



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



Volume 15, Issue 07

July 2013

## July Services “Faith”

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>July 7</b>	<p><b>Faith During the Armenian Genocide</b> <i>Lay speaker Debi Dagavarian</i></p> <p>In 1915, a million and a half Armenians in Turkey were systematically deported and tortured or killed by the Ottomans. Debbi’s great uncle and paternal grandmother were survivors of this genocide, and she will tell their stories, speaking of the role that faith played in this human tragedy.</p>
<b>July 14</b>	<p><b>C-H-U-R-C-H</b> <i>Lay speaker Stephanie Garrett</i></p> <p>C-H-U-R-C-H. Do you see a word or letters? What does it or could it mean to you? What has it meant to you in the past? What assumptions come to mind? Can you come up with a working definition? Experience an individual journey with group participation.</p>
<b>July 21</b>	<p><b>UUs Are Also Universalists</b> <i>Reverend Carol Haag</i></p> <p>Reverend Haag will speak about Murray Grove, our Unitarian Universalist Retreat Center in Lanoka Harbor, and share why she considers herself a Universalist.</p>
<b>July 28</b>	<p><b>What is the Story of Your Life?</b> <i>Guest speaker Jo VonRue</i></p> <p>We have each lived through crazy, horrible, amazing, and wonderful things. Each trial leads us to a new beginning and a new outlook on our life. No matter our trials, we must find "God" in those around us, and find the faith that we need to get through life in our community.</p>



### Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, July 28, 2013

Immediately after service

*For the Purpose of Electing a New Treasurer*



As you take your summer pilgrimage to the pool or river or hospital sink, bring us back some water from your sacred journey.

We'll use it in community, come September.

## Summertime, and the living is easy .....

by Karen York UUCSJS Board President

Not sure if the living is any easier, but there is a change of routines and a bit of a change of pace. At UUCSJS our programming year aligns with the school year, and as a regular teacher in religious education, I have more of an opportunity to attend the adult worship. Our new Board begin their terms July 1<sup>st</sup>, which also marks the start of our new budget year.

We welcome Doug Dickinson to the Board of Trustees and I am pleased to announce that I have been elected by the Board to serve a second term as President. Debbi Dagavarian will be serving once again as Vice President of the Board. John Searight, however, is resigning as Treasurer, after many years of dedicated service on the Board. He has been a careful steward of our finances in his year as Treasurer and we cannot thank him enough for his leadership during a time with more its share of financial challenges. We have set July 28 as the date to hold a special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing a new Treasurer, although we are still seeking nominees. Please talk to Paul Utts or any other member of the nominating committee if you have any interest in being considered or have an idea of someone who should be considered.

Speaking of elections, our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations recently elected a new moderator of the UUA Board, Jim Key. Previously, Gini Courter had served for 10 years as the moderator. I highly recommend your taking the time to listen to her final report as moderator of the General Assembly (URL: <http://blogs.uuworld.org/ga/2013/06/23/courter-urges-assembly-to-set-the-uuas-vision/>).

Finally I want to put in a plug for the Harvest the Power leadership development workshops that Marsha Hannah and I are offering on Thursday July 11 and 25 at 6:30 pm. Although the workshops are part of series, each one stands alone and can be valuable on its own. In the first two workshops we explored our "Leadership Journeys", and our "Unitarian Universalist Journey". On July 11 we will consider "Power and Authority", and on July 25, "Turning Points and Moments of Grace". For those of you who don't think of yourself as a leader and don't think this workshop is for you, I offer the following quote from "Leadership Journeys." By this definition it seems to me difficult to separate leadership from living a faithful UU life.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."  
-- John Quincy Adams

## Is Fossil Fuel Divestment the Answer?

### Fossil fuel divestment is moral, strategic

Money is an instrument of moral choice.

By Fred Small

"Climate change is a moral issue.

...The fossil fuel divestment campaign is telling the smart money to get smarter. It's reminding treasurers and trustees that fiduciary responsibility means attending not just to short-term security, but also to long-term sustainability. It's pointing out that there can be no economy without a livable planet. It's calling upon investors to transition to a fossil-free portfolio within five years."

### Fossil fuel divestment is not the answer

We need a rising tide of pressure pushing for a sustainable future.

