



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 14, Issue 09

September 2012

September Services “Restoration”

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>September 2</p>	<p>Reports from the Freedom Road <i>Lay speakers Casey and Ryan Sturts and Deanna Terrazzini</i> Our high-school Civil Rights sojourners Casey and Ryan Sturts and Deanna Terrazzini are back from their adventures. Selma, Montgomery, Atlanta -- the places, people, and events are etched into our collective consciousness of that turbulent and nation-changing time. They will give us their impressions from the road almost a half century later and the challenges we still face. Arlene Yacka and Bob Baum will assist with some personal commentary.</p>
<p>Please join us for Morning Song at 9:45 in the sanctuary. September 9 Annual Picnic follows the service.</p>	<p>Ourselves, We Find -- a Water Ceremony <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> Summer is over, what did you find? We begin a year of activities with an inter-generational service celebrating our return, and our expectation of new learnings. Bring water from a summer activity. We will bless our teachers' hands as they begin the work of Religious Education.</p>
<p>September 16</p>	<p>Peace Pilgrim Interfaith Community Service <i>Guest speaker Marcello Spinella</i> This service will celebrate the life, work and teachings of Peace Pilgrim, an American woman who dedicated her life to the cause of peace in a unique and powerful way. Drawing inspiration from this remarkable person who truly “walked her talk” for a peaceful world, we will be looking at the interconnections between inner and outer peace and how these manifest in our lives and in the world.</p>
<p>September 23</p>	<p>Coming Home: Becoming the Pulse of the Universe <i>Lay speaker Alan Oliver</i> “Coming Home” is about becoming your true self and returning to what is safe, caring and comfortable. Our true “home” is the whole universe. How can we be comfortable and achieve balance with both the energy and concrete forms of this home? Do we directly experience our own dynamic process and the evolutionary and creative energy of our home?</p>
<p>September 30 10 am</p>	<p>Flaming Chalice <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> What does it mean to become an ordained minister? Are the beacon fires only for dire need, or should ministry be an every day affair?</p>
<p>September 30 4 pm</p>	<p>The Ordination of Charlie Dieterich by the Congregation, with Rev. Libby Smith and many more</p>

Barbara invites you to a Morning Song

At the UU Musician's Network (UUMN) Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma in July, I began classwork for my Music Leadership Credentialing. The three courses for this first year are:

1. Leadership of Congregational Singing
2. Rhythm, Pitch, and Timbre: The Elements of Multicultural Competence for Musicians
3. Musician as Religious Elder

Our congregation is my classroom and I would like to ask your help as my learning partners. I will be demonstrating some new song-leading techniques over the next few months. If you have any feedback to contribute to my self-assessment, I would appreciate hearing it. I will also be teaching new songs as part of a "Morning Song" experience. Morning Song gives us an opportunity to learn new music before we actually sing the song as part of the service. In this way, the flow of worship is enhanced.

Our first Morning Song experience will precede the Water Service on September 9. Pastor Charlie and I request that you plan on arriving at 9:45 so that we can begin singing by 9:50. We will be learning "Bring Many Waters," composed especially for UU Water Services by Bernadette Burns. This experience will be recorded and included in a video I will submit as a requirement for my Song Leading class.

Next month I will invite you to be part of a team exploring multiculturalism in music with me.

Thank you for your continuing and enthusiastic support of my music ministry.

-- Barbara Miller, UUCSJS Music Director

Deep, deep, deep in the dark of the winter...

The Winter Solstice Singing Ritual returns to UUCSJS on December 21, 2012, at 4:30 pm. We will celebrate the return of the Light which occurs after the Winter Solstice with songs and stories. The singing will include music from calypso, Western choral singing, Native American texts, Greek mythology, feminist rounds, Pagan chants, and even an old American hymn. The ritual runs about 75 minutes.

All are invited to participate. There are roles for singers, readers, production assistants, instrumentalists, and dancers. Participants from past years' WSSRs can testify to the power of our meeting together to honor the Dark and welcome the Light.

