



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 15, Issue 10

October 2013

October Services

“We are a people of ... Deep Listening”

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.

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| October 6 | <p>The Voice Inside <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>Developing self-awareness is one of the four skills needed for right relationship, say Mary K. Sellon and Daniel P. Smith. Perhaps you are already making your Christmas list, but let's pause and think about how to make a life list. <i>This Sunday we welcome new members and also provide a time for each of us to volunteer for projects in the coming year.</i></p> |
| October 13 | <p>Interfaith Hospitality- Promise for Families <i>The Family Promise Team</i></p> <p>What does social justice look like on a personal level? Could we go beyond donations and into experience? The Family Promise program presents one possible solution for Atlantic County. How can our congregation help?</p> |
| October 20 | <p>In Conversation <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>Why do some conversations leave you refreshed and others, exhausted? Is it you? Is it them? Is it luck? Let's talk.</p> |
| October 27 | <p>A Journey <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>A special service with music by Peter Mayer, folksinger and songwriter. This is the first anniversary of Sandy-- the great storm that passed over our area, changing its future. We gather as a community of memory and faith.</p> |

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| <p>Peter Mayer Concert UU CENTER, Saturday, October 26</p> <p>Be there or be square! <i>More details on page 2.</i></p> | <p>Ninth Annual Service Auction November 16, 2013</p> <p><i>Join us for a night of Food, Fun and Fundraising!</i> <i>Check your Order of Service on Sundays for more information</i></p> |
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**WATER SHIELD INSPIRED
VEGGIE-BURGER BAKE-OFF A SUCCESS**

Our first ever Veggie Burger Bake-Off at this year's annual picnic on Sunday, September 8 was very well received. Thank-you's go out to all the enthusiastic taste-testers who waited patiently for samples and to Steve and Barbara Fiedler for grilling the burgers. Congratulations to Barbara Miller for her prize-winning entry: Veggie Burgers with Black Beans, Sweet Potatoes, and Quinoa; to Melissa Hutchison for her Vegan Pretzel Sliders encased in homemade Pretzel Buns with a mustard topping; and to Emily Smith for her Spicy Bean Burgers with corn and oats. I had great fun combining ingredients from my own favorite recipes to come up with my Black Bean Burger entry.

Interested in adding more vegan or vegetarian meals into your cooking repertoire? A handout with all four recipes is available at the Social Justice Table.

-- Jesse Connor

Margaret Circle will meet on Thursday, October 3, at 1 pm in the UU Center library. Shelee McIlvaine will be presenting our program on race and race relationships. It will be very interesting and a very informative program and discussion. Kathryn Kelley will be our hostess for the afternoon. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

-- Judy Brown, Circle Leader

October Book Lovers Group

The October novel, *My Year of Meats* by Ruth Ozeki, is described by *USA Today* as a modern-day take on Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. Be ready for a lively discussion about this provocative and witty book which was awarded the Kirayama Prize for Literature of the Pacific Rim. The next meeting will be at 7 pm on Friday, October 18 in the Library and all are welcome. In addition, donations will be accepted for the Book Lovers Auction Basket in November. (Examples: gently used books, tea, stationery, bookmarks, children's picture books, booklight...) If you have questions contact Angela Wexler.

**Is it time yet for
Sweetzel's Spiced Wafers?!!**

**Use your grocery card to get you some of that
seasonal yumminess!**

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!

Singer/Songwriter PETER MAYER

Saturday, October 26

7:30 pm

UU Center Sanctuary



**Tickets are available
(\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door)
through Steve Fiedler, Jeff Taylor, or
by calling the UU Center at 609.965.9400.**

**For more info on Peter Mayer,
visit his website <http://www.petermayer.net>**

(That's **.net**, not **.com**.)

There is another Peter Mayer out there who's at **.com!**)

**Third Annual Delmarva Congregations Celebration
The Warming Spirit of Community
Sunday, October 13, 2013**

The celebration consists of a unified Sunday Service amongst the eight congregations on the Delmarva Peninsula held on Columbus Weekend in October each year. The eight congregations are: UU of Central Delaware, UU Fellowship of Newark, UU of the Chester River, First Unitarian-Wilmington, UU Society of Mill Creek, UU Fellowship at Easton, UU Fellowship at Salisbury, and the Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware (UUSD). Each congregation is involved in different ways to ensure that the Service is meaningful to each attendee.

