



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 05

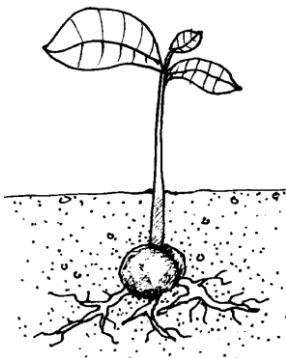
May 2014

## May Services

*“We are a people of ... Diversity”*

We meet at our UU Center, Pomona Rd and Liebig Street, Galloway NJ (near the north entrance to Richard Stockton College).  
Services are at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

<b>May 4</b>	<p><b>Flower Communion</b> <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>The word “Bouquet” comes to mind when talking about diversity. The Flower Communion acknowledges the diversity of gifts we bring to this world, and the way each of us receives unexpected gifts, never knowing the source. Let us celebrate Star Wars Day (“May the Fourth”) by each bringing a flower from our life (back yard, roadside, favorite florist) to create the “UUCSJS Bouquet.” Appropriately, “Bud” Smith will be lay leader.</p>
<b>May 11</b>	<p><b>Building A Multicultural World</b> <i>Led by participants of the Building A Multicultural World Workshop</i></p> <p>Over the last several months some members of UUCSJS have been exploring our multicultural world in a series of workshops led by Shelee McIlvaine and Prim Reeves. We will share some of what we have learned, and hopefully get you thinking about the invisible assumptions we are all prone to even in this modern age.</p>
<b>May 18</b>	<p><b>The Midwife and the Birdfeeder</b> <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>They say, put eight UUs in a conversation about social justice and you'll get nine plans of action. Framing determines outcome. With Charlie Roberts as lay leader.</p>
<b>May 25</b>	<p><b>Memories of the March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</b> <i>Guest speaker Ralph E. Hunter, Sr.</i></p> <p>Our guest speaker is the founder and director of the African American Heritage Museum in Atlantic City. He will reflect on the 1963 March on Washington with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.</p>



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10**

The interest in this year’s sale has been tremendous!  
As a result we need extra hands to unload, sort, and stage the plants on Friday morning,  
and greet customers and complete the sales on Saturday.

Would you like to help? See page 7 for more info and THANK YOU!

Questions? See Jesse Connor

**About our guest speaker, Ralph E. Hunter, Sr. and the African American Heritage Museum:**

"Folks used to come to my house and say, This place looks like a museum. And that's where the idea came from. I had this quest for collecting just for me. Then, all of a sudden, something came over me and I thought, How dare you collect all of this just for yourself? You could share all of this."

Thus the African American Heritage Museum sprang from a dream. Over thirty years ago, Ralph Hunter began a personal collection of African American cultural, artistic, and media images that inspired the museum. It started with a discovery in a North Carolina antique shop. Tucked away in the back was an original edition of *Little Black Sambo* by Helen Bannerman. "I bought it to take it off the market," Mr. Hunter says. But his goal was not to hide it - just the opposite. His dream was to display it in an effort to preserve history and transform his treasures into an exhibit. After more than three decades of acquiring pieces, the collection now numbers in the thousands, and Mr. Hunter is committed to sharing it with others.

The Museum is located in the Noyes Arts Garage , at Mississippi and Fairmount Ave (next door to Angelo's Fairmount Tavern, and two blocks from The Walk) and is open 10 am to 6 pm, closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

**Margaret Circle** will meet on Thursday, May 1st at 1 pm in the library at the UU Center. All UU women are invited. Please join us for an afternoon of friendship and fellowship. -- *Judy Brown, Circle Leader*

**May Book Lovers Group**

BIRDSONG: A NOVEL OF LOVE AND WAR, by Sebastian Faulks, is the reading selection by Peg Felix for the Friday, May 16 discussion. Reviewed as "Overpowering and beautiful... A great novel" by the New Yorker, the novel is set during the First World War and spans three generations. In addition, bring your suggestions for next year's readings. If you can't make the meeting but would like to choose a book, please email Angela Wexler. The group meets at 7 pm in the library of the UU Center. Newcomers are always welcome. – *Angela Wexler*

**Support our congregation by doing what you already do – buy groceries! with gift cards for 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!