Our congregation owns a small number of books and CDs which participants may borrow. Many of us own our own copy, and Barbara Miller will be ordering more copies as needed this year.



October Needs You!

Last spring when I reserved October as "Death Month" some folks wondered if that might drive away some of our members. After all, "death" is a pretty heavy theme, and some are still in mourning over losses they have lived through.

I recognize that, and would ask those who want to avoid the topic to volunteer to help Heidi with children's religious education -- holding a baby for half an hour can be very life affirming, and so can listening to our children as they learn to think for themselves.

But for the rest of us, I hope we can do this month cooperatively. I'm looking for folks or teams to come forward and say "We'll do this part!" on a sign up sheet or phone or e-mail. Here's the plan.

The month starts with pets... live ones. Wednesday October 3 is the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, and we will celebrate with blessing of animals in the early evening. Bring your cat, dog, gerbil, or whatever animal you feel needs blessing. We will share the ritual, and use some of our gathered water in the process.

The following Sunday, October 7, the service will be more meditative, as we remember pets who helped us or our family members. If you have photographs or art works showing your companion, we will combine them on the altar. The message will be hopeful, and thankful and contemplative. I am still collecting readings, reflections and readers for this. How might you help?

Two years ago the congregation tried "small group ministry" -- gatherings in homes or at the UUCenter to contemplate a topic. While that didn't continue, I believe October is the time for us to try again. We will have two sessions, the first around October 9-11 and the second between October 23-25. We need an organizing team, hosts, facilitators and participants, so stay tuned. Perhaps we can have one group meet during the day for those who do not drive at night. The topics and readings will relate to mortality, and give each of us a chance to reflect and share.

Saturday morning October 13 is set aside for three-hour field trips. One group might go to several different funeral homes, while another will go to see how a cemetery or eco-burials work. I hope a team will volunteer to run each trip, and find a way to make one of them kid-friendly.

The sermon on the 14th will be on the business of death in our society -- actually societies, as each sub-culture has its own rituals and routines. I will be in the pulpit again, and am glad to listen to advice and stories related to this theme! Perhaps there will be discussion available after the service.

There is a bit of a break until the 21st, when the subject will be hospice, with discussions following the service on topics from advance directives to organ donation. Plan to stay late and be part of the discussion. Leadership and help is needed for this event.

Every process has an end, and by the end of the month it will be time to meditate on the ways various cultures remember the dead, and experiment with what is genuine to us. Then comes Halloween, and community celebration.

We won't hit every possible aspect of October's theme, but I hope you will join in, and perhaps carry some of your learnings forward to the year ahead.

-- Pastor Charlie

Pastor's Page

September is a Beginning, and an End

Our theme for September is "Restoration," and so I invite you to think about things you have lost, which might be restored to you. I invite you to think of things that have fallen into disrepair, which might be not only cleaned up but improved and "re-purposed" to the life you live today.

Restoration could be as simple as giving away clothing you no longer use, thus restoring space in your dresser's drawers. Or it could be as complex as paying off credit card debts, beginning the process of restoring your credit rating. Or maybe it's restoring an old automobile. And whether it is old pairs of pants or old spending patterns or the way the old bucket seats felt, restoration almost always involves loss or risk. Painting the door frame might mean painting over the birthday marks showing how your children grew... Calling a relative from whom you are estranged might restore the relationship, or might sever it for good.

And September is ideal for restoration. The Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are a time for asking those you have wronged for atonement-- not just forgiveness, but restoration of the relationship. We won't be observing these holidays as a congregation, but that doesn't mean you can't create your own ritual. Perhaps you are returning again to a home you left for summer, or to a schedule as a student or teacher. Perhaps you are restored by time at the beach or time with visitors, or restoring the house to order after they have left. Like no other month, September is a time of restoration.