By Tim Brennan

"The world is hurtling toward climate change disaster, and we must act. The Unitarian Universalist Association's 2006 Statement of Conscience, "Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change," calls us to use "the ownership rights of the denomination's financial resources to positively address the global warming/climate change crisis."

...The approach that the UUA takes, which is similar to that taken by the leading SRI firms, is to avoid investments in companies that perform poorly on an array of environmental, social, and governance issues. Using this approach, our exposure to fossil fuel companies is only about 3.5 percent of the portfolio, well below their representation in the market but essential to maintaining a diversified portfolio...."

### Interested in this debate? See

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/index.shtml>

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Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. -- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Belief in a cruel God makes a cruel man.  
-- *Thomas Paine*

Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark. -- *Rabindranath Tagore*

God... a being whose only definition is that he is beyond man's power to conceive. -- *Ayn Rand*

Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof. -- *Khalil Gibran*

# Reverend Charlie's Page

## Calendars and Faith

In both the Jewish and Islamic calendars the night that the waxing crescent moon is observed is the first day of the month, which might last twenty eight or twenty nine days. I believe the Jewish calendar in modern times figures the day from Jerusalem, and is figured on when the moon "might be seen" so a rainstorm does not shift the entire month.

With various Islamic traditions, there is no central agreement on which day is the first of the month. One city may begin the month a day after an adjacent town. This could mean that holidays are on different days in different places, a problem in the traditional Jewish calendar too. It is common practice to add one day to the seven day holiday of Passover when celebrated outside of Israel, to be sure no leavened bread is eaten for the entire holiday-- Jerusalem time.

Why talk calendars in July? Maybe it's because the Adult Religious Education Committee is working so hard on planning courses for the summer barbecue evenings and for the autumn season (and into the winter too.) Classes are wonderful. They give you a chance to become a part of a small group, get to know others and also learn something. The only downside is that getting to the UU Center can be a real time sink for some of us. I am hoping that at least some of these courses will allow participation by Skype for those at a distance. We've had success at meetings where one or two check in via Skype. If you aren't familiar with it, consider that part of your summer homework ... find an opportunity to get familiar with it.

But the big event in July is the Holy Month of Ramadan, which begins in the week after July 4th. Muslims of all sorts will refrain from eating or drinking from dawn to dusk. Now the Islamic calendar shifts, so in some years Ramadan is in winter, when the days are short. But this year it is in summer, with long fasts each day. Fasting is required of healthy male adults, but others in the family may fast too, though young children are specifically told to eat, to stay healthy. Those with diabetes must also maintain a normal eating schedule.

The fast is one of the five pillars of Islam, along with the profession of faith, daily prayers, the giving the poor two and a half percent of your total net worth each year, and the goal of going to Mecca for the Hajj. In seminary we had a few Muslim students, who celebrated each evening when the fast was broken, and at the end of the month, when they could return to their normal routine.

Unitarian Universalism has no fast days, though some UUs observe fasts such as Yom Kippur and Lent or Good Friday as part of their multi-faith identities. What does our faith ask of us? Are there pillars of our faith? Let's spend time thinking about our experience of our faith this month, it's our theme!

There is nothing that says "Give 1% of your wealth to social justice!" though some give much more. There is no pilgrimage, though some take journeys to far flung points, discovering themselves in the process. There is no required prayer, though service, creativity or meditative activities may be a way to "Find a stillness, hold a stillness" -- you discover it for yourself. There is no confession of faith, we sign a membership book to indicate our desire to travel together-- opportunity not end point.

Our chosen faith is as deep for you as you want it to be. And if you want to fast, perhaps you can try a fast from judgment of others, a fast from using the word "*should*" during daylight hours. Or a week of silently saying "may s/he be at peace in their life" whenever you say goodbye to anyone.

-- Rev. Charlie

**Rev Charlie is on study leave and vacation this month, so no office hours until mid-August.**

**Contact the Care Team or Board President Karen York for urgent matters.**

## UUCSJS Annual Meeting

**Sunday, June 9, 2013 ♦ 11:15 AM ♦ UU Center**

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore (UUCSJS) on Sunday, June 9, 2013, a quorum of over fifty-four (54) members (total membership, 121) voted unanimously to approve the **Proposed Budget for FY 2013-14** of \$189,000, a 6% reduction over last year.