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The **Annual Meeting** of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, June 1, 2014 at 11:15 am**, for election of candidates for the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, Nominations Committee, and delegates to UUA General Assembly. *And also:* Approval of the Proposed Budget for FY 2014-15, Discussion about Family Promise of Atlantic County, Update from Interim Minister Search Committee, and any other essential business as may come before the Congregation.

***Your presence is essential to our small democracy!***

**The Annual Meeting is the most important conclave of the year for all UUCSJS members.**

*If you are unable to attend, you can submit a proxy letter or fill in an absentee ballot ahead of time. Both forms will be available a week or two in advance and need to be returned to the Secretary before the meeting begins at 11:15 on Sunday, June 1.*

**Doing Religion Wrong**

- If the primary focus of your religion is on how bad other people are, then you're doing it wrong.
- If the primary focus of your religion is pointing out how wrong other people's religion is, you're doing it wrong.
- If your religion tells you human society is fine just the way it is, you're doing it wrong.
- If your religion tells you it's all about you, you're doing it wrong.

from *Under the Ancient Oaks*, April 6, John Beckett. Read the whole blog post here:

[www.patheos.com/blogs/johnbeckett/2014/04/youre-doing-it-wrong.html](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/johnbeckett/2014/04/youre-doing-it-wrong.html)

# Reverend Charlie's Page

## Is Communion a Scary Word?

I grew up Unitarian in a congregation that was “High Church Unitarian.” It had a cross in the center of the “altar”... but no sign of an altar-rail, nor did we ever use the word “Communion” nor do anything “communion-like.”

A few towns away, the older Unitarian churches had sterling silver communion chalices, used in the 1700's but long since locked away, perhaps brought out once a year on Easter. Dorchester, Massachusetts sold some communion cups recently for \$900,000. Here at the South Jersey Shore we are blessed by not having something so full of cash value and history, but of so little use.

Ralph Waldo Emerson was appointed minister of Second Church on Boston in 1829. But he left the ministry after only three weeks because he could not, in good conscience, preside over communion. He did not explain the reason for this refusal – he felt it would be unfair to impose his ideas on the faithful as he was leaving, so he never presented a “this is why I won't do it” letter or sermon.

Emerson had a great dislike for ascribing miracles to Jesus, so why would the miracle of communion have any power? Over the next century this point of view became more common. And so the word “communion” left the lexicon of many UU congregations.

In the 1930s, in the newly independent Republic of Czechoslovakia, an American-trained minister named Norbert Čapek (pronounced Chap-ek) was pastor of a huge congregation in Prague, the capital of the new nation. His services were very modern, without Christian heritage. Čapek and his wife Maja wanted a ceremony to help the congregation reflect on what it had – a real sense of shared purpose and community. And so the Flower Communion was born.

Flowers can be seen as a gift from nature, or from God, depending on a person's theology. In the ceremony each person brings a flower from their home, the field or roadside, and places it in a vase in the foyer. As Reginald Zottoli writes: “This signified

that it was by their own free will they joined with others.”<sup>1</sup> The flowers were consecrated, and on their way out, each member took a flower. “The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make.”<sup>2</sup>

The word “Communion” comes from Latin words meaning “with” and “gift.”<sup>3</sup> The Flower Communion celebrates the gifts we exchange when we are with each other. Please bring a flower to our May 4 service and celebrate the gifts you bring, and those you receive.

The theme of May is diversity – a diversity of flowers, a diversity of races and cultural heritages, a diversity of understandings of Social Justice and a diversity of childhoods. We could have filled a month of Sundays with sermons about diversity. But there will only be four, so I hope to see you there.

Rev. Charlie

<sup>1</sup> The Flower Communion, A Service of Celebration for Religious Liberals by Reginald Zottoli  
[www.uua.org/documents/zottolireginald/flowercommunion.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/zottolireginald/flowercommunion.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Wiktionary “communion”

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Pastor Charlie's office hours are Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm  
or by appointment.