Indeed, our September begins with Labor Day weekend and three travelers, Casey Sturts, Ryan Sturts and Deanna Terrazzini, recently returned from a Civil Rights Journey to Alabama and Georgia. Come be reminded that there is much to learn and teach, and reasons for hope.

As children we learned that water was the ultimate restorer... "go wash your hands" when dirty, "put it under running water" when burned or scraped. And "drink plenty of water" too. On September 9 we will fill the glass more than half full with water from our

summer experiences during our Water Ceremony. Don't forget to bring a small vial, water bottle or jar with something that represents your summer! We will also mark the new Religious Education year with the blessing of RE Teachers' hands.

And the restoration we all dream about, PEACE, is the subject of our service on September 16, the conclusion of a celebration of Peace Pilgrim's work. She was a remarkable woman who vowed to "remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until given shelter and fasting until given food."

On the 23rd, Alan Oliver will return to speak of reconnection and a Buddhist perspective on restoration. It is also "Blue Jean Sunday" with cleaning, repair and restoration of the UU Center after the service.

And on the 30th I will be preaching on the Flaming Chalice, a symbol of hope and a beacon for those who need it. The membership committee hopes to present some new members on that day as well.

You may have noticed that there is an ordination that afternoon... a chance to restore our connection to the wider Unitarian Universalist movement. I hope to see you there.

-- 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.

Virtual Meetings

The UUA's Central-East Regional Group (CERG) will be offering "From a Distance: Running Effective Virtual Meetings" at 10 am on Saturday, September 8. Gather at the UU Center or register and view from home. (the greener alternative!). The seminar lasts 90 minutes. Email Pastor Charlie (minister@uucsjs.org) if you want to be part of the group at the UU Center.

<http://cerguua.org/cergwebinars/329-distance.html>



The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

Wildlife Aid needs UU!

Throughout the month of September, South Jersey Animal Advocates will be collecting donations for Wildlife Aid in Egg Harbor Township, the only State of New Jersey-authorized small mammal wildlife rehabilitation facility in the area. Wildlife Aid is authorized to rescue, treat, and rehabilitate small mammals such as rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, foxes and opossums. It is an all-volunteer group totally dependent on public support.

In general, the public is unaware of the restrictions placed on anyone attempting to rescue and treat wildlife and the fact that special State licenses are required for each task. Separate licenses are required to transport wildlife (even those that are injured) and to treat and rehabilitate wildlife, with separate licenses also required for various types of animals and birds.

Although the State makes it very difficult for anyone to help injured wildlife and imposes heavy fines for violators, the State makes no attempt to recruit, train, or support wildlife rehabilitators. Currently, any resident or visitor to southern New Jersey who finds an injured small animal or bird has no facility other than Wildlife Aid to take it to. SPCAs, Humane Societies, Police Departments, and Fire Departments are not allowed by the State to accept wildlife. Residents of our area are extremely fortunate to have an organization such as Wildlife Aid for receiving injured wildlife. The nearest other authorized facility is in Atco, NJ.

All donations for Wildlife Aid are gratefully accepted, but the following are always in short supply: cat food, sunflower seeds, acorns, peanuts, laundry detergent, bleach, trash bags, spray bottles, fishing nets, and Purina dog and cat food "weight circles." Additional items needed are ferret chow, rabbit pellets, betadine, triple antibiotic ointment, dish soap, leather and rubber gloves, pet carriers, baby blankets, wool blankets and coats, powdered esbilac, and pet carriers.

--Bill Sparkes, member, SJAA

"Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction." -- Edward O. Wilson

"I am myself and what is around me, and if I do not save it, it shall not save me."
-- Jose Ortega y Gasset

"Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it." -- Henry David Thoreau

Book Group to Explore Arizona Borderlands in September in *The Death of Josseline*

*Fourteen-year-old Josseline, a young girl from El Salvador who was left to die alone on the migrant trail, was just one of thousands to perish . . . "She was just a little girl. She was on her way to her mother."*¹

The year was 2000, and the Arizona-Sonora line had suddenly, dramatically, become the busiest border crossing in the United States.² Hundreds of thousands of migrants were moving across Arizona's 377-mile border with Mexico and into inhospitable territory. And they were dying out there in the wilderness, in blistering summer heat and frigid winter cold. The deaths were fast becoming a public health disaster — and a humanitarian crisis.