In further actions, the congregation approved the new **UUCSJS Covenant of Right Relations** by a unanimous vote, and also unanimously passed the following **Resolution on Next Steps**: "BE IT RESOLVED THAT the congregation hereby directs the new Board of Trustees taking office July 1, 2013, to offer congregational sessions as a means to further the implementation of the new Covenant of Right Relations."

Doug Dickinson was elected At-Large member of the **Board of Trustees** for a two-year term, and Judy Pereira, Secretary, and Art Wexler, At-Large were each re-elected to second two-year terms. (They join continuing Board members Debbi Dagavarian, Treasurer John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, and Karen York.) Jim Gentile will serve a two-year term on the **Nominations Committee** along with Ronda Cluff and Paul Utts, each elected to second two-year terms. (They join continuing Nominations members Jesse Connor and Peg Felix.) The **Committee on Ministry** (COM) obtains Ronda Cluff for a two-year term, and Steve Fiedler continues for a new two-year stint. (They join continuing COM members Marsha Hannah and Wendy Terrazzini.) Finally, it was announced no delegates are nominated to represent UUCSJS this year at the **UUA General Assembly** in Louisville, KY. However, Rev. Charlie is planning to be there.

Before adjourning shortly after 12 noon, congregant Arlene Yacka thanked those who agreed to stand for election, saying, "I just want to thank people for doing what I'm not willing to do."  
- Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

### **What is a "Theme of the Month" and why have one?**

For several years the UUCSJS Worship Committee has been using a themed structure for organizing the Sunday services.

I recently came across an early draft of our "liturgical" calendar for 2010. That year we divided the year into seasons each of which "looked at" paths or ways: **Fall -- Via Contemplativa** (*Harvest, ingathering; contemplation, silence, making room for the Mystery*); **Winter -- Via Creativa** (*Gestation; bring to birth in the midst of winter*); **Spring -- Via Transformativa** (*Rebirth, new life, transformative power of life, transformation by the word*); **Summer -- Via Positiva** (*Growth and celebration*). Each year the Worship Committee has built upon our past experiences to make the new year's services both more coherent and more accessible.

We hope you noticed that during the 2012-13 year, now ending, Sunday services have had a theme each month: August: *Letting Go*; September: *Restoration*; October: *Death*; November: *Gratitude*; December: *Hope*; January: *Prayer*; February: *Expectation*; March: *Brokenness/Wholeness*; April: *Transformation*; May: *Curiosity*; June: *Transitions*; July: *Faith*.

In April 2013, the Worship Committee met for a half-day retreat at which we evaluated the 2012-13 year and began planning for the 2013-14 year. We felt the monthly theme made the tasks of those involved in the planning and execution of the services clearer and more rewarding. Recently you may have noticed the addition of a "Song/Hymn of the Month". It is Barbara's way of helping us broaden our familiarity with the UU hymnals. Sometimes she is able to share a piece that ties in with the monthly theme.

For the new year (2013-14) our themes will help us explore more deeply what it means to us, as individual UUs and as a Congregation, to share certain core values. Each month our theme will complete this sentence with a different characteristic: **"We (UUs) are a people of..."**.

August	<b>Possibility</b>	February	<b>Passion</b>
September	<b>Connection</b>	March	<b>Knowing</b>
October	<b>Deep Listening</b>	April	<b>Wonder</b>
November	<b>Abundance</b>	May	<b>Diversity</b>
December	<b>Traditions</b>	June	<b>Vision</b>
January	<b>Prophecy</b>	July	<b>Play</b>

If you grew up in a traditional Christian home church (Catholic, Orthodox, or Protestant), an observant Jewish home synagogue, or an observant Earth-centered home know what I mean about the framework of a liturgical calendar. Every three years, or every 12 months, the lessons and events "recycle." Major holidays are observed in the fall, winter, spring, and summer occurring (more or less) on the same dates each year... often related to the lunar or solar cycles.

If you have been with this Congregation for very long, you may recall that in some years we have tried to celebrate major festivals of as many as three religious traditions and one modern cultural practice in a single month. It has been interesting, but sometimes exhausting, and not always as educational and/or uplifting as we might have hoped.