**Note: Office hours for Wednesday 4/30 are changed to  
Thursday 5/1.**

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## Family Promise of Atlantic County

What are the levels of involvement that we might consider?

UUCSJS could be involved in any of 3 ways:

- As a Host Congregation, providing meals and sleeping spaces 4 weeks a year.
- Assisting another Host Congregation in their congregation, i.e. helping with meals or overnight supervision.
- Financial contributions to Family Promise of Atlantic County.

Be sure to read the fact sheet included with the April 24 Midweek Announcements.

## Living Green

Let's talk about compost. All you need is a plastic container in your kitchen and a place in your yard to put your kitchen scraps. Add in some grass clippings or leaves, turn now and then and compost appears. Even if you do not turn your pile, the material eventually breaks down. Our family is always astonished that the stuff we had been throwing in the garbage, when put in a compost pile, seems to disappear. By composting, you can actually remove more than 500 lbs. of organic matter from your household waste per year. That's a lot of trash bags!

If you have a veggie garden, that compost is worth its weight in gold. You will end up with a nutrient rich "super-soil" that your garden will love you for. Composting also helps save water. It is one of the action steps recommended by GreenFaith, as part of the Water Shield program in which UUCSJS is enrolled.

Composting has been the source of one of our greatest family stories. Our older son was surprised by a skunk one dark fall night when he took our compost out. Maybe the skunk was worried Matt would take away some of the compost, not add to it! He was sprayed thoroughly – not an experience you ever need to have! Take your compost out in the morning or use a bright flashlight to banish invaders before you meet up with them.

We use a bin made of vinyl fencing to contain our compost. . . But I have been coveting this little number: [www.earthmachine.com](http://www.earthmachine.com)

Whether you approach composting as a science, a money-saving scheme, an adventure, or environmental crusade, you will enjoy it and have the satisfaction of doing your part to create a greener world.

~Barbara Miller

***Opportunity to spend time in a beautiful setting  
getting your hands dirty!***

**GARDENING HELP NEEDED for the UUCSJS  
BUTTERFLY GARDEN at PATRIOT LAKE  
Friday, May 2, 4 – 6 pm**

Our congregation maintains a Butterfly Garden at Patriot Lake in Galloway Township. After the hard winter we've had, we are in need of volunteers to help weed, mulch, and get the garden in shape for spring. Barbara Miller and I will be taking on these tasks on Friday, May 2, between 4 and 6 pm. If you live nearby, and have a free hour to spend helping, we'd love to have you join us. The purple martins should be back and Patriot Lake is especially lovely in the late afternoon-early evening. The garden is located along the walking path at the far side of the Galloway Municipal Complex.

Questions? See Jesse Connor.

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

## Murray Grove Annual Gathering Two Nights!! June 20-22, 2014

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday June 20 to Sunday June 22. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots. Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we often have a nature/bird walk, and some intergenerational games. Sunday will include a visit to the Thomas Potter Memorial chapel. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy and swimming is usually available.

Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event.

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

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

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

## Children – Let's Sing!!!!

Children (parents also welcome) are invited to learn a song with Barbara Miller to be presented at the May 11 service on Multicultural Community. The song is called "We Are Family" by UU composer Wally Kleuker. We will rehearse after the service on April 27 and May 4; and before the service on May 11. Children under age 7 should come with an adult. Little ones through teens are welcome. Please email [uucsjsmusic@comcast.net](mailto:uucsjsmusic@comcast.net) to let me know of your interest.



In April, Rev. Charlie announced his decision to leave our congregation at the end of his contract period at the end of June 2014. We are grateful for his leadership and his ministry these past three years, and for the time that we have travelled together with him on his “long and winding road” to ministry. The Board has met with Dr. Rev. Richard Speck, the District Executive of our Joseph Priestley District, and has been in touch with the UUA transitions office. At this point, we are not in a position to call a full time minister, but could seek to fill the position that Rev. Charlie currently holds, that of a part-time consulting (contract) minister. This would involve a search process that would likely leave us without a minister for the next 6 months or so.