For more info visit www.jpduua.org/news-and-notes/3rd-annual-delmarva-uu-celebration or just go to the JPD website at and click on News, then scroll down to the item.

Reverend Charlie's Page

An Island of Peace

"Before you speak ask yourself: Is it kind, is it necessary, it is true, does it improve upon the silence?"— Shirdi Sai Baba (? -- 1918)

At the Peace Pilgrim celebration in September I shared some words by Dr. Howard Thurman, 20th century theologian and mystic. In his book *Meditations of the Heart* he wrote a meditation called "An Island of Peace within One's Soul." The editor of the latest edition notes "Inclusive language was not part of the consciousness [in 1953.]" And so Dr. Thurman refers to the individual as "he":

The individual lives his life in the midst of a wide variety of stresses and strains.... There are many responsibilities that are his by virtue of training, or family, or position. ... decisions must be made as to small and large matters; each one involves him in devious ways. No one is ever free from the peculiar pressures of his own life. Each one has to deal with the evil aspects of life... We are all of us deeply involved in the throes of our own weaknesses and strengths, expressed often in the profoundest conflicts within our own souls.

We each must do oppressive things, and some of us must accept oppression every day. To hold it all unforgiven would cause madness. As a black man in the South, Howard Thurman was familiar with oppression. He writes:

The only hope of [relief], the only possibility of stability for the person, is to establish an Island of Peace within one's own soul... This is the place where there is no pretense, no dishonesty, no adulteration... What one really thinks and feels about one's own life stands revealed; what one really thinks and feels about other people far and near is seen with every nuance honestly labeled: love is love, hate is hate, fear is fear. (*Meditations of the Heart*, p. 3)

Deep listening... the art of hearing, asking for clarification, learning. Our world is one of violence, from the accusations and snipping we hear in the press to the subtle put-downs of advertising to the violence we do to our imperfect selves. Peace Pilgrim and Howard Thurman both seem to have realized the importance of inner peace. And, interestingly, they both worked on it by talking with others, and listening deeply.

In our congregation we have those who do not trust their own voices. How can we grow their trust? In our congregation we have those who have suffered from verbal abuse. How can we create an environment of safety? And in our congregation we have those who have violent habits of speech, and don't even realize it. How do we teach peace?

-- Rev. Charlie

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
-- Leo Buscaglia

Looking Towards October

Our services this month reflect the aspiration that "We are a people of... Deep Listening."

On October 6, I will talk about self-awareness. Are you kind and honest within yourself?

Then on October 13, a team will talk about Family Promise, and some person-to-person work for ending homelessness.

October 20 my topic of conversation is conversation, ecstasy and dread. Perhaps you know how a conversation can make you feel either way.

And on October 27, we have music in the air, but also the memory of Sandy's destruction. How can listening help those effected work through their sense of loss? Peter Mayer will be sharing his songs.

Remember When You Were New?

This time of year we may see new faces who are church-shopping or visiting to "check us out".

What can you, the average UUCSJS member or friend, do to make a newcomer feel welcome?

Here are some tips to remember:

Our greeters are not the only ones to welcome visitors. If you see someone new in the parking lot or approaching the front door, give them a warm hello. Don't forget to include children in your "how do you do" too.

Help someone sitting near you if they seem to be having trouble finding the hymn or navigating the order of service.

After the service, offer to help someone new find the coffee pot and navigate the refreshments. Make sure no one is standing alone.

During coffee hour, ask questions and *listen*. Express gratitude they have come. Ask them what brought them here. Let them offer what personal information they feel comfortable sharing.

Listening, not imitation, may be the sincerest form of flattery. -- Joyce Brothers

DEEP LISTENING AND LOVING SPEECH

By Thich Nhat Hanh

Aware of the suffering caused by unmindful speech and the inability to listen to others, I vow to cultivate loving speech and deep listening in order to bring joy and happiness to others and relieve others of their suffering. Knowing that words can create happiness or suffering, I vow to learn to speak truthfully, with words that inspire self-confidence, joy, and hope. I am determined not to spread news that I do not know to be certain and not to criticize or condemn things of which I am not sure. I will refrain from uttering words that can cause division or discord, or that can cause the family or the community to break. I will make all efforts to reconcile and resolve all conflicts, however small.

