



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



Volume 15, Issue 05

May 2013

## May Services "Curiosity"

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.

<b>May 5</b>	<b>The Hundred Acre Wood</b> <i>Reverend Charlie Dieterich</i> In the Winnie the Pooh books, Owl lived in the hundred acre wood. One hundred acres!! When you were Christopher Robin's age, that would have been a huge area to explore!
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Curiosity As a Way of Life</b> <i>Lay speaker Joe Terrazzini</i> They say curiosity killed the cat but it has propelled the human race into the 21st century. An examination into this most basic human trait.
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Flower Communion</b> <i>Reverend Charlie Dieterich</i> Yes, let's embrace the word communion in its original meaning of "shared gifts." We ask you to bring a flower from your life; we will arrange it into a congregational bouquet. Then we will each take a flower from the bouquet, symbolizing the gifts we receive from community.
<b>May 26</b>	<b>Blood Brothers: a Palestinian Christian Working for Peace in Israel</b> <i>Lay speaker Margaret Rea</i> What was it like to be removed from your homeland when the State of Israel was created? Can bitter enemies ever be reconciled? Margaret will talk about a book by one of the peacemakers.

## Gina Roche Concert

Saturday evening, May 11 at 7:30 pm in the  
UU Center Sanctuary (doors open at 7 pm)

See Jeff Taylor after the May 5 service for tickets:  
\$15.00 in advance (\$17.50 at the door)



Or, for advance purchase, you can call 609-965-9400 and leave your name & phone number and how many tickets you want (mailbox #5). We will call you back.

## **UUCSJS Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 9, 2013**

This is our congregation's annual meeting where new Board of Trustees members are elected, General Assembly delegates are selected, the new fiscal budget is approved, and other business conducted. Mailing to all members will go out by May 9, with agenda, slate of candidates to be elected, and proposed budget.

### **DANCE WORKSHOP Saturday, June 1: "Moving Our Worship"**

Donna Renfro, ministerial intern at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill, will be offering a dance and Interplay workshop on Saturday, June 1 (time TBD). Participants will prepare a dance for the following day's Sunday service at UUCSJS. Donna will be our speaker that day, offering her message: Who Are Our Neighbors? If you wish to participate in the workshop and the service, or just the workshop, please contact Barbara Miller (uucsjsmusic@comcast.net).

For an example of Interplay, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VitHmMG0jJE>

### **Volunteers Needed on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, for our 5th ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT FUNDRAISER!**

We need lots of volunteer help before and during our upcoming Native Plant Sale & Swap and our Native Nursery-Grown Advance Sale. We need volunteers on Friday, May 3, in the morning, to help offload the plants and organize them for pickup. And we need volunteers in 2-3 hour shifts from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm to help with the sale. You can sign up at the Social Justice table to help. If you can think of some other UUs that might be able to help, please let them know we are looking, and please encourage them to sign up. If you have questions or need more information, please contact me via email. Want more information about the sale? Go to our own website at [UUCSJS.org](http://UUCSJS.org).

Jesse Connor

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**Spring erupts!  
Shed those winter pounds with some healthy foods  
from the produce aisle.**

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!

## **Explore... Discover... Relax... Reflect... Share... Play**

### **Murray Grove Annual Gathering Two Nights!! June 14-16**

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday June 14 to Sunday June 16 – Two Nights. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots.

Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we often have a nature/bird walk, and some intergenerational games. Sunday will include a visit to the Thomas Potter Memorial chapel. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy and swimming is usually available

Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event.

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. We have 22 beds available if you want to stay overnight. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$20 for adults or \$10 for kids per night, or \$40 per adult for the weekend.

A donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and please do not let the cost keep you at home. If you can't join us for the full weekend, please consider coming up on Friday for the cookout or Saturday for a portion of the day.

During the gathering we will need help with the cookout, campfire, and with organizing activities and intergenerational games. If you have a hobby or activity to share with folks (meditation, astronomy, arts & crafts, etc) this is a great time to share it with other members of the congregation. If you are interested in attending or participating, look for more information and sign-up sheets on Sunday or contact Heidi Jansch at [sjsdre@gmail.com](mailto:sjsdre@gmail.com).

