



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 02

February 2014

February Services “We are a people of ... Passion”

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.

February 2	<p>Wake Now Compassion: Praying and Striving <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i> We often hear of someone being a “Passionate Advocate” for some cause. As Rumi wrote, “Passion is the elixir that renews.” Is there such a thing as a Passionate Unitarian Universalist?</p>
February 9	<p>Learning To Love <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i> Sellon and Smith suggest wearing “glasses fitted with lenses of understanding” as a right-relationship practice. Love yourself, love your neighbor, love your enemy.</p>
February 16	<p>Harnessing Our Collective Passion <i>Lay speaker Joe Terrazzini</i> Imagine what we could do if we joined together in unified purpose.</p>
February 23	<p>The Ministry of Prisoner Visitation and Support <i>Guest speaker Eileen Gilkenson</i> Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) is a nationwide interfaith ministry of volunteers who visit in all federal and military prisons in the U.S. Visitors have unique access to those in most need of support (those serving long sentences, those in solitary confinement, those who do not get visits from family). Eileen will speak about her experiences as a visitor for more than 20 years and share how it has deepened her faith and commitment to social justice.</p>



Mardi Gras Dance

Saturday, February 22

7 to 10 pm

Package Goods Orchestra!

See Steve Fiedler for tickets: \$10.

About Our Guest Speaker...

Eileen Gilkenson is the national Recruitment Coordinator for Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS).

A licensed professional social worker for more than 30 years, Eileen has always felt a calling to work with those in our society who are most neglected. She has worked with underserved populations in Philadelphia in programs providing services for the homeless, for delinquent teenagers, and those addicted to drugs. She was the director of the largest domestic violence shelter in Philadelphia. Three years ago she retired after serving 17 years as the administrator of a citywide network of group homes for the severely mentally ill. For the past twenty years she has also been a volunteer prison visitor with PVS. Visit www.prisonervisitation.org for more info.

Margaret Circle will meet on Thursday, February 6 at 1 pm in the library. Prim Reeves will enlighten us with her thoughts on the Salem witch trials of 1692, in which 19 women were executed – disturbing stuff! If you would enjoy warm friendship on these cold January days, then please join us. Happy New Year to all. --
Judy Brown, Circle Leader

Attention Book Lovers Group

The novel for February will be *Beautiful Ruins* by Jesse Walter (not *The Secret Rescue: An Untold Story of American Nurses and Medics Behind Nazi Lines*). *Beautiful Ruins* is the story of an almost love affair that begins in Italy in 1962 and is rekindled in Hollywood 50 years later. The Book Lovers Group will meet on February 21 in the library at 7 pm. Bring a snack to share if you wish.

UU COMMON READ

A discussion of the UU Common Read, *Behind the Kitchen Door*, will take place after the service on March 30. *Behind the Kitchen Door* chronicles restaurant workers who function on low wages, poor working conditions, and discriminatory labor practices. The author, Saru Jayaman, is cofounder of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United and director of Food Labor Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Chocolate-covered cherries for your beloved?
Available at your local
Acme or Shoprite!**

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!

2014 Stewardship Campaign

As we look to the future, **March** will bring our **annual stewardship campaign**, which supports our UUCSJS programs, priorities and aspirations for next year. Our stewardship campaign led by Paul Utts will kick-off with a **Fellowship dinner Saturday, March 15**. **Everyone** is invited for a community pot-luck dinner and talent show. The **Stewardship campaign** will run from **March 24 to April 21**.