Working within a Monthly Theme framework may occasionally mean that major Christian or Jewish, or other

holidays will not be observed in conjunction with the Sunday service. Sometimes they may be observed at a member's home or at the Center on a weekday or during an evening gathering.

Please speak with any member of the **Worship Committee** to let us know your feelings about our services... as a "set" or as single events. If you have feed-back about a specific topic or speaker, it is most effective and efficient to contact the speaker directly. If the speaker is a guest, try to make contact during Coffee hour, or contact the office for an e-mail address or other contact information.

--Margaret L Rea, for the Worship Committee

### **THOUGHTS ABOUT SMALL GROUP MINISTRY...**

I'm reticent. In my case, it means I'm disinclined to talk about myself. In those golden days, when people didn't look for causes behind personality, they'd simply have called me a "private person." So, it was a surprise to me that I even wanted to join our new Small Group Ministries program, much less talk about myself during group sessions.

Because that's what Small Group Ministries is. Talking spontaneously about how you feel about something, how it may have affected you, what you have learned from your unique life experiences. And saying it to others who are gentle, non-critical listeners.

The group is given a topic to discuss, but the topic is secret until meeting night. Which means no thinking things out before hand – one of my frequent tactics to keep myself from saying something dumb. We light our chalice and repeat our promises. Next we each choose a folded piece of paper, each paper a quote that refers to the night's topic. We share what we think of the quote. Is it realistic? Does it mean anything to us? Do we reject it outright? After this, we review questions on the topic, each member speaking as they choose or not at all

At my first meeting I admit to a few butterflies. I offered my house as a meeting place since I live on a cul-de-sac with plenty of parking. I made coffee, set out my best china, moved chairs into a circle and put little tables within easy reach. This would be my contribution, I thought. They wouldn't mind as much if I didn't say anything.

People did appreciate the coffee and furniture arrangements, and nobody pressed me to speak. Yet, I had no trouble talking. In fact, I had to restrain myself from interrupting others. And, though I can usually only go on and on when the topic isn't personal, I *wanted* to talk about myself. Maybe it's the secure atmosphere, the knowledge that I don't have to speak, or just being with friends, but Small Group Ministry meetings have become something I look forward to. It's a time when I feel relaxed, a little freer, and a lot closer to my fellow group members.

-- Kim Trotto

*Note: the Small Group Ministry in Little Egg Harbor has chosen to continue meeting once a month in the summer. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 17, 7-8:30 pm. There is room for 3 or 4 more people. If you would like to join us contact us at [AdultRE.UUCSJS@gmail.com](mailto:AdultRE.UUCSJS@gmail.com).*

## Water Shield

From our inception, UUCSJS has recognized our responsibility as stewards of our planet's natural resources. Our building, with its recycled building materials, solar panels, geo-thermal system, waterless urinal, native plantings and many other environmentally sustainable and low impact choices reflect our commitment to healing our environment. With that commitment in mind, UUCSJS is joining other faith communities in New Jersey by participating in the GreenFaith Water Shield Certification program. Founded in 1992, GreenFaith is an environmental organization made up of diverse religious communities. The organization believes that protecting and honoring the earth is fundamental to religious thought, and has created numerous programs that address consumption habits.

Our Worship service on August 11 will introduce the Water Shield Certification program to the congregation. This program gives UUCSJS an opportunity to show leadership in the area of water conservation and water quality protection.

To earn our Shield Certificate, we must complete a number of steps over the next few months. Step number one, the creation of a Water Team (Jesse Connor, Barbara Fielder, Steve Fielder, Ron Hutchison, Barbara Miller and Jack Miller), has already been completed. Another step is to publicize and carry out a Water Weekend which we have planned for August.



A third step is to sign up at least 20% of our congregation to enroll in the Household Water Pledge. The actions required for completion of the Pledge are broken into Light Blue and Deep Blue components, both of which have indoor and outdoor components. Light Blue Steps, such as committing to turning off the faucet while brushing teeth or sweeping sidewalks instead of hosing them, can be easily completed by most of us. Deep Blue Steps, such as installing rain barrels or creating rain gardens on our properties, may require more effort. We must also create an Action Plan that satisfies Light Blue and Deep Blue steps for our building and grounds. Although we have already completed many of the suggested steps, there are still additional important steps we can make to conserve water and protect its quality.