There is a saying in Vietnamese, “It doesn't cost anything to have loving speech.” We only need to choose our words carefully, and we can make other people happy. To use words mindfully, with loving kindness, is to practice generosity. We can make many people happy just by practicing loving speech.

Many people think they will be able to practice generosity only after they have accumulated a small fortune. I know young people who dream of getting rich so they can bring happiness to others: “I want to become a doctor or the president of a big company so I can make a lot of money and help many people.” They do not realize that it is often more difficult to practice generosity after you are wealthy. If you are motivated by loving kindness and compassion, there are many ways to bring happiness to others right now, starting with kind speech. The way you speak to others can offer them joy, happiness, self-confidence, hope, trust, and enlightenment. Mindful speaking is a deep practice.

UUA Common Read – Behind the Kitchen Door

The book *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman has been chosen as the 2013–14 UUA Common Read.

The book describes how restaurant workers live on very low wages, and how poor working conditions, including discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens, affect the meals that are served to all of us. The author, who launched a national restaurant workers organization after 9/11, tells the stories of ten restaurant workers in cities across the United States as she explores the political, economic, and moral implications of eating out.

She explains that what is at stake is not only our own health, but the well-being of the second largest private sector workforce—10 million people, many of them immigrants and many of them people of color.

All Unitarian Universalists are invited to read *Behind the Kitchen Door* as a way to reflect on their own dining out practices and the lives of those who create the meals and serve the food.

The author is cofounder of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, an organization working to improve conditions for restaurant workers. The book is a resource for the new minimum wage campaign announced July 18 by the UU Service Committee and the UUA. The campaign has a goal of raising the minimum wage to \$10. The book, published by Cornell University Press earlier this year, is available from the UUA Bookstore for \$21.95



Harvest Fest!

What will you be doing the week before the Peter Mayer concert? The FUUN Committee is hoping you'll decide to come to the Harvest Fest!

This fun-for-all-ages event will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 7-9 pm. Come alone or with family and friends, but just come! Expect some fun with pumpkins, games, pizza, and a movie!

Volunteer Sunday October 6

Volunteer Sunday is coming next week. To help you decide where you want to donate your time, talent, and caring, we have developed a document describing the various committees and teams that need more help. Review the PDF document that was included in the September 26 Midweek Announcements; it will also be available by hard copy on Sundays. On October 6, signing your name to various volunteer spots will be part of the service. If you are not present that day, there will be more chances. Remember, it takes a whole faith community to run a church!

BLUE JEAN SUNDAY THANKS

We had a really nice turnout this year for our all-congregation, volunteer activity otherwise known as Blue Jean Sunday. Thanks to everyone who provided sandwiches, drinks, cookies, and chips to for our shared meal that got us off to such a good start. Thanks are also in order to everyone who participated in the cleaning and landscaping, but unfortunately the list is too long for individual thanks! I do want to acknowledge, however, the team leaders who helped direct all the activity. Without them we wouldn't have been able to accomplish so much in such a short time.

Thanks to Steve who headed up our outside crew who washed the siding and windows and decks.

Thanks to Barbara Fiedler who directed the landscaping efforts and to the hardworking weeding team.

Thanks to Mariann for leading the window wash crew. (And yay!! The windows are sparkling!)

Thanks to Marsha for directing the main floor cleaning and to Karen for directing the downstairs efforts.

And thanks to T.J. for coming over in the evening before Blue Jean Sunday and doing a pre-emptive strike on the spider webs and mess.

We didn't get to everything on our to-do list. (Does anyone ever complete a long to-do list in one fell swoop?). But we made great headways into cleaning and better maintaining our beautiful building and grounds. Thanks to everyone who was able to help.

-- Jesse Connor

Auction Fever!

Now that you've made your donations to the 9th annual UUCSJS Service Auction on November 16 – you've made them, haven't you? – let's discuss the types of auctions you're likely to encounter on Auction night.

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is anything but! It's the largest of the auctions in that it includes events, items, services, handmade items and baked goods. But it gets awfully noisy in what we call the "sanctuary." Between Prim's Harry blasting that cacophony of great tunes from the speakers, to the fever pitch of laughter and fellowship among members and guests, the sanctuary is not a sanctuary from the silent auction, which is not silent.