Each UU congregation is solely responsible for funding its programs and the majority of our funding comes from the voluntary generosity of our members. To help us with budgeting and planning for the fiscal year, we ask members to make a pledge to communicate in advance their intended level of financial commitment. Please make a note of the date for the Fellowship dinner, and watch for more communication about these events and how you can participate. -- *Karen York*

Rise Up and Call Her Name

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites both women and men to attend our second session of Rise Up & Call Her Name. This woman-honoring journey into global Earth-based beliefs looks at the female in religious practice from many cultures and recaptures women's spiritual stories through hands-on experience. The second class session will be on February 2, at noon, in the downstairs main room. We will provide a light lunch, coffee, and tea. If you need childcare during the session, please let Kim Trotto or Theresa McReynolds know. There is a sign-up sheet available in the rear of the sanctuary. If you are attending Rise Up & Call Her Name for the first time, we are asking for a one-time fee of \$5 to help cover the cost of materials.

The Music and Life of Pete Seeger coming to UUCSJS on April 2

We have another talented and engaging musician joining us for a service on April 2. You may have attended the service by Pat Lamanna on the musical legacy of Malvina Reynolds in September. Pat suggested that we should get in touch with Spook Handy, a young singer/songwriter who does a service based on the music of Pete Seeger.

Spook has generously agreed to do our service at a discounted rate; and he also requests that we provide hospitality for the night before the service. If you have hosted one of our guest musicians in the past you know this is easy and rewarding. (Ask Melissa Hutchison, who hosted Jody Kessler; Joan Letizia, who hosted Matt Meyer; and Theresa McReynolds, who hosted Pat LaManna.) Please contact Barbara Miller if you are able to host Spook Handy on April 1!

Life is action and passion; therefore, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of the time, at peril of being judged not to have lived.
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

You will need to find your passion. Don't give up on finding it because then all you're doing is waiting for the Reaper.
Randy Pausch

Reverend Charlie's Page

A People of Passion?

Falstaff: ...now I do not speak to thee in drink, but in tears;
not in pleasure, but in passion;
not in words only, but in woes also...
(Henry IV Part 1, act 2, scene 4)

The worship committee has challenged us to reflect on the statement "We are a people of passion" this month. Yes, it is February, a month that contains St. Valentine's Day and days for remembering historic deeds of Washington, Lincoln, Rosa Parks, and Susan B. Anthony.

In seasonal celebration we might celebrate Imbolc, the Gaelic festival marking the end of winter's darkness (which began on Halloween). It also celebrates the birth of lambs and therefore the return of sheep's milk to the diet. Cheese, cream and scones are sometimes included in the celebration. Groundhog Day may be a modernization of a tradition of divination, where the weather on Imbolc determined how long winter would last. Bad weather meant an earlier spring.

But what does all this have to do with *PASSION*? The old meaning of the word is *suffering*... passive suffering, as the "passion of the cross" in Christian tradition. In the Shakespeare quote above, passion is contrasted with pleasure. Modern authors use *passion* to mean zeal or emotions to the extreme. This includes passionate love, passionate hate, passionate anger, passionate powerfulness – making the more passive "passionate suffering" sound obsolete, except during Lent (which starts March 5).

In the 19th century, both Unitarians and Universalists created affirmations regarding love: James Vila Blake wrote, "Love is the spirit of this church..." and Universalist L. Griswold Williams wrote, "Love is the doctrine of this church..." But who has ever written "Passion is the purpose of this church?" Sam Harris, the author of *The End of Faith*, is quoted as saying:

"If I could wave a magic wand and make everyone a Unitarian Universalist, I'd be tempted to do so, because I doubt that people would then fly planes into buildings, blow up children at street corners, or bend U.S. foreign policy to conform with biblical prophecy."

(UUWorld footnote: www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/5817.shtml)

Our Principles and Purposes ask us to promote "Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." That's *compassion*, the idea of "suffering with" those who are suffering in this world. At times UUs become *passionately compassionate*, such as for civil, women's

and LGBT rights. Still, we can be uncomfortable with the (rare) passionate arguments in our committee meetings, preferring to have the participants see the feelings from both sides, and to react with compassion.

I'm not so sure about this passion thing... maybe our February services will help determine if "We are a people of passion." In the interim, let me leave you with a line from Alicia S. Carpenter's hymn "Just as Long as I Have Breath" (*Singing the Living Tradition* #6):

Just as long as I have breath,
I must answer "Yes" to life.