On Friday, September 21 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library, our book group will meet to consider the first of the new season, *The Death of Josseline* by Margaret Regan. Journalist Regan writes for the *Tucson Weekly* and has won many awards for border reporting, including two national prizes. The book was "recommended reading" for this year's UUA General Assembly, the "Justice GA" in Phoenix.

The true number of deaths will never be known, but between October 2001 and July 2010, human rights activist Kat Rodriguez tallied 2,004 migrant bodies. "Arizona had become a killing field," they said. *What happened?*

"Put simply," Regan writes, "the United States had switched to a border policy that funneled migrants away from easy urban crossings and into the deadly Arizona outback." Resolving to plug the porous borders, particularly through San Diego and El Paso, the Clinton administration walled off the most-used crossing points, flooding them with stadium lights and adding patrols.

"The crackdown was meant to stop illegal immigration once and for all. With the cities sealed off ... The harsh landscape of the Southwest would serve as a natural barrier," they believed. Doris Meissner, head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service under President Clinton, told the *Arizona Republic* in 2000, "We did believe that geography would be an ally to us. It was our sense that the number of people crossing the border through Arizona would go down to a trickle, once people realized what it's like." *Their "sense" was tragically wrong.*

Even if you aren't able to finish reading the many case histories in *The Death of Josseline*, join us to hear an NPR interview with author Margaret Regan and learn about the activist group, "No More Deaths." Contribute your opinions about our country's seemingly disastrous immigration policies. After all, *we were all migrants once upon a time.*

For October we will change gears and read (or re-read) Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, published posthumously and regarded by some as her finest book. Helene Gentile will lead our discussion.

Reminders can be sent to you via email if you wish OR you can cease receiving notices if they are a nuisance. Either way, kindly tell Judy Pereira. Book group meets on the third Friday evening of the month (unless otherwise arranged). Bring a light snack to share if you wish.

¹Kat Rodriguez, *human rights activist*

²Here and below, quoted materials are drawn from the Introduction to *The Death of Josseline*, pp. xx-xxiii.

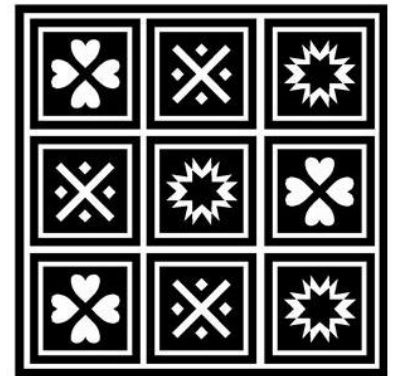


Message from UUCSJS President Karen York

September is a time transition. The weather begins to change, the leaves begin to show their fall colors, the birds migrate to their wintering ground and the growing season comes to an end. As a parent and a college professor, September, the beginning of the academic year brings many more activities and demands on my time. Similarly the congregation begins our program year, and the word that comes to mind as I peruse the congregation's September calendar is "Community". We gather in community for the Water ceremony and congregational picnic on September 9. We work as a community to care for the buildings and grounds on Blue Jean Sunday, and finish our final preparations for the congregation's ordination of Pastor Charlie.

Rev. Libby Smith from Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lower Bucks has agreed to be the main speaker for the ordination service. Many congregants and friends will remember Rev. Libby Smith for her work with us in congregational visioning and on what to expect of a part time minister. The ordination program will likely include parts for seven other UU ministers, all colleagues and/or mentors of Pastor Charlie, who have travelled with him for some part of "the (fairly) long and (relatively) winding road" that brought him to the South Jersey Shore. There will also be many ministers and friends of the congregation from around the region in attendance. I have never attended an ordination, but as the planning has progressed, I imagine it to be a sort of mini general assembly of Unitarian Universalists gathered to share and celebrate this milestone in Pastor Charlie's professional life. I think it will be a very special event to be a part of as we experience the special authority that the congregation has to ordain a minister. I expect it will expand our understanding of what it means to be a UU congregation.