# Reverend Charlie's Page

May is open season. No, not in a hunting sense, or fishing sense, but in a spiritual sense. The chalice lighting used at my ordination came from Washington Crossing's congregation:

Let us open our eyes to see what is beautiful,  
Let us open our minds to learn what is true,  
Let us open our hearts to love one another.

-- author unknown

Three openings. Three wonderful results. And three very different pursuits-- seeing, learning and loving. And yet, any one of us has all this and more available all the time. It is odd to think that Helen Keller, deaf and blind from an early age, was one of the great seers of the 20th century. It makes me wonder about how available learning and love are. Maybe you know an unexpected lover, or have found wisdom where you only expected slogans.

This all relates to our monthly theme of Curiosity, another wonderful word selected by the Worship Committee. Curiosity is more active than, say, "Wonder," and less structured than "Investigation." It's a word that applies to a spontaneous walk down a row of library books rather than the selection of a major in college. It is more than observing nature, it is picking up that log or rock and seeing who is living under it. It is more than exchanging pleasantries with acquaintances; it is sitting down over a cup of tea and really finding out, asking questions and really listening to the answers.

And curiosity has a layer of respect to it. Respect for the creatures beneath the stone, respect for the confidences of a friend. In some public parks there are signs that say "take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints." But Curiosity invites us to do more. Leave timidity, leave assumptions, take a new understanding, and take inspiration. A curious relationship is a loving, growing relationship.

May is also a time for rituals. Our Flower Communion service is an opportunity for the community to contemplate sharing. Created in a time when Czech Unitarians were both hopeful for their new nation and fearful of the rise of Nazism, it reminds us of the gifts we bring and those we receive, in times of our celebrations and our fears.

The religious ritual has two parts. You are asked to find and bring a flower from your life-- a dandelion? a rose? or perhaps an azalea blossom you asked your neighbor to cut for you. The first half is a scavenger hunt for beauty in your world. These flowers from our lives are gathered at the start of the service on May 19, creating a bouquet like none other.

The second part is the community part. You are invited to take a bloom from the bouquet, something from another person's life, and examine it, enjoy it, savor it. Perhaps a quiet old man has brought you a rose, or a child has brought you a prize from their first garden. The ceremony invites you to imagine that

this lovely gift might be from anyone, and that the flower you brought is being loved in turn by someone you-know-not-who. That is the nature of community.

I hope you have your own May rituals-- perhaps you dance around a Maypole, or celebrate Beltane in community or maybe you make a pilgrimage to Union Square. Perhaps this month you take your first walk on the Boardwalk, getting ice cream or pizza at a particular shop. Perhaps you help with bird counts, or protection of horseshoe crab spawning areas. Or you put up a birdhouse, and wait. And perhaps, on Memorial Day, you make a pilgrimage and remember a loved one. I invite you to reach out for community, and share your rituals... someone to hold the ladder when putting up the birdhouse, someone to share the journey.

Rev Charlie

**Reverend Charlie's office hours at the UU Center for April**  
**10 am to 2 pm Wednesdays**  
**EXCEPT May 2, that week it will be**  
**on Thursday 1 – 6 pm instead.**

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).

## Going Native

Thank you to Jesse Connor and volunteers, who planted 50 native shrubs at the UU Center on Sunday, April 21, the plants paid for as part of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/**Partners for Fish and Wildlife program**. We have entered a contract with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to designate our detention basin as a *habitat restoration project*.

## UUA General Assembly June 19-23, 2013

This year's **UUA General Assembly** will be held June 19-23, 2013 in Louisville, KY. The information packet contains credentials for up to three (3) delegates, to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

*What is a Congregational Study/Action Issue?*

Each year, the GA as a body selects a Congregational Study/Action Issue. These are topics in the Social Justice arena that warrant focused study and action. The issue is studied for 4 years, and actions to address the issue are decided and promoted. Delegates to GA can vote on what the "winning" topic is each year.