-- Rev. Charlie

Pastor Charlie's office hours are Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm
or by appointment (except New Year's Day).

Below is a list of the ten most-read stories published on the *UU World* website in 2013 (*these are clickable links in the PDF version of the newsletter on our website*):

1. "[Is Religion Broken?](#)" by Doug Muder (Sept. 23)
2. "[A Letter about Santa and God,](#)" by Gillie English Bishop (Winter 2013; Dec. 3)
3. "[The End of iChurch,](#)" by Fredric Muir (Winter 2012; Jan. 7)
4. "[A Humanist's Guide to Prayer,](#)" by Patricia Montley (Spring 2013; Feb. 25)
5. "[Political Empathy,](#)" by Doug Muder (Winter 2013; Oct. 28)
6. "[What Is Reproductive Justice?](#)" by Darcy Baxter (Spring 2013; Feb. 18)
7. "[What's a UU Family To Do on Easter?](#)" by Michelle Richards (UU Parenting Blog, Mar. 25)
8. "[Consultant To Aid Impasse between UUA Board, Administration,](#)" by Michelle Bates Deakin (Apr. 29)
9. "[Live Better, Help Often, Wonder More,](#)" by Doug Muder (Nov. 25)
10. "[Wrestling with Easter,](#)" by Doug Muder (Mar. 25)

There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.
Nelson Mandela

Science is not only a disciple of reason but, also,
one of romance and passion.
Stephen Hawking

Be still when you have nothing to say; when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it hot.
D. H. Lawrence

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

January 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 6:45 pm at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. The chalice lighting was accompanied by Board members' reading aloud from the UUCSJS *Covenant of Right Relations*, and joys and concerns were shared.

Doug Dickinson noted with great joy the defeat on January 10 — by just one vote! — of the proposal before the **NJ Pinelands Commission** to put a natural gas pipeline through a portion of the protected Pinelands Forest Management Area.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) A community potluck dinner, "**A Mindful Meal**," will be held Sat., January 18 (it replaces the January Circle Dinner). A second community meal, a "**Passover Seder**," will take place in April. A **Circle Dinner** will be held on February 15, and then two more will be offered in May and June.

2) **South Jersey Humanists** has scheduled a meeting at 10:30 am in the UU Center on Sat., January 25, followed by an event from 12:30 to 3:30 pm featuring Humanist author, Laury A. Egan. All are welcome.

3) Adult RE has scheduled the second session of "**Rise Up and Call Her Name**" for Sun., February 2, and "**Building a Multicultural World**" continues on Sun., February 9.

4) The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held Sun., February 9, in a lower level classroom at 11:30 am. (*Note: Talk-Backs have been moved from the third to second Sunday of the month.*)

5) The **Committee on Ministry (COM)** is currently seeking to fill two (2) vacancies due to resignations. Marsha Hannah and Steve Fiedler are the two remaining members.

6) The **Community FoodBank of NJ** has written to thank UUCSJS for our generous donation of \$1,391 in cash to the organization, proceeds from our special Sunday collection held in November 2013.

7) Please reserve Saturday evening, February 22 for the annual **Mardi-Gras Dance** from the FUUN committee!

8) The **JPD (Joseph Priestley District) Worship Arts Festival** will be held February 21-22, 2014 at the UU Congregation of Frederick, MD. Registration is now open.

9) The **JPD District Assembly**, "A People So Bold," will be held April 11-12, 2014 at the ACE Conference Center in Lafayette Hill, PA.

• DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) **Request for \$400 for Sunday service speakers.** Our Worship Coordinator, Barbara Miller, told us she has \$225 remaining from \$1,000 budgeted for this year, and requested \$400 additional to meet anticipated costs.