Now that you're good and confused, let's discuss bidding on the Silent Auction. Each item or event or service has a sheet on which you write your name when the bidding starts. If the bids are a fixed price, as with events, you win it when you write your name on one of the numbered lines. Don't dare draw in your own lines to add your name! Often, folks cannot accommodate more than the number of offers they have donated.

The "Win it now" price means that if you really, really, really want the item, you can write your name on the bottom line next to the "win it now" price and give the sheet to the table monitor. You pay that price – which is usually higher than an economical bidder might want to pay – but that perfect item will be yours before the evening is out!

Chance Auction

The Chance Auction is exactly that – all up to chance. You buy a sheet of tickets, and place a ticket in a small bucket in front of the items you want. Then, we pick a ticket from the cup, and if you're lucky, the item's yours.

Winning or losing is pure luck. Unless you stuff the cup with tickets that cost you more than the item would have cost at Target. And then you still might not win it!

And to those of you who believe that one person's junk is another person's treasure . . . get real! If it's your junk, it's my junk and it's their junk. If you donate something we cannot place in the Chance

Auction, we will be donating it to a worthy charity.

Live Auction

The Live Auction is when you get to hold up your number to bid on something as the auctioneer calls out the offered bids. This is the big time, the main event, the show, the major leagues, the cat's pajamas. This is when – unlike when you were in grade school and had to use the bathroom – holding up your hand could get you in serious trouble. But this is also the most fun part of the auction! Don't dare wave to someone in the front row, or you could be the proud, new owner of a baby carriage.

FREE WORKSHOP AT UU: "HOW TO CREATE & MAINTAIN A WILDFLOWER MEADOW"

Pat Sutton, local author and naturalist, will bring her "How to Create & Maintain a Wildflower Meadow (and the Benefits of a Meadow)" to our Center on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, from 9:30-Noon**. This workshop, part of a series of Sustainable Landscaping workshops made possible through a Sustainable Jersey Grant and Go Green Galloway, will be held at UUCSJS and will feature our detention basin meadow.

In this workshop, you will learn how to enhance your backyard landscaping for wildlife by creating a wildflower meadow. Many areas have lost their meadows to subdivisions and corporate headquarters landscaped with acres and acres of sod lawn -- monocultures that are green deserts for wildlife, offering no cover, no food (nectar, seeds, etc), and no beauty (no blooming wildflowers or lovely native grasses). Clouds of butterflies and nesting bluebirds can still be found, however, where meadows abound. A meadow can be simple to create and Pat Sutton will share the basics. Learn how to convert lawn to meadow, how to maintain your meadow in a simple fashion over time, and how to make it acceptable and attractive to neighbors and visitors.

Pat Sutton lives near Cape May and has studied the natural world for over 30 years. She and her husband Clay have co-authored several bird and butterfly books. She is a free-lance writer, photographer, naturalist, educator, lecturer, tour leader and wildlife garden consultant. Pat and Clay maintain a wonderful, informational website at www.patandclaysutton.com.

This Meadow Workshop is free; but you must pre-register by Friday, October 18 with either Barbara or Jesse (email in Member Directory).

Pat will bring copies of her books for sale and signing. Space is limited.



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

September 2013

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 6:45 PM at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. The chalice was lit and joys and concerns were shared.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The next **Board Talk-Back** is scheduled for Sunday, October 20, Joe Terrazzini and Karen York in attendance. Although no congregants have attended in recent months, the Board decided to keep the talk-backs in place in case they're needed in the future.

2) President York confirmed that **Cassandra Shellhorn**, our new Office Administrator, began work September 4 with office hours on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10-1 for a total of nine (9) hours.

3) A **Special Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, September 29 for the purpose of electing our new treasurer. Finance committee member Carl Benner has agreed to serve the remainder of John Searight's term, until June 30, 2014. A quorum of 37 members must be present in order to conduct business.

4) The president described three upcoming **DelMarVa Cluster events**: a) the "Cluster Celebration" on Sunday, October 13 in Lewes, DE, to which UUCSJS is invited but no response has yet emerged; b) the next Cluster meeting on October 22 in Chestertown, MD; and c) a website workshop in Lewes, DE, unfortunately scheduled the same day as our annual UUCSJS Service Auction.

• DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) **Review of goals for 2013/14.** The president recapped the results of the special joint Visioning session with members of the Board, Committee on Ministry (COM), and staff. Possibilities were eliminated and priorities set by each person's voting for their three top goals: a) Fiscal stability and financial leadership (6 votes); b) Deep integration of Covenant of Right Relations (5 votes); c) Get involved in community social justice project (4 votes); d) Promote and encourage Adult RE, interest groups, and connections (4 votes); e) Effective strategic plan and explicit vision & mission (4 votes); f) Leadership development and succession plan (3 votes); and Establishing an identity out in the community (1 vote).

2) **SREC follow-up.** President York said she is initiating this follow-up on our Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) because it's been unclear for some time where things stand. Joe Terrazzini offered to work on this matter and will seek out those with more information.

3) **Oversight of committees.** The president introduced this topic by saying she's concerned about a number of issues around the structure and functioning of our committees, and it feels like a systemic problem. For example, when committees are not willing or able to handle certain tasks, what entity is responsible for getting things done? Program Council, designed to bring committee chairs together as our congregational leaders, is usually not well attended. Few committees have co-chairs.

The Board discussed the situation from many angles, and agreed with Rev. Charlie's observation that "the structure we have now doesn't seem to be serving us." And we appreciated his suggestion the Board ask the Committee on Ministry (COM) to take a look at the matter from their vantage point—a "balcony view." The question was revised in such a way as to ask, how can we engage the congregation on goals; are committees the way, or something else?

—The Board unanimously approved a motion to ask the COM to investigate ways we can engage the congregation around goals we set, including but not limited to our committee structure, methods of support, and leadership characteristics.

4) **Family Promise.** "Family Promise," a community program to host homeless families in area churches, was introduced to the congregation in a short video at Adult RE's Thursday Night BBQ on August 29, and the Worship committee is working to obtain a guest speaker. We will host an organizational meeting on September 26 at 7 pm.

—The Board unanimously approved a motion to authorize a second plate collection to benefit Family Promise of Atlantic County, on a date yet to be set.

5) **Covenanting "sessions."** Doug Dickinson and Joe Terrazzini volunteered on the Board's behalf to begin planning the "congregational sessions" as directed at the Annual Meeting in June, in consultation with Rev. Charlie.

6) **Long-Range Planning.** The "Strategic Plan 2008-2013 for UUCSJS" has expired; Art Wexler and Karen York will form the core of a new team to create a strategic five-year plan, and are recruiting interested others.

• REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** Adding to his September 15 written report, Rev. Charlie said he was the emergency substitute at Interweave's recent LGBT Support Group meeting, and was visited by a member of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). He found that South Jersey is not well served, and suggested a community meeting here at the UU Center, learning about PFLAG, etc., might be a good thing for us to do.

2) **Ex-Treasurer's Report.** President York distributed copies of the "Ex-Treasurer's Report, UUCSJS Board of Trustees Meeting, September 17, 2013" by outgoing treasurer John Searight, and his accompanying narrative. The latest Funds Balance Report, dated 9-17-13, shows the following: Checking/Operating Funds, \$9,918.36; Money Market/Reserve Funds, \$5,500.00 (Capital Funds, \$3,500); Savings/Designated Funds, \$323.05 (Margaret's Circle, \$93.00); Fidelity Investments/Capital Funds, \$525.09; and Total Funds, \$16,266.50. And the following: Checks Outstanding/Payments Due = \$3,389.66; Funds Balance = \$12,876.84; Operating Funds Balance = \$6,528.70; and Reserve Funds Balance = \$2,000.00.

Searight noted our Reserves are down to \$2,000 and said this should be a concern. "As you know," he wrote, "the [UUA] recommended amount of Reserve Funds is a minimum of 10% of our budget, \$18,900."

Finally, Searight's report tells us, "Our issues with the IRS are not yet resolved, but I am hopeful that we will be close to closure within the next 30 days. Worst case scenario is we will owe an additional \$5,500. Best case scenario is \$0.00. Most likely scenario is \$450.00."