2012-2016 CSAI: Reproductive Justice

2010-2014 CSAI: Immigration as a Moral Issue

2008-2012 CSAI: Ethical Eating

2006-2010 CSAI: Creating Peace

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"Curiosity will conquer fear even more than bravery will."  
– James Stephens

# 18 Marks of a Healthy Congregation

By Peter Steinke, slightly adapted by Richard Speck

1. Healthy congregations accept differences – rather than denying them.
2. Healthy congregations focus on their strengths – rather than their weaknesses.
3. Healthy congregations focus on their mission – rather than on getting along, the past, survival, the minister or some other thing or issue.
4. Healthy congregations respond to anxiety and change - instead of reacting to it.
5. Healthy congregations manage their conflict – instead of denying it.
6. Healthy congregations act flexibly and creatively – instead of being rigid.
7. In healthy congregations, leaders promote health through their presence and functioning – instead of using techniques and skills.
8. In healthy congregations, leaders challenge the people - instead of comforting them.
9. In healthy congregations, leaders provide immune capacities - instead of enabling disease processes from others.
10. In healthy congregations, people respond graciously and truthfully – rather than judgmentally or secretly.
11. In healthy congregations, people develop caring relationships – rather than willful transactions with one another.
12. In healthy congregations, people empower others – rather than try to dominate them or cure them.
13. Healthy congregations recognize the interdependent web of existence – rather than being isolated, unrelated parts.
14. Healthy congregations practice stewardship gratefully and willingly – rather than begrudgingly.
15. Healthy congregations combine money and the ethical moral life – rather than separating the one from the other.
16. In healthy congregations, people share their lives – instead of each living for oneself.
17. In healthy congregations, hospitality is offered to all – instead of favoritism for the few or the like-minded.
18. In healthy congregations, beginning again is a way of life – instead of staying stuck.

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“I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift should be curiosity.”  
– Eleanor Roosevelt

“Curiosity is more important than knowledge.”  
— Albert Einstein

“*Entertaining mini-biographies and engaging vignettes.*” — *New York Times*

## Book Group to Hobnob with *Founding Mothers of the American Revolution in May*

When the British took Princeton in 1776, General Cornwallis appropriated the home of Richard Stockton and his wife Annis Boudinot Stockton, called Morven. “But before he got there, Annis hid important state papers, plus the names of the members of the American Whig Society of Princeton College, a treasure trove for the English, who wanted to punish patriots,”<sup>1</sup> writes Cokie Roberts in her 2004 bestseller *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*.

Join us on **Friday evening, May 17 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library** to discuss this engaging book that “brings to life the everyday trials, extraordinary triumphs, and often surprising stories of Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Deborah Read Franklin, Eliza Pinckney, Martha Washington, and other patriotic and passionate women, each of whom played a role in raising our nation.”<sup>2</sup> MaryAnne Kowalczyk is the book lover who recommended this selection about “the women who fought the Revolution as valiantly as the men.”<sup>3</sup> Newcomers are always welcome; bring a light snack to share if you wish.

As for the plight of the Stocktons, the author tells us that after Morven was occupied, Richard, “who was serving in Congress in Baltimore, rushed home to try to take his family to safety, but he was arrested, imprisoned, and abused in captivity. Annis got word of his treatment to Congress, and the British were threatened with retribution, but their tactics had succeeded. Stockton was the only signer of the Declaration [of Independence] to swear an oath to take no further action against the king. He was released, a broken man ...”<sup>4</sup>

The story is tragic but mixed: In using his home, the British “destroyed the interior, burned his books and some of the papers they found, and stole others. But Annis [who was a poet] continued to write her poems and eventually reestablished herself at Morven.”<sup>5</sup>

After this month there is only one book remaining on this year's list! Last but certainly not least is June's selection, Ann Patchett's *State of Wonder* (2011), “truly a thing of beauty and mystery, much like the Amazon jungle itself.”<sup>6</sup> We'll be guided by Debbi Dagavarian.

Also in June we will pick 10 new books for next year, always an exciting time. Put on your thinking caps and offer suggestions as early as you can to be compiled by Judy Pereira. What's more, this June we will be asking, who would like to head up our book group next year? If you're thinking about it, you'll find it rewarding with a warm and lively group of book lovers on hand. We meet every third Friday from September through June, taking a break in summer. We hope you can be with us on Friday, May 17.

