**Congratulations!**



The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the UU Center Lounge, President Jim Gentile presiding. Joys and concerns were shared before the meeting was called to order.

New Office Administrator, Michelle Tomko and incoming Board members Karen York and Lauren Porr were also in attendance, along with Committee on Ministry member Wendy Terrazzini and Congregant MaryAnne Kowalczyk, attending a Board meeting for the first time in her 20 years as a UU.

• **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chair and Board member John Searight referred us to the Annual Report for an overall review of fiscal year 2011-12. Distributing “UUCSJS Fund Balances 6-19-12,” he said there is growing concern about cash flow and noted that some \$5,500 has been moved from Reserve Funds to Checking since April, reducing the reserves to \$8,003. “This is not a trajectory we can continue along,” Searight said. Also, the annual budget drive has officially ended and we are \$4,000 short of our pledge goal.

More optimistically, he said, historically UUCSJS “tends to come through.” However, if these trends continue we will need to come together as a congregation to explore our options and decide how best to move forward.

This is Searight’s last Finance Committee report before moving into his new role as UUCSJS Treasurer on July 1. He and outgoing treasurer Prim Reeves are working to assure a smooth transition.

• **Treasurer’s Report** – Treasurer Prim Reeves began by saying simply, “It’s tight.” She submitted “Financial Report for May 2012”—her last such effort after serving as our treasurer for five long years! Thank you, Prim!

Total Income for the month (Line 17) was 42% (\$6,000) under plan, she said, with missing pledge payments \$5,000 of that amount. (Pledges will continue to arrive in June.) Total Expenses for the month (Line 100) are within \$35 of plan, happily.

Year-to-date, total income is only 3% (\$4,700) under plan, all unfulfilled pledges. And year-to-date, total expenses are about \$3,000 under budget. Therefore, on balance, we are only about \$1,500 short of plan with one month left in the fiscal year.

However, Reeves next called attention to Line 109 (Total Funds Available) showing that within one month, 4/30 to 5/31, available funds lost \$8,600 and are now less than \$21,000. “I see this as a concern,” she stated.

Board approval was then sought and obtained to allocate two amounts greater than \$100: 1) \$5,000 generously given by Ruth and Gayle’s father, Alan Eaves, to paying down principal on our mortgage; and 2) \$500 thoughtfully given by Helen Utts to purchase of new hymnals. The Board sincerely thanks each for their gift.

Finally, the treasurer informed the Board a “Designated Fund” was set up for South Jersey Animal Ministry (SJAA) to shelter \$80 donated to support their work. (Budgeted funds left over at the end of the fiscal year are customarily moved to our

Reserve Funds account, she said.)

• **New 2012-13 Board to Re-Negotiate Letter of Agreement with Pastor Charlie**

Members of the incoming Board heard this evening that they will need to negotiate a new contract with Pastor Charlie prior to September 1, the one-year anniversary of his ministry.

• **Task for New Board – Election of Officers**

Four returning Board members joined two incoming members to elect Karen York, President and Debbi Dagavarian, Vice President. Decisions were unanimous; the secretary received votes by email from Debbi, recovering from a hip replacement. Congratulations, and thanks!

• **Task for Old Board – MFC Minister Evaluation**

The Board will complete its UUA Parish Ministry Evaluation of Pastor Charlie for the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) in Executive Session immediately after this meeting.

• **Board Talk-Back Report**

John Searight reported he had been tasked with Board Talk-Back on June 17, and had covered it alone as Judy Pereira had another meeting and no visitors were actually anticipated. (For months, no one has appeared at the scheduled sessions.)

However, on this occasion one congregant did attend to speak about the recent Bylaws revisions and to voice concern that no detailed tracking of the proposed changes was available to the congregation ahead of the vote at the Annual Meeting. A wide range of issues were deserving of attention, he said.

It was determined the issues raised in the interview should be heard in full by the incoming Board, which has no time limitations.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM, and reconvened immediately in Executive Session.

– Judy Pereira, Secretary

**The NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.** at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

**UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2012-2013**

- Karen York (14), President
  - Debbi Dagavarian (14), Vice President
  - John Searight (14), Treasurer
  - Judy Pereira (13), Secretary
  - Lauren Porr (13), Member at Large
  - Joe Terrazzini (14), Member at Large
  - Art Wexler (13), Member at Large
- year given is end of term, e.g. (13) means thru 6/30/2013*

**Staff as of July 1, 2012**

- Office Administrator, Michelle Tomko
- Director of Religious Education (DRE), Heidi Jannsch
- Music Director, Worship Coordinator, Barbara Miller
- Bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett



## UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle is on hiatus till September, but come on over to the Church Library on Thursday, July 5, at 1 pm with your little brown bag lunch for some casual gab and a chance to solve the world's problems with a great group of ladies. See you there.