—*The Board unanimously approved a motion to authorize the additional amount of \$400 for "Speakers/Honorariums" in the current budget for FY 2013/14.*

2) **Increase in JPD membership fees next year.** President York reported Joseph Priestley District has indicated they will be raising the per-congregant assessment from \$27 to \$28 for FY 2014/15. This needs to factor into next year's budget.

3) **Waiver of rental fees** for South Jersey Humanists. Waiver of the fees is in keeping with the philosophy of our congregation in supporting a wide variety of educational programming open to the community at large.

—*The Board unanimously approved a motion to authorize waiver of the \$150 building use fee (and \$50 custodial fee) for a South Jersey Humanists' author event on Sat., January 25.*

4) Process and procedures around Board Talk-Back.

Introducing this topic, President York recalled that the purpose of Board Talk-Backs was (and is) to provide a way "to let the congregation say what's on their minds." The Board has decided to begin a review of how Talk-Backs are conducted in light of the newly-adopted *Covenant of Right Relations*.

After much discussion, and not yet ready to make any final decisions, Board members agreed some general Talk-Back practices would be helpful. For one, it's important to hear the person's expectations; to ask, what do you want me to do with this information? Further, the person coming to a Talk-Back needs to be aware what is said is shared with the Board as a whole, and permission sought to include the person's name.

The Board adopted the president's new "Procedure for Communicating Issues which are raised at Talk Back Sessions," spelling out how to report back to fellow Board members.

A list of dates together with names of Board members scheduled to attend is posted in the UU Center office.

5) President York said the Finance committee is now working on a new **Stewardship Campaign**, and reminded the Board new budget figures for FY 2014/15 are needed very soon. The "Lead Dinner" is set for Sat., March 1, to which the Board and staff are invited, followed by the community-wide **Fellowship Dinner** two weeks later, Sat., March 15. (*It was noted with real regret that the Terrazzini family will not be organizing the food and facilitating this year's dinner.*)

6) A Board vote will be needed soon to approve a new UUA Employer Participation Agreement, in order for our eligible employees to participate in the revised **UUA Retirement Plan**; deadline is June 30, 2014. Led by former treasurer and Finance committee member, John Searight, we are studying ways to adjust employee benefits to accommodate new requirements.

• REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** Augmenting his written report, Rev. Charlie said a pre-Christmas intergenerational service failed to be one after all, a surprise. He and Barbara Miller, Worship Coordinator, have gotten together an upcoming Lay Leader training. Videos of sermons are not yet up on the website, but should be soon. Many Adult RE programs are running at the moment. He continues to try to interest Bridge of Faith in the Family Promise of Atlantic County initiative.

There is to be a **Mass Moral March/Rally** in support of voting rights on Sat., February 8 in Raleigh, NC, which may be attended by a contingent of ministers from New Jersey.

2) **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Carl Benner told the Board that at the direction of the Finance committee, on January 6 we sold seven (7) SRECs at \$150/certificate, receiving a check for \$1,032.50 (net of sales commission).

President York distributed a two-page UUCSJS Budget Report and spreadsheet covering the first six months of FY 2013/14, prepared by John Searight. She noted that overall we're in "pretty good shape." Total Income at the 12/31/2013 fiscal year halfway mark is *higher* (\$12,360 over budget), and Total Expenses are *lower* (\$10,797 under budget), for a net of income over expenses of \$23,157.

Account balances (01/07/2014) were: Operating Funds (less outstanding checks/payments due), \$20,683.91; Capital-Reserve Funds, \$9,103.00; and Savings: Designated Funds, \$377.11 (including Margaret's Circle, Men's Group).

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, February 19, 2014 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.