There are also required Religious Education classes. The classes for children and teens will take place during regular RE time. The adult class, which will follow a Sunday service, will view and discuss the film *Flow: For Love of Water*.

The GreenFaith Water Shield program is an opportunity to further put our beliefs into practice.

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**Moving into glorious summer!  
Break out the grill and try grilling  
some healthy veggies for a change!**

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!

"Book lovers will understand me, and they will know too that part of the pleasure of a library lies in its very existence."

— Jan Morris, CBE, *Welsh historian, author and travel writer*

## Book Group Picks New Books, New Moderator for 2013-14

The UU Book Lovers Group met Friday evening, June 21 before our two-month summer break, selecting ten new books for the new season, September to June. Also, there will be a new moderator for 2013-14 as Angela Wexler accepts the mantle from Judy Pereira, who says farewell to these columns after three enjoyable years.

The new season opens on **Friday, September 20 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library** with Erik Larsen's *In the Garden of Beasts*, "a stunning work of history," according to *Newsweek*. Helene Gentile leads our discussion about this portrait of Berlin in the first years of Hitler's reign, told through stories of the American ambassador and his daughter.

October's selection is Ruth Ozeki's "mesmerizing" debut novel, *My Year of Meats*, "a modern-day take on Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* for fans of Michael Pollan."<sup>1</sup> In November, join us for *The Stone Diaries* by Carol Shields, "a subtle but affecting portrait of an everywoman reflecting on an unconventional life." Our pick for December is *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* by Ann Tyler: "A book that should join those few that every literate person will have to read." (*The Boston Globe*)

2014 begins with a big historical novel in January, reputedly hard to put down: *The Physician* by Noah Gordon; it begins in 11th century London and moves to medieval medical marvels in legendary Isfahan, Persia. Back to the 1940s in February for *The Secret Rescue: An Untold Story of American Nurses and Medics Behind Enemy Lines*, an "escape saga [in Nazi-occupied Albania], impeccably researched and beautifully written." In March, a work of historical fiction labeled "impressive, terse, convincing, and affective": *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus, based on a covert "Brides for Indians" scheme launched by the administration of Ulysses S. Grant.

April's book, *Hellhound on His Trail: The Electrifying Account of the Largest Manhunt in American History* by Hampton Sides, is about the 65-day search for Martin Luther King's assassin; "a non-fiction thriller in the tradition of ... Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*." And for May, our selection is *Birdsong: A Novel of Love and War* by Sebastian Faulks, "intensely romantic yet stunningly realistic," spanning three generations and "the unimaginable gulf between the First World War and the present." Finally in June, *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter, the story of an "almost-love affair" that begins on the Italian coast in 1962 and is rekindled in Hollywood fifty years later. "A literary miracle." (Maureen Corrigan, NPR's *Fresh Air*)

And so, *that's a wrap!* Mark your calendars for September (the third Friday), then locate next year's books and begin reading during our summer hiatus. We're looking for newcomers and here's your chance to get in on the ground floor. Seriously, if you love books, this may just be the UU group for you. And hope to see you on Friday, September 20!

<sup>1</sup>These quotations about the book, and others below, are found on Amazon.com unless otherwise noted.

# Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

June 2013

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. A chalice lighting was selected from "Illuminations: a Unitarian Universalist app" by Vice President Dagavarian, shared principles were recited, and joys and concerns shared. The Board's customary end-of-year Visioning session attended by outgoing and incoming Board members and UUCSJS staff was rescheduled for Wed., June 26; in the event, Visioning was postponed again due to the necessity of completing the yearly Governing Board/Supervisor Evaluation of Rev. Charlie Dieterich for the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee before the July 1, 2013 deadline.

## • DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**1) GreenFaith Watershed Program.** UUCSJS will be joining other faith communities in this initiative, "a two-year leadership program for houses of worship." (greenfaith.org) The new "focus group" of UUCSJS members who are organizing our participation believes earning Watershed status will gain recognition for our green building and sustainability practices without the cost and 'red tape' of the Leeds certification. We have not made progress under the UUA's Green Sanctuary, which may in fact be beyond our means; Watershed seems achievable. Also, the interfaith aspect of the program may give welcome contacts here in South Jersey. More information will be forthcoming about Watershed.