Arlene Yacka  
Circle Leader

### UUA's Illuminations App - Now Available for Apple iDevices (Android Coming Soon)

Illuminations, the UUA's first app is now available in the iTunes App Store!

- Illuminations has over 350 Inspirational Words, a Chalice Lighter with several chalice options, and a 7 Principles Guide in English and Spanish, along with examples of the Principles in action. The app is free and currently available for iOS devices (iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad) and will be available for Android devices very soon.

- The Timely Words feature delivers Inspirational Word notifications on a daily or weekly basis. This feature can be disabled.

- The chalice lighter comes with 5 chalice designs. Tap the screen to light it and tap it again to extinguish the flame. Alternatively you can blow, near the microphone, to extinguish the flame!

- Inspirational Words and the 7 Principles can be shared via Facebook, Twitter, and email.

Updates, information, and support can be found the Illuminations Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/IlluminationsApp> and on [UUA.org/illuminations](http://UUA.org/illuminations)

- The logo and screenshots can be downloaded from the Facebook Image Albums:  
<http://www.facebook.com/IlluminationsApp/photos>

- Questions about the app from constituents should use [app.support@uua.org](mailto:app.support@uua.org)

- The app can be found in the app store or via this direct link:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/illuminations-unitarian-universalist/id531010625>

## Children's Religious Education

Ah, summertime!

Our religious education school year follows the traditional school year, so during the summer we do not have formal RE classes. Instead, each week we have an all-ages group of our children participate in one activity together. In the past, our Summer Sundays have included craft projects, nature walks, cooperative games, tie-dyeing t-shirts, a musical jam session, jewelry making, and creating a banner to welcome our new minister.

This summer's line up is just as exciting! See below for a full listing of the schedule – many of these activities will be hands-on and may get messy, so if you have children who will be participating, *please dress them in play clothes that can get dirty.*

July 1	Tie-dye T-shirts (shirts will be supplied, unless you have a special one you'd like to bring) - Colby and Doug
July 8	Sea shell wind chimes - Katy
July 15	Jewelry making - Debbi
July 22	Working with clay - Prim
July 29	Juggling - Bud Smith
August 5	Rock Painting - Colby
August 12	Paper crafts - Tracy Longshore
August 19	Arts and Crafts - Debbi
August 26	Co-operative games - Karen Zindell
Sept 2	Balloon Animals - Michelle Tomko

I am now back to working mostly from home, and with professional development opportunities and family vacations, you may be seeing a little less of me this summer. Please feel free to contact me at [sjsdre@gmail.com](mailto:sjsdre@gmail.com) if you need to reach me – I am still available and hard at work “behind the scenes.”

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

### UUCSJS Members Photo Directory

A revision is underway

This handy little booklet that helps folks learn who is who, is now 5 years old. While many of us don't mind our pictures making us look younger than we are, our photos of children are a different story. Over the month of July, we hope to get new pictures of families with children, and new ones of anyone who wants a replacement.

Our plan is to have individuals and families gather in the front left corner of the sanctuary, where the banner usually is kept. Mariann Maene, or someone else with a camera will meet you there.

An alternative is that if you have an electronic photo that seems suitable, you can email it to Judy Pereira.

Please note that this is a directory of members only. If you are feeling left out, perhaps it is time that you become a member.

## What's Happening in Social Justice Ministry?

This month was a productive and rewarding month for UUCSJS Social Justice. Our "Civil Rights Journey 2012" was finally confirmed as a "GO" from the new Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, a joint program of the UUSC and UUA. Our three students will be leaving and joining other students on this learning trip to Atlanta, Birmingham, Tuskegee, Montgomery and Selma on Sunday, July 22, returning on July 29. Bob Baum is conducting a journaling workshop for them on July 8. Many thanks to the 45 members of our congregation who were able, in these tough economic times, to support this effort financially. The total cost was \$2,830 and our members gave what they could with donations ranging from \$5 to \$300.

We have also reconnected to the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ (UULMNJ) and Jesse Connor will now be serving on the UULMNJ Environmental Task Force focusing, in part, on climate change legislation. Sheila Stoner will serve on the Marriage Equality Task. I will be on the Economic Justice Task force focusing on housing, wage theft, and a livable wage. I will also be continuing my efforts with the Occupy Movement.