We have an experienced staff and strong lay-leadership, which could help us to bridge that gap in professional ministry if we find ourselves in that position. However, the Board of Trustees have decided to explore another alternative. We are considering the possibility of hiring an Interim minister. The Interim minister would be selected by a search committee on behalf of the congregation, and the recommendations presented to the Board. The Interim minister would be hired for a temporary, but defined period of time (most likely two years). The goal is to move the congregation through a process of self-reflection and strategic planning. Interim ministers are often experienced ministers, who have special training to work with us in this transitional period as we proceed through a period of long range planning, goal setting and searching for our next minister. While Interim ministry is more typically the path of choice for a congregation that has had a long term relationship with a called minister, and then finds itself in a transition, this seems like it could be a golden opportunity for the congregation to move forward in a strategic way.

There is a well-defined time line and process set out for the UUA for hiring an Interim minister, who would begin their service to the congregation in August or September. We will be putting together a search committee and if you would want to nominate yourself or have a suggestions for the search committee, please let Karen York know. The Board will be putting in the application for Interim ministry by the April 30<sup>th</sup> (second round) deadline. On May 12 or 13, we would receive names of ministers who might be interested in us. Material from the ministers would be reviewed, interviews conducted and if there was someone we were interested in we would need to be prepared to make an offer by May 23<sup>rd</sup> (at noon EST). Thus the ministers receive offers at the same time and so can make their selection. If we are not matched with a minister in round two, a third round of selection would begin, with us receiving names of interested and available ministers on May 27 and conducting another round of interviews, where offers can be made at any time.

Some have asked “Why the rush?” and that is an excellent question. I personally view this more as an opportunity that we don’t want to miss, rather than an urgent need to fill the ministerial position quickly. My question is “Why delay? Why pass up on this opportunity?” It has been suggested that if we operate without professional ministry for a time, it would save the congregation some money, but to be fair we would need to increase hours for our staff, pay for more guest ministers and increase volunteer efforts to maintain the quality of our programs. While, this may save a little money in the short run, I am always concerned about the long term effects and the potential for volunteer and staff burn out. The available funds are a real concern, and I can only assure you that I am working with the Stewardship committee, Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees to move forward in a way that does not overly tax our available financial or human resources.

On another note, our congregation has joined the Philadelphia Cluster of congregations. This provides a mechanism for us to stand together with other congregations in the Philadelphia area to work on joint projects and events. For example Philadelphia cluster plans to have a presence at the Philadelphia Gay Pride Parade and Festival even scheduled for Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, which we may wish to participate in. More information can be found at the cluster web site: <http://www.jpduua.org/phillycluster> .

# Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

April 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:45 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. The chalice lighting was accompanied by a statement of shared principles, and joys and concerns were shared.

## • ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held on **Sunday, June 1** at 11:15 am, immediately after the service, to elect members of the Board of Trustees and Congregational committees; approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15; discuss our work with Family Promise, possibly to include a resolution; and other business matters of importance to UUCSJS. At least 36 members must be present to constitute a quorum. Absentee ballots and proxy voting will be available.

2) The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held Sunday, May 11 at 11:15 am in a lower level classroom. (Note: Talk-Backs have been moved to the second Sunday of the month.)

3) This year's **congregational gathering at Murray Grove**, usually on Father's Day weekend, this time will take place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 20, 21, and 22.

4) UUCSJS is now a member of the **JPD** (Joseph Priestley District) **Philadelphia Cluster** of UU congregations (in place of the more remote DelMarVa Cluster). York said the cluster provides opportunities for collaboration on a range of issues; for instance, there will be a table at the Philly Pride Parade & Festival on Sun., June 8, selling "Standing On the Side of Love" t-shirts and other materials.

5) President York and Music Director, Barbara Miller, went to the annual **JPD Assembly** held April 11-12 in Lafayette Hill, PA, attending workshops and visiting the Philly cluster meeting.

6) The **UUA General Assembly (GA)**, themed "Love Reaches Out," will be held Wednesday through Sunday, June 25-29, 2014, at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Anyone may attend GA, but congregations must be certified with the UUA to send voting delegates. Our UUCSJS delegates will be chosen at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1.

## • DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) **Request for special collection.** The Children's Religious Education (CRE) committee requested a special collection during this June's CRE Sunday service.

—*The Board unanimously approved a motion to authorize a second collection to benefit Murray Grove's "Camping in the Grove" scholarship fund on Sunday, June 8.*

The fund can benefit our UUCSJS children too, who have been campers in the past. Also, this year CRE participant Grace Cluff will be going as a junior "counselor-in-training."

2) **Ministerial transition.** As announced to the congregation on April 5, Rev. Charlie Dieterich will be leaving UUCSJS at the end of his two-year contract on June 30. He came to South Jersey as our half-time pastor in September 2011, and was ordained by us on September 30, 2012.

On April 8, the Board met with Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, District Executive of the JPD to discuss our options, and the next day, April 9, President York contacted Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the UUA Transitions office, to let him know we would be asking for ministerial search assistance.

The opportunities (and challenges) of an Interim Ministry were discussed by the Board at some length. A key opportunity, voiced in several different ways, should be an interim minister's ability to provide strategic support "to help us figure out how to make things work better." As expressed by Board member Art Wexler, "it's long-range planning tied to budgeting tied to our

mission tied to how we do our business."

It was noted that some members of the congregation, including on the Finance committee, believe UUCSJS might be better off going without a minister for two years, using that time to make a major effort to improve our financial position by reducing mortgage debt substantially.

In the end, it was reiterated we won't be hiring an interim minister if we don't believe we have the right candidate with the right skill set. Believing that as a congregation we have no deficiency in talent, nevertheless, guidance is needed on "how to bring it all together." The importance of conveying the value we place on our autonomy and accomplishments was stressed.

—*The Board unanimously approved a motion to seek an interim minister to serve the congregation for a two-year term at 75% time, with a package of salary and benefits equal to the amount now budgeted for FY 2014/15.*

An application with the UUA Transitions office is due Wednesday, April 30. The Board will then go on to appointing an ad-hoc committee to consider interim minister candidates, and if successful, to make a recommendation to the Board.

## • REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** Augmenting his written report, Rev. Charlie said he attended the Fifth Anniversary Celebration and Annual Plenary of the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey (UULMNJ) on Saturday, April 5 at the UU Congregation of Princeton. UULMNJ is planning an initiative in June on jail reform, which may tie in well with the subject of Adult RE's workshop on Saturday, April 26 by Stephanie Bush-Baskette.

The Worship committee has decided to continue the practice of creating monthly themes, he said, and confirmed there is one vacancy on the Caring committee and will soon be another when he, himself, leaves. He said the sermon on Sunday, June 29 will be the last he preaches as our minister, and he agreed we have a picnic that day for saying goodbye.

2) **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Benner and President York explained that we've come up somewhat short so far in this year's Stewardship campaign; of the overall pledge goal of \$160,000, we have received 68 pledges amounting to some \$143,000. With eight (8) more hoped for, and pledges from new members, we can expect to reach between \$145-150,000. It was reported that Paul Utts, Finance committee member and Stewardship chair, has proposed we consider asking for \$5 more per week from each "pledge unit" (about \$250 for the year), in order to close the income gap (likely about \$10,000).

3) **Notes on Staff & Committee Reports.** President York noted there will be a **Seder community dinner** on Saturday, April 19, and **Easter Egg Hunt** on Sunday, April 20.

This year's **6th Annual Native Plant Swap** takes place Saturday, May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm. (Advance Order plants will be picked up then and on Friday, May 9 from 4 to 6 pm.) *Bigger than ever, volunteers are needed on both days, and especially on Friday morning to unload plants and fill orders.* Sign up in the Sanctuary or see Jesse Connor to find out how you can help!