<sup>1</sup>*Founding Mothers* (HarperCollins Perennial/2005), p. 107

<sup>2,3</sup>Harper Perennial paperback, back cover matter

<sup>4,5</sup>*Founding Mothers*, p. 107

<sup>6</sup>Jessica Schein (amazon.com reviewer)

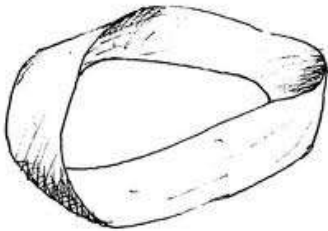
## **Seasons, Cycles and Reflections on the Möbius Strip**

Although the spring weather has been rather cool, our UU center has been abuzz with spring activities, and I am beginning to look forward to summer. This month the congregation hosts the native plant sale and swap, and a special concert (and fundraiser) by Gina Roche on May 11, which should be a special musical treat.

The Board is planning for our annual meeting to be held June 9, 2013. Members should expect a mailing of information early in May. Planning is also underway for the annual overnight gathering at Murray Grove June 14-16 (see details elsewhere in the newsletter).

Each summer there are many camps and UU gatherings to participate in including the UUA General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky (my home town!!). Any of these gatherings provide an opportunity for personal growth and an opportunity to connect with others who share our faith. I am personally looking forward to attending a weeklong UU summer camp called UUMAC (UU Mid-Atlantic Committee) that gathers for a week at DeSales University in Allentown, PA each summer (July 14-20, 2013). This is the first time in many years that I am able to attend, but in the past years when I attended it was a highlight of my year. It provided a break from my routines and an opportunity to meet UUs from around the region, and time to reflect and refresh. The cycles of our life and our congregation are less like a simple circle and more like a Möbius strip. May we continue to grow and learn together. See you on Sunday!

### **A Brief meditation on “Life on the Möbius Strip”**



“That curious object is a Möbius strip. If you take a finger and trace what seems to be the outside surface of the strip, you will suddenly and seamlessly find yourself on what seems to be the inside surface. Continue to trace what seems to be the inside surface, and you will suddenly and seamlessly find yourself on what seems to be the outside surface.

I have to keep saying “what seems to be” because there is no inside or outside surface on the Möbius strip! The two surfaces keep flowing into each other co-creating each other in the endless cycle of a form that has only one side.

The first time I saw a Möbius strip I thought, “Amazing! That’s exactly how life works!” Whatever is inside of us continually flows outward to help form or deform the world. And whatever is out there in the world continually flows into us to help form, or deform, who we are. In this constant exchange of the inner and the outer, we and the world are made and re-made.

Much depends on what we choose to send out into the world from within ourselves—and much depends on how we choose to internalize what the world sends back to use... How can I travel the Möbius strip so keenly aware of this constant co-creative exchange of the inner and the outer that I can make choices about it- about what I send out and what I take in -in ways that are life-giving for the world, for other people, and for me?”

-- Parker J. Palmer

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“Let go of certainty. The opposite isn't uncertainty. It's openness, curiosity and a willingness to embrace paradox, rather than choose up sides.”  
~ Tony Schwartz

“Curiosity is the very basis of education and if you tell me that curiosity killed the cat, I say only the cat died nobly.”  
~ Arnold Edinborough

# Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

April 2013

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. Chalice lighting was accompanied by words affirming our shared principles, and joys and concerns were shared. Among these, the defeat on gun control legislation in the Senate was decried.

## • ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The next **Board Talk-Back** is Sunday, April 21; future dates are posted in the UU Center office.

2) Jesse Connor is recruiting volunteers to help plant some 50 native shrubs, paid for by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/**Partners for Fish & Wildlife**; our detention basin has been designated a habitat restoration project.

3) The Growth Committee of our sponsoring congregation, **First UU of Wilmington**, DE, will visit on Sunday, April 28, joining Program Council, staff, and others for a luncheon meeting after the service. *Welcome!*

4) This year's **UUA General Assembly** (GA) will be held June 19-23 in Louisville, KY. UUCSJS has credentials for up to three (3) GA delegates, to be elected at the Annual Meeting on June 9.

5) The annual UUCSJS **gathering at Murray Grove** is scheduled for Fri., Sat., Sun., June 14-16, 2013.