I have often imagined our congregation as a patchwork quilt. Individuals bring their skills, ideas, and creativity to the programs of the congregation. Like the patchwork quilt, individual blocks are stitched together to create something more. But the quilt also has some overall uniformity that contributes to its beauty. Perhaps it is a common color pallet, a uniform size for the blocks, or a recurring pattern. What is the uniformity that holds us together? What is it that helps us to work as a community? We are held together by our common UU principles and a three-part congregational mission to encourage personal growth, contribute to an accepting community, and work together to make a difference in the world. We come to the congregation as individuals with our own joys, concerns, responsibilities, and needs, but we can work together synergistically and creatively guided by a common UU thread and a commitment to the congregation. This September will provide many opportunities for growth, community, and service. Let's put our minds, hearts, and energy together in a spirit of collaboration and be surprised by what we can create together.



A Long and Winding Road

I want to thank all the members of UUCSJS, and especially those who have been attending the Ordination Committee meetings. In the latest UUWorld, Peter Morales cites the aphorism: "There are basically two kinds of meetings—meetings that are a preparation for action and meetings that are a substitute for action." The Ordination Committee meetings have clearly been the first type, and the excitement is palpable. That excitement is extending to the volunteers and detail planners. I can sense that this will be wonderful.

Ordination, the confirmation of election by laying on of hands, is reserved for congregations only. We will have many other ministers present, but their role is to guide me and, when I am ordained, to shake hands with me as an

equal. You, the congregation, are the ones who lay hands on me; it is your action that makes me a minister. I am grateful that you agreed to do so.

While I am saying thanks, I want to include last year's Board of Trustees and the Search Committee for their work bringing me to the South Jersey Shore. It has been a long set of travels, from New England to New Jersey to California to New Orleans and then, much to my surprise, back to New Jersey.

I hope you will all be part of the celebration; I do love you very much.

-- Pastor Charlie

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
August 2012

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** was held on Monday, August 20, 2012, at 6:45 pm in the UU Center Lounge, President Karen York presiding. Opening words affirming our shared principles were read in unison accompanying lighting of the chalice, and joys and concerns were shared.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS** President York announced that: **1)** The next Board "Talk Back" is this Sunday, August 26 at 11:30 am, Art Wexler and Karen York in attendance. **2)** Board goal-setting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29 at 5:30 pm, and begins with a shared meal. Invited are new and old Board members, the Committee on Ministry, UUCSJS staff, and Pastor Dieterich. **3)** The president announced the Ordination committee has invited Board members to the rehearsal dinner on Saturday, September 29 at 6 pm at the UU Center. (The rehearsal takes place at 4 pm for those participating in the Ordination ceremony.)

• **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1) Request for Parliamentarian. The president asked Board members well-versed in parliamentary procedure to supplement her own knowledge and help keep our meetings on track.

2) Date/time for regular meetings. Monday being our minister's day off, the Board reconsidered when to hold regular meetings and decided on *the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.*

3) Board protocol memo. The president reviewed our procedure for voting on the Minutes via email. Once approved, minutes are posted on the Members Only section of the website.

4) Thank you to Jim Gentile. The Board voted *formally and unanimously* to thank Jim Gentile for his three years' service as President of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees. We especially want to thank him for his leadership in the hiring of our new consulting minister, while guiding our growing congregation in his good-hearted, no-nonsense fashion.