The staffing of our Social Justice table continues to be a challenge with Bob Gillies and Kim Trotto continuing to give unselfishly of their time, often foregoing our coffee hour. I know that Helen Utts has stepped up to pitch in and I'm hoping others will too. This activity is important as we continue to support the Fair Trade movement through our sales of coffee, tea, chocolate, and now delicious snack bars. Supporting fair trade is central to our commitment to strengthening human rights and dignity for workers in this global economy.

But the big news was the UUA Social Justice General Assembly in Phoenix from June 20 to 24. Charlie Roberts and I served as delegates along with Pastor Charlie. The nearly 150 Workshops offered over five days focused almost entirely on social justice issues emphasizing migrant rights, anti-racism, economic justice, wage theft and inequality, and organizing congregational social justice activities. We had the opportunity to hear and personally meet leaders from migrant rights groups like Puente Arizona ([www.puenteaz.org](http://www.puenteaz.org)), the Somos America Coalition, the National Day Laborers Organizing Network, Tonatierra ([www.tonatierra.org](http://www.tonatierra.org)), the Barrio Defense Committees, Alto Polimigra ([www.altopolomigra.com](http://www.altopolomigra.com)) and others. We also heard from congregational leaders from around the country who described their experiences and successes leading their social justice programs.

The morning and evening Worship Services were beautifully prepared and spiritually uplifting including many new and old hymns, engaging speakers, and meditative moments. Imagine 3,500 UUs from over 1,000 congregations across 50 states joyfully singing together "Fire of Commitment" led by the UU GA Choir and GA Music Director and you'll get some sense of what it felt like. I'm still singing!

The Plenary Sessions (business), of which there were five, one each day, were peppered with song and prayer or meditation between items of business. In addition to the budget reports, by-law revisions and other more mundane items, the UUA delegates selected our next Congregational Study Action Issue: "Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling."

Given the recent assault on women's reproductive rights and health services, the UUA General Assembly took an important step.

The highlight of the GA was the Interfaith Witness for Human Rights: Candlelight Vigil at Tent City Jail on Saturday evening. We found it amazing that in this day, in OUR country, the practice of institutionalized terror and humiliation can still go on, unabated, with the support of government. 2000 people commune and sleep outside in tents in the Arizona desert. Daytime temperatures when we were there reached 113 degrees in the shade. Most prisoners are held without charges or legal representation. It is horrific and inhuman. Even the local animal shelter a short distance away has air-conditioning.

In the climate of fear created by Arizona's SB 1070, anyone who looks like an "illegal" can be taken off the street in a moment unless they show proof of citizenship - what's called the "show me your papers" policy. (Do you carry your birth certificate with you?). Families, some with roots in the US for 20 years, are being torn apart. This is racial profiling at its worst.

So, 2,500 UUs took school busses to the Tent City and then marched peacefully throughout the evening, singing all the way, through screaming angry "Tea Party-ers" and "Militia," to witness for the human beings incarcerated in this World War II-style internment camp. We were joined by the Rev. Geoffrey Black, President, United Church of Christ (who spoke at one Worship Service) and a minister from the local Baptist church.

Don't forget that Charlie Dieterich, Charlie Roberts and I will be preparing a Social Justice GA service for August 19, as has been done in previous years. We hope to convey the core of the messages from GA.

By the way, if anyone tells you "it's not the heat, it's the humidity" tell them that at 113 degrees, IT'S THE HEAT!

Richard Grzywinski, Chair

Social Justice Ministry

## General Assembly Coverage

uuworld -- <http://blogs.uuworld.org/ga>  
uua.org -- <http://uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml>

### Short videos about the 2012 General Assembly

Peter Bowden filmed major social witness events and interviews with a variety of people at the General Assembly for *UU World's* GA blog. Find all of our videos at *UU World's* Vimeo channel and share your favorites with friends.  
<http://vimeo.com/uuworld/videos/>

### A new focus on reproductive justice

Delegates selected the new Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI), "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling." The four-year study/action issue, which calls congregations to champion reproductive rights and reproductive justice as a religious issue, will culminate in a UUA Statement of Conscience in 2016. The UUA is halfway through another four-year CSAI, "Immigration as a Moral Issue."

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

---

### Minister

Pastor Charlie Dieterich

### Music Director & Worship Coordinator

Barbara Miller  
uucsjsmusic@comcast.net

### Director of Religious Education

Heidi Jansch  
sjsdre@gmail.com

### Office Administrator

Michelle Tomko  
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

### Bookkeeper

Kathleen Hartnett  
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



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

## Board of Trustees 2011-12

---

Debbi Dagavarian, Judy Pereira, Lauren Porr,  
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

**July 2012**

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