6) Following up on ideas emanating from the two special Board Talk-Backs, President York said she was finding helpful email exchanges on "**crisis communication**" with congregant and public relations professional, Ronda Cluff. Among other ideas, Ronda recommends "devoting time and attention not just to resolving the conflict, but to better, more purposeful communication with the congregation during the process."

## • DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) The **UUCSJS Annual Meeting** is set for Sunday, June 9, 2013, mailing to go out by May 9. **a) Budget.** Treasurer John Searight submitted "Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14" at \$189,000. *Motion passed unanimously:* to approve the new budget (pending final review by Finance committee), the budget to be presented for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting on June 9. **b) Vacancy.** *Motion passed unanimously:* to fill the Board vacancy, Nominations committee will be asked to add to its slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting, an At-Large member of the Board for a new two-year term. **c) Covenant.** The proposed UUCSJS Covenant of Right Relations will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting. **d) Policy.** A resolution will be offered at the Annual Meeting that the congregation endorse a workshop (or workshops) to consider how best to implement the new Covenant. **e) Annual Reports.** Deadline for staff and committee chairs to submit annual reports to the Board secretary will be Memorial Day, May 27. The reports will be available to the congregation one week before the Annual Meeting.

2) **Coverage of Office Administrator duties.** A quick review established that most duties are being covered by a combination of staff and volunteer effort. These arrangements are expected to pertain at least until the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2013, and likely until around September 1. The Board authorized our Congregational Bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett, to bill a certain number of additional hours as needed.

3) **Staff Evaluations.** As our Staff Coordinator, Rev. Dieterich will undertake staff evaluations this spring in the manner he sees fit.

## • REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** Rev. Charlie described his three

days earlier this week in trauma response training at Murray Grove; some were subsidized by CERG (Central East Regional Group of the UUA). The training and retreat was attended by ministers, DREs, and others who had been leading recovery efforts up and down the Sandy corridor. This great program was complicated on Monday by the Boston Marathon bombings, although with Kathleen's help he arranged to get a letter out to the congregation about the sad event. The coming month of May promises to be busy, with (among other things), the biggest-ever Native Plant Sale & Swap on May 3-4, Fundraising's special Gina Roché concert on May 11, an interfaith effort on gun control with Ocean Heights Presbyterian, and the initiative by Interweave to help override Gov. Christie's veto on marriage equality for NJ gays and lesbians.

Finally, Rev. Charlie said he finds interesting current thoughts he is hearing about Social Justice as, at root, "standing on the side of love." Stay tuned.

2) **Treasurer's Report.** The treasurer's having already presented the proposed budget for next fiscal year, we are now focusing on how to bring FY 12-13 to a successful close. Searight said that even with further reductions and savings, his best estimate at the moment is that we will be about \$11,000 short later this spring. (It's not realistic to look to our Reserve Funds, he said, as that would deplete them almost entirely.)

At this point, Rev. Charlie and others pointed out emphatically that *using the term "shortfall" of late has been misleading* in that it seems to imply bad budgeting, whereas the truth lies in our having significant, unanticipated expenses.

As the treasurer and president have reported, we have been in contact with the IRS, and the State of NJ, for more than eight months now to determine the exact amounts due to settle past filing errors; at present we are trying to document the case that UUCSJS is, indeed, a "church."

The Board went on to discuss at length the fact that some kind of "special expenses campaign" is needed to remedy this one-time only situation. (We notice the amount we will be "short" closely parallels what we've had to pay to the IRS thus far.) This can accurately be called "a bump in the road," one Board member said; the budget itself is sound.

Collectively we need to find a way to cope with these obligations from the past and move forward. Board members agreed we must share the financial burden equitably. Details have yet to be worked out, in consultation with the Finance committee and others. Stay tuned.

• **Adjournment** – The next meeting of the Board was set for *Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 PM*, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge 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*

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Helping to give our members and friends the information and support necessary to find their own way along their spiritual path.

**Coming Sunday, May 5: *The New Jim Crow* Book Discussion.** We are planning a 90-minute discussion of the book on Sunday, May 5 after the service (child care and a light lunch will be provided).

Once in a great while a book comes along that changes the way we see the world and helps to fuel a nationwide social movement. *The New Jim Crow* is such a book. Praised by Harvard Law professor Lani Guinier as "brave and bold," this book directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control -- relegating millions to a permanent second-class status -- even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a "call to action."