He concluded by saying we are fortunate to have Carl Benner step forward to accept the nomination as Treasurer, and said he believes Carl will work well with the Board and the Finance committee.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm, and no Executive Session was required.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 6:45 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Starting in October: Building A Multicultural World based on a UU program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. As UUs, we hope developing antiracist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills will lead us to build the multicultural world of beloved community we dream about. The program will be led by Shelee McIlvaine and Prim Reeves with assistance from Stephanie Garrett. The first session will be on **Sunday, October 20 from Noon to 2 pm**. Each month thereafter will be another session.

On going programs that you can still join are:

Tai Chi, led by Rosemarie Noonan, meets from 7 to 8 pm on Monday, Sep 30 and Oct 14 & 28. Rosemarie will offer fundamental standing poses, qigong exercises and White Crane Tai Chi that will build strength, improve balance, flexibility, and concentration. Wear loose clothing and cotton socks.

Spirit in Practice, led by Rev. Charlie Dieterich and Charlie Roberts, meets from 7:00-8:30 Tues evenings Oct 8, Nov 12 & Dec 10. The program weaves UU values, principles, and sources with four "strands": spiritual development, ethical development, Unitarian Universalist identity development, and faith development. If you missed the first two sessions you can still join in.

Stay on Topic! This is a **day-time program** convened by Rev. Charlie Dieterich, at 1 pm on Thursdays Oct 10 & 24, Nov 14 and Dec 12. Come join a 90-minute discussion based on the congregation's theme of the month. All are welcome.

Journaling. Bob Baum is the leader of this creative program which meets from 6:30-8:00 pm. It will meet October 7 and the 1st Monday of each month after that. In a pleasant, low key setting techniques are explored for personal writing of experiences, and reflections. Those who have previously participated in the group will guarantee that their writing has definitely improved. Anyone is welcome to join in. Bring a pen and journal or notebook and leave your writing fears at home.

Singing Meditation is led by our Music Director, Barbara Miller, from 7-8 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month. It is an interfaith spiritual practice that combines singing, of many types, with group observation of silence. It brings together the two practices, which are often engaged in separately, and results in a synergy that enhances each component. Bring a friend; one doesn't have to be a UUCSJS member to participate.

Small Group Ministry In a caring, listening environment groups explore various topics. Groups are geographical and time and dates vary so be sure to check Midweek Announcements. We currently have groups meeting in Cape May County and Little Egg Harbor. If we have enough participants we will be convening a group at the UU Center and in Mays Landing.

Buddhist Sangha, led by Alan Oliver, Buddhist Teacher, now meets the 4th Sun of each month 12:00-2:00 pm. **It will not meet in October**, but will continue in November and December. The group studies Buddhism from a secular perspective, using such core methods as meditation, mindfulness, loving kindness, and compassion. You are welcome even if you have not been at previous session or are new to Buddhism.

Harvest the Power. There's still a chance to attend the next four segments in this UUA leadership development program. The program is designed to help us grow in both skills and spirit -- whether we are lay worship leaders, leaders of children or youth, or members of a task force, committee, or the governing board. October meeting dates are all on Thursdays: the 3rd, 10th, 24th, and 31st (7-8:30).

*** As always, you can direct questions and register for programs by e-mail to: adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com or sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

-- Prim Reeves, Chair, Adult RE

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our new school year is off to a great start!

Our classes began the year working on individual class covenants, where the students were invited to reflect on and share how they promised to relate to each other during our Sunday classes. As the year progresses, these completed covenants will be available just as our congregational covenant is available for the adults -- as a reference in times of conflict or when circumstances warrant a reminder of the promises the children have made to each other.



A link from the Pre-K - 2nd grade RE class covenant

In addition to our covenants, there are some new and exciting developments in our RE programming.

Three of our four classes are using new curricula this year, and write-ups on the new curricula can be found at the Children's RE section of the UUCSJS website: www.uucsjs.org/religious_education_children.html. The RE page also includes a link to the new Director of Religious Education's blog, which I hope will serve as an up-to-date resource for parents of our RE students. Be sure to bookmark it at sjsdre.wordpress.com

Are you eager to learn more about Unitarian Universalism or just want to see what the kids are up to? Visit the Children's RE table at Volunteer Sunday on Sunday, October 6 to assist in one of our RE classes. You will get to see first-hand what our children are learning, and you just might learn something too!

Heidi Jannsch

UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2013-14

Debbi Dagavarian, Doug Dickinson, Judy Pereira,
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

October 2013

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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