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm; there was no need for an Executive Session.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, May 21, 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: “A Course in Miracles”** does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, for that is beyond what can be taught. It does aim, however, at removing the blocks to the awareness of love's presence, which is your natural inheritance. John Walther, a new member of UUCSJS, will lead a discussion group that will meet, at the start, for four weeks, beginning in May/June (or the fall, if preferred). To indicate your interest, see the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

*A Trip to Philadelphia has been planned...*

On **Thursday evening, June 19**, a lecture/panel discussion at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania will introduce you to everyday life and momentous occasions from a young African American woman's point-of-view. Recently [\*Emilie Davis' Diaries: A Chronicle of the African American Community During the Civil War\*](#) has been fully transcribed and annotated.

When the Civil War began, Emilie Davis, a twenty four year old free African American woman, was attending school and sewing clothes to support herself. In her diaries, Emilie wrote short daily entries recounting events, both big and small. Mixed in with the minutiae of Emilie's everyday life are entries recounting African Americans' celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation, nervous excitement during the battle of Gettysburg, and their collective mourning of President Lincoln.

The recent discovery of Emilie Davis' Civil War diaries, dated 1863-65, offer readers a lively and deeply personal account of the war's "memorable days," as Emilie often referred to them.

A reception and document display, which includes the original diaries, will follow the discussion. The program is from 6-8 pm at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA. We will carpool to Lindenwold and take the High Speed Line into the city. There is a charge of \$10 for the program (free for Society members).

If you are interested in joining us, or want more information, please send an e-mail to [adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com](mailto:adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com) or contact Prim Reeves.

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

### What is ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act)?

Did you know unfair hiring and firing practices toward GLBT people still go on in America? In 28 states discrimination practices are legally being applied unfairly. The Employment Nondiscrimination Act, aka ENDA, is a bill in the Senate which would provide legal protection for GLBT in the work place in EVERY STATE, if passed. It is necessary to have Senator LoBiondo co-sponsor this bill, but so far he is sitting on the fence! Americans for Work Place Opportunity is working in conjunction with the Human Rights Campaign to get this bill passed nationally, and locally urging the public to call Senator LoBiondo and have him hear how his constituents feel on this issue. If you haven't called, please do (202 225-6572). Leave your full name and address and a comment on why this bill is important to you. If you haven't written him a personal letter expressing your conviction, please do! Write and call multiple times to emphasize your conviction!

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Each Sunday this May all but our youngest students will take a break from their regularly scheduled classes and begin working on creating a Sunday service. Melissa Hutchison will lead the kids as they organize and coordinate worship and music for the annual RE Sunday service that will be presented on June 8. We hope that this service will spotlight the children and showcase their talents, giving the kids a chance to shine. Two of our "kids" will be graduating high school this spring, so we intend to include a bridging ceremony as part of the service as well.

Last spring our RE families enjoyed a trip to the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge and we are hoping to make a return visit this month following one of our Sunday services. Once the date is confirmed, all RE families will be notified and invited to come along for a picnic and nature walk.

And then, of course, all are welcome at our Murray Grove Gathering...

Heidi Jannsch

UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10**

The good news is that our Annual Native Plant Sale should be a big success. We have orders from 54 individuals (10 from UUs) for over 245 shrubs and trees, and around 550 perennials. We can take pride in the fact that our congregation is getting out the message about the vital role native plants play in our environment while helping to get native plants planted in southern NJ.

But, with the increased success of the sale comes the challenge: we will need to step up to the plate to carry this event off. We need more volunteers to sign up to help out. The sign-up sheet is on the Social Justice table in the vestibule. **We especially need able-bodied people on Friday morning, May 9**, who can help off-load the trucks and organize the plants into boxes for each of the 54 purchasers.

Questions? Suggestions? See Jesse Connor

### **FAMILY PROMISE is a community response to helping families who are facing homelessness.**

Family Promise assists families regain their housing, their independence, and their dignity through a five tier volunteer program which includes: 1) shelter, meals and comprehensive support services; 2) family mentoring to achieve goals & maintain self-sufficiency; 3) educational programs; 4) community initiatives such as housing renovations, job training, health services, childcare and literacy; and 5) volunteers working together to promote policies that alleviate poverty and improve the well-being of low-income families.

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

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### Minister

Reverend Charlie Dieterich

### Music Director & Worship Coordinator