5) New contract for Charlie. President York and Board subcommittee chair John Searight gave us an overview of the newly negotiated *Consulting Ministry Contract* and accompanying *Memorandum of Congregational Service Priorities* (effective 9/1/12 through 6/30/14). Major changes of responsibility or emphasis include:

- an increase to 70% time
- a new role as staff coordinator
- promoting "spiritual consistency" in our religious services and programs
- taking an active role in adult religious education
- promoting congregational involvement in social action/social justice activities
- a new contract period of 22 months, to move into alignment with the fiscal year

While promoting spiritual consistency is given here as a new priority, Pastor Charlie has spoken clearly about the importance of maintaining and celebrating diversity.

The new contract represents a serious commitment by the Board on behalf of the entire Congregation, particularly in increasing ministerial time, and a vote was duly called by President York. *The motion to approve the new contract passed unanimously.*

6) Building & Grounds (B&G) report. President York called attention to the August monthly report from head of B&G Jack Miller, communicating his deep concern that as a community, we are facing a substantial and growing deficit in building maintenance. The Board decided it was necessary to table the matter in order to allow for a more in-depth discussion at our earliest opportunity.

7) Special Collection for Peace Pilgrim. The Board voted *unanimously* to approve Barbara Miller's request for a Special Collection to benefit "Friends of Peace Pilgrim" on Sunday, September 16.

• **REPORTS Treasurer's Report.** John Searight presented the July Financial Report, stating he still intends to streamline the format. He called attention to July's "Total Income" of \$43,688 (line 17), and explained that noteworthy figure includes \$42,076 in early pledge payments from generous donors in response to the cash flow crisis we faced at the end of FY12. It represents 27.5% of the total amount pledged for the year. This has enabled us to restore our Reserve Funds (\$21,004, line 105) and establish a healthy balance in our Checking account (\$15,613, line 104). However, the treasurer cautioned it will require careful monitoring of pledge income for the rest of the year to make sure we have a sufficient operating cash flow. He said that with \$153,000 in pledges, after applying our historical 8% drop off in payments we can realistically expect pledge receipts of some \$141,000. Subtracting what we've received already, this leaves \$99,000 for the remaining 11 months of the fiscal year. Searight concluded by observing that as of today's date, "Total Funds Available" (line 110) is \$9,384 LESS than in July.

The treasurer went on to report to the Board on three important additional financial matters.

And finally, the treasurer said the Board had a request from Jeff Taylor to approve funds for Pastor Charlie's Ordination, with a revised budget of \$3,700; donations of \$1,055 have been received and placed in a Designated Fund (line 117), and more contributions are anticipated.

After discussion, the Board voted to approve, as of this date, Ordination expenses of up to \$2,500, with the understanding that this matter will be given further consideration once a more accurate budget request is available and presented in advance of the next regular meeting of the Board on Wednesday, September 12. *The motion passed unanimously.*

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm, and the chalice extinguished.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, September 12, 2012** at **6:30 pm** at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

Staff as of July 1, 2012

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

Summer is winding down!
Get the last of the corn, peppers,
tomatoes, squash, eggplant.

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!**

ORDINATION OF PASTOR CHARLIE

The Ordination of Pastor Charlie is set for 4 pm Sunday, September 30. By now, if you are on our MidWeek Announcement mailing list, you should have received an email invitation. We want you to know that all of our members and friends are most welcome!

It will help us greatly if you RSVP by Saturday, September 15. That way we will have a better “guess-timate” for the number of seats and the amount of food needed. The easiest way to do that is by replying to ordination.uucsjs@gmail.com. You can also view the invitation at <http://www.uucsjs.org/ordination.html>. If you have any questions, please contact us at ordination.uucsjs@gmail.com.

We still need volunteers to help with food and beverages, help transport our visitors from their motel to the UU Center, setting up the dais (platform area) and outside decorations, and clean up! You might even want to volunteer to be a bartender, a greeter, or an usher. At the back of the sanctuary is a large orange-colored sign-up sheet -- check it out and add your name.

Let's make this a special ceremony as our minister, Charlie Dieterich transforms from Pastor Charlie to Rev. Charlie!

Prim Reeves, Ordination Planning Chair.