New Programs in February:

- **Principled Commitment**, a couples workshop presented by Rev. Charlie Dieterich (if two more couples sign up).
- **Soul Painting**, a program for adults and children, will be presented on Saturday, February 22 by Alison Maxfield. This one-hour workshop is an interactive, fun, artistic exploration of one's soul with painting, drawing and scrapbooking. There will be a \$10 charge for adults to cover the cost of materials. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

New and/or Restarting Programs in March:

- **Behind the Kitchen Door** by Saru Jayaraman, this year's UUA Common Read. Sunday, March 30, 11:30-12:30. Angela Wexler will lead the discussion. Start reading the book now!
- **Singing Meditation** will resume on Tuesday, March 4. Contact Barbara Miller, our Music Director at uucsjsmusic@comcast.net if you are interested.

New Programs in April:

- **Misguided Justice: The War on Drugs and the Incarceration of Women**, based on the book written by Stephanie Bush-Baskett, a regular-attending friend of our congregation. This workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 10:00-2:30. There is no fee but donations will be accepted for the provided lunch.

Regular Monthly Programs On-going through the Winter & Spring:

These programs are open to anyone even if you have not previously attended.

- **Buddhist Sangha**, led by Alan Oliver on the 4th Sunday of every month.
- **Building a Multicultural World**, led by Shelee McIlvaine and Prim Reeves on the 2nd Sunday of every month.
- **Journaling** led by Bob Baum on the 1st Monday of every month, 6:30-8:00 pm.
- **Rise Up and Call Her Name**, a woman-honoring journey into global earth-based spirituality led by Theresa McReynolds and Kim Trotto on the 1st Sunday of every month.
- **Small Group Ministry**. Currently we have two groups meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm:
 1. **Cape May Court House**, led by Kathleen Hartnett, 1st Monday of every month.
 2. **Little Egg Harbor**, led by Prim Reeves, 3rd Wednesday of every month.
- **Spirit in Practice**, led by Rev. Charlie Dieterich, 2nd Tuesday in February and March.

*** Don't forget that you can ask questions and register for programs by sending an e-mail to: adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com, or sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Febrrrrrrrruary in Children's RE

This month we welcome back some of our previous RE teachers, and send some others on a well-deserved break. Jessica Dunn is returning to teach the 3-5th grade class, Bud Smith to lead the 6-8th graders, and Michael Cluff will be leading the teen group. A tremendous thank you goes out to the teachers who spent all or part of the autumn months in our classes; Tracy Longshore, Paul Utts and Kim Studzinski, and of course, Karen York who we love to keep year-round! With this change in leadership, two of our classes will be exploring new curriculum from the UUA Tapestry of Faith online curriculum. We have had success this past fall with these materials, and are looking forward to seeing what else the programs have to offer our PreK-2nd and 3-5th grade classes.

The Children's RE Committee will be hosting a potluck supper for families of children in our RE program on February 5 at 6:30 pm in the UU Center Lounge. The intention is for our RE families to have some social time to spend together without the usual rush that accompanies the time following Sunday service. Any RE families who plan to attend should RSVP to Meredith Massey at mersmiles@aol.com by February 2.

Thinking warm thoughts,
Heidi Jansch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Gift Giving Guide

At every Sunday service, the children collect gifts for local charities. I will bring....

- √ For the **Community Food Bank** – canned goods and other non-perishable foods – CHECK!
- √ For the **Animal Shelters** – dog and cat food – CHECK!
- √ For the **Coalition Against Rape and Abuse** – *what* should I bring again????

The items most needed for women who have sought out the sanctuary of the "safe houses" of CARA are these:

- Full size bottles of Shampoo and Conditioner
- Baby wipes
- Baby diapers (sizes 2-6)
- Disposable razors
- Deodorant
- Moisturizing lotion for face or body
- Body wash
- Facial tissues
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Cleaning supplies, Laundry soap
- Tampons (not pads)
- Wawa \$10 gift cards (for buying gasoline)
- Shoprite or Acme gift cards (for buying perishable food items)

Thanks Peg Gillies for the list!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2013-14

Debbi Dagavarian, Doug Dickinson, Judy Pereira,
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February 2014

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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