Alexander is absolutely right to fight for what she describes as a 'much-needed conversation' about the wide-ranging social costs and divisive racial impact of our criminal-justice policies." **If you would like to be part of that conversation at UUCSJS**, please sign up at the back of the sanctuary or at register at: [adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com](mailto:adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com) . We will be offering a light lunch and child care and it will help us if we know how many are coming.

**Small Group Ministry for Adults** will continue on thru the Spring! Currently meetings are set for Wednesday evenings in Southern Ocean County, Tuesday evenings in Dennis Township (Cape May County) and Thursday evenings in Mays Landing. We are still welcoming people into these groups.

If you are interested in joining in this speaking-from-the-heart group, please reply on-line at [adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com](mailto:adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com) or sign up at the back of the sanctuary. It is important to tell us *which group is best for you*.

We are considering programs for the summer and fall. Let us know what you would like.

-- Prim Reeves, Chair, Adult RE

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**Margaret Circle** will meet on Thursday May 2 at 1 pm in the library. This month will include a "social justice hour" with program and refreshments by Prim Reeves and Judy Pereira -- half will be a briefing on *The New Jim Crow*, and half about the UUA's Statement of Conscience on "Immigration as a Moral Issue". Both are important Adult RE topics at UUCSJS this spring and summer. Please try to attend as this will be very informative plus it is always nice to be together.

-- Judy Brown, Circle Leader

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Luckily, April showers took the day off and the skies were clear for our Children's RE Family visit to the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge on April 21st. The kids and adults enjoyed the new displays in the visitor's center before we headed out to clean up the trails. We soon got the feeling that we were not the first group to hold a trash clean up, since the refuge was the cleanest we had ever seen, and our hike was more like a trash *scavenger hunt* for the kids! We were still able to enjoy a beautiful, breezy day in good company on the trails and "Boardwalk." Many thanks to the volunteers from our community that attended, and to Katy Cardwell for organizing the trip for us.

May marks the beginning of the end for the Religious Education school year. This month our two older classes will begin to focus on planning for the RE-sponsored service on June 9 with Melissa Hutchison and Rev. Dieterich. This year's RE Sunday will also include a bridging for two of our students who are graduating from high school. Can you guess which two students they are? Come on the 9th and find out!

This month we also start planning for the annual congregational retreat at Murray Grove. This year the retreat will take place from June 14 - 16. See the article included in this newsletter to learn more, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the retreat.

Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

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The **UUCSJS Men's Group** meets on the third Tuesday of each month. If you would like to attend or want more information please contact Dave King (he's in the Member Directory).

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### What is GA, CLF, OWL?

Americans love their acronyms. Are you ever confused about the alphabet soup that comes out of UUs' (Unitarian Universalists') mouths on occasion?

**GA** – General Assembly, the nationwide convention/meeting of all uua congregations.

**UUA** – Unitarian Universalist Association, the confederation of UU congregations.

**OWL** – Our Whole Lives, a UU life and sexuality curriculum.

**DRE** – Director of Religious Education. Many congregational DRE's are credentialed by the uua (Heidi Jansch, our DRE, is pursuing her credentialing).

**JPD** – Joseph Priestly District, of which UUCSJS is a part, covering parts of eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, northern Virginia, and Washington DC. Richard Speck is the District Executive.

**CLF** – Church of the Larger Fellowship , a congregation on the web and in print reaching people who do not belong to a local UU congregation.

**COA** – Coming of Age, common RE curriculum component for youths making the transition from teen to adult.

**LGBT** – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, but who knows why this is used instead of BGLT or TGBL??? To be complete, it should be GLBPTQQI (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex).

**UUSC** – UU Service Committee, an associate member organization of the UUA which works to promote and protect human rights in the United States and internationally.

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

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### Minister

Reverend Charlie Dieterich

### Music Director & Worship Coordinator

Barbara Miller  
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### Director of Religious Education

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### Office Administrator

vacant  
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### Bookkeeper

Kathleen Hartnett  
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(609) 965-9400**

## Board of Trustees 2012-13

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

**May 2013**

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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