Children's Religious Education

We have had a great summer schedule filled with fun and creative activities. Many thanks to all of our activity leaders! We will finish our summer sessions on September 2 with Michelle Tomko as she leads the children in making balloon animals.

On September 9, we will celebrate our annual Water Service – don't forget to bring your family's water collected during your summer travels (or water representing it collected from the faucet the moment before you leave the house!). Barbara Miller has invited everyone to arrive at 9:45 am on the morning of the ninth to learn a new song that we will sing during the service. Following the service, our families will be invited downstairs for a brief RE Parents meeting before we all join the FUUN committee outside for our annual picnic, where there will be plenty of food and fun for all our members as we celebrate our annual ingathering.

Our first day of Religious Education classes will be September 16. This year's class groups and curriculum are: *Spirit Play* –for grades PreK-2, *A Stepping Stone Year* for Grades 3-4, *Bibleodeon* for Grades 5-7, and *Popcorn Theology & Gospel According to the Simpsons* for Grades 8-10. More information on these classes will be available at our Parent meeting on September 16 – don't miss!

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

SAVE THE DATE!

The UUCSJS 8th Annual Service Auction will be held on Saturday, November 17 at 6:30 pm. You won't want to miss it!

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

The Margaret Fuller Circle will meet on **Thursday, September 6** at 1 pm in the UU Center Library. We will start by sharing thoughts both personal and important that happened in the past month. This will be followed by a brief business meeting and then fellowship, and refreshments provided by Arlene Yacka.

Our program will be sharing summer experiences past and present. Please bring a photo or two of people that you spent time with or a photo of beautiful scenery or places you visited to share with the group.

Judy Brown
Circle Leader

Social Justice for Newsletter

Our three students, Deanna Terrazzini, Casey Sturts and Ryan Sturts, returned from “Civil Rights Journey 2012” with lots of pictures, stories, songs and, most importantly, enlightening experiences. Ronda Cluff has done a great job publicizing their adventure. With the help of Bob Baum, they kept a journal of their travels and will be conducting a special Sunday Service on September 2, 2012.

We continue to build our relationship with the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ (UULMNJ). Many thanks to members of our congregation who signed the UULMNJ petition to help the Indonesian Immigrants who have been given asylum at the Reformed Church of Highland Park, NJ. We intend to keep working on HR3590 and S3339, and we thank Senator Lautenberg for his efforts. We are encouraging Senator Menendez to co-sponsor the bill. If you would like to help out, see Richard.

Jesse Connor, Barbara Miller, and Richard Grzywinski will be attending a half-day seminar learning how we and UULMNJ can better support our mutual social justice activities.

Many thanks to members of our congregation who have pitched in to man (or woman) the Social Justice Table!

June's UUA Social Justice General Assembly is far behind us, but Pastor Charlie, Charlie Roberts, and Richard Grzywinski presented a GA service on August 26 -- our virtual GA -- as we have done in the last two years. You can imagine how hard it is to present the essence of such a 5-day spiritual and emotional experience in a one-hour service. For more in-depth coverage you can check out www.uua.org.

We prepared a Letter of Condolences for the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin following their recent shooting tragedy. 67 members of our congregation signed the letter and it was bound up and delivered to the Temple last Friday.

Now that school is coming back in session, we plan to help out some needy students with sneakers and socks. We're thinking of having a “Sole Sunday” to rally congregants around the cause. We'll be doing this at the same schools where last winter we provided hooded sweatshirts and gloves. According to one Principal, Bud Smith, “In the fall some of our kids show up with sandals and flip-flops that they wear for months. For these students, new shoes or sneakers are out of the question.” Another Principal, Tracey Staab, says “They are beat down by society so often.... the kindness of strangers really warms their hearts. For them to see that someone makes sure that the kids have shoes, gives that human element.... there really are caring people in the world.” If you would like to donate and/or help raise funds, contact Richard.

Richard Grzywinski, Chair
Social Justice Ministry

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2011-12

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John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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September 2012

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