**2) UUCS Youth Civil Rights Journey, July 6-13.** As announced previously, Joey Terrazzini has been accepted for this program, and the Board decided to hold a Special Collection on Sunday, June 16 for the "Civil Rights Journey Scholarship Fund." The funding needed is \$1,200 plus airfare for a total of about \$2,000.

**3) Treasurer position.** John Searight confirmed he will be resigning as Treasurer effective July 30. This will necessitate calling a special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing a new treasurer, with 14 days' meeting notice required according to the Bylaws. The Nominations committee will be directed to find a candidate or candidates to stand for the remainder of Searight's two-year term, extending until June 30, 2014.

**4) Administrator position.** The Board directed Joe Terrazzini and Art Wexler, who offered again to manage this on behalf of the Board, to begin the process of filling the position of UUCSJS Office Administrator, which has been vacant since late March and covered by volunteers.

## • REPORTS

**1) Minister's Report.** After commenting on plans for the summer, including Thursday evening family cookouts and programs at the UU Center, Rev. Charlie spoke at length about a meeting he attended on June 6 with congregants Prim Reeves and Robbenmarie Inogno about "Family Promise of Atlantic County," a new organization designed to bring families out of homelessness in cooperation with area churches. "The hope is that at least 13 congregations with buildings will volunteer to be hosts to families from Sunday night to early morning the next Sunday," he wrote in his monthly report, "and provide simple breakfasts and pot-luck dinners for up to 14 clients each night that week. Client families [would be] present from about 5 pm to 7 am, spending their days at the 'Family Promise Day Center'—location yet to be decided."

"The organization is just getting off the ground here," he explained, "but is well established in various other counties,

including parts of Ocean and in Cape May. ... It will serve all of Atlantic County, not just Absecon/Galloway/Egg Harbor City, though those were the only congregations/churches present at the meeting." He said we may want to hold an information session after the planned cookout on Thurs., August 1, and host meetings of the group starting in late summer.

The Board welcomes fact-finding on this matter. Joe Terrazzini, in particular, said he feels that "we need to do more" and spoke about his belief our congregation "needs something to get behind." Board members urged caution in examining risks, and suggested visiting sites where the program operates to evaluate how it works and carefully consider our resources and the suitability of our physical space.

**2) Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Searight reiterated his intention to assist with the transition and do his best to bring our difficulties with the IRS to a conclusion. Our request for special donations to help cover the IRS tax liability resulted in gifts of \$6,713, he said, less than hoped for but "does reflect the continuing generosity of many in our congregation." Also, the treasurer said he was very pleased to announce the generous gift of \$5,000 for a principal payment on our mortgage from a special friend of the congregation.

Fund balances are: \$4,000 in our Building Fund at Fidelity Investments; \$338 in designated donations in TD Savings; \$7,000 in reserve funds in TD Special Savings and \$5,032 (\$4,000 of that a 2013-14 advance pledge with \$1,032 in playground funds), also in TD Special Savings; and finally, \$14,168 in operating funds in TD Checking. He had to transfer \$3,000 this morning to the operating funds, he said, adding: "We are likely to have to use more of our diminished reserves to stay in the black financially through June 30th."

Searight told the Board another piece of the overall UUCSJS financial puzzle is the top-heavy pledge distribution picture: the first quartile provides 74% of the budget; the second quartile, 19%; the third, 7%; and the fourth, 1%. He repeated our current financial position includes the fact that reserves are low, and we have a cash flow problem. We are a new congregation without benefit of legacy gifts and bequests, and we carry \$420,000 in mortgage debt. Many congregations don't have these liabilities, he said, and they provide a unique challenge going forward.

"With the advent of the new fiscal year July 1st, it will be very important that members begin the practice of regular payments of their pledges if we are to continue operations at current levels," Searight concluded.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm, and reconvened immediately in Executive Session.

– Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 6:45 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

## UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2013-14

Karen York (14), President

Debbi Dagavarian (14), Vice President

John Searight (14), Treasurer

Judy Pereira (15), Secretary

Doug Dickinson (15), Member at Large

Joe Terrazzini (14), Member at Large

Art Wexler (15), 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.

*Summer is here and so are many new things for Adult Religious Education...*

**Weekly Thursday Night Summer Barbeques** will launch on July 11 starting between 5:30 and 6 pm. We'll have tables set up (outside if the rain goes away—inside if it doesn't) and a grill going for those who want to cook something. Bring yourself, your family, a friend or two who you would like to introduce to UUCSJS. Come with food to share and your own utensils/"picnicware" that you can take home with you or recycle so that clean up will be easy on all of us. From 7 to 8:30 there will be a variety of programs and activities for all ages: games for the children, discussion groups with a variety of topics, some short TED Talks, a chance to help with Building & Grounds (weeding, grass cutting, etc.), Barbara will be starting a Family Choir ...take your pick or just bring an instrument and start a sing-a-long or have a conversation longer than the 5-minute ones you have at coffee hour. Be sure to read the Mid-Week Announcements each week for the planned activities.

We asked and you answered. We received over 35 responses to **Survey of Proposed Programs** for 2013-2014. Would you believe that 50% of those responding were interested in Tai Chi?

During **July and August** we will continue with "Journaling" and the "Buddhist Sangha" along with the Weekly Thursday Night Summer Barbeques.

In **September** we will bring back "Singing Meditation", expand "Small Group Ministries", continue with "Harvest the Power", and start "Tai Chi," "Spirit in Practice," and "Stay on Topic!," an afternoon discussion group that will relate to the UUCSJS monthly theme.

**October** will find us adding to the September programs one session with an anti-racism/anti-oppression discussion. In **November** Alan Oliver and Michael Cluff will present an all day workshop, "As Time Goes By," and we will begin "Rise Up and Call Her Name," a woman-honoring journey into global earth-based spiritualities.

There will be more programs as we move into the winter months so be sure to read the Newsletter and Mid-Week Announcements.

I want to extend many thanks to a very hard working committee who are making plans for a year of great adult education programs. Our members include: Bob Baum, Charlie Roberts, Kathleen Hartnett, Kim Trotto, Marsha Hannah, Rosemarie Noonan, Shelee McIlvaine, and Rev. Charlie. If you would like to join our committee, just let us know and join in!

Don't forget that you can direct questions, register for programs, or just communicate with us by sending an e-mail to: [adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com](mailto:adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com).

-- Prim Reeves, Chair, Adult RE

## News from 350.org

On June 28, Ron Hutchison and Glenn Klotz of our local 350.org attended a Pinelands Commission meeting in New Lisbon NJ, where the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, a private educational and watchdog group for NJ's Pinelands, was voicing their objections to the BL England power plant pipeline which will extend from Millville into Tuckahoe and then down Route 50 and Tuckahoe Road (Route 631).

Also attending was Jeff Tittel, Head of the NJ chapter of the Sierra Club. Afterwards the group talked with the attorney for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Next up may be a march and/or rally to bring to public attention to the planned pipeline.

## General Assembly Highlights

Over 3,400 people attended from June 19 through 23 in Louisville KY.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The election of Jim Key as the new UUA Moderator for a six-year term.
- The re-election of the Rev. Peter Morales as UUA President for a second four-year term. He ran unopposed.
- A worship and rally for environmental justice that drew over 2,000 participants.
- Many wonderful speeches from guest speakers including Wendell Berry, author, environmental justice activist, economic critic, and farmer; Tim DeChristopher, UU activist, and renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel.

Delegates at GA 2013 overwhelmingly approved a Statement of Conscience regarding "**Immigration as a Moral Issue**". In addition, delegates voted on and approved three Actions of Immediate Witness on Sunday, June 23 including:

- "Support the Proposed 28th 'We the People' Amendment to the Constitution: Corporations Are Not Persons and Money Is Not Speech"
- "Condemn the Mass Incarceration, Killing, and Mistreatment of Young Men of Color by Police"
- "Consider Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry"

The collection from the Sunday morning worship service was given to Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (KIPL). KIPL's mission is to "protect God's creation by mobilizing a religious response to global warming through conversation, efficiency and alternative energy."

Detailed coverage of the agenda, justice work, and worship at GA can be found on *UU World's* [General Assembly coverage blog](#).

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**Margaret Circle** will meet Thursday, July 11 (change of date due to July 4<sup>th</sup>) at the UU Center Library at 12:30 pm for bag lunch. Please join us for companionship and discussion. Everyone welcome .

-- Judy Brown, Circle Leader

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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**July 2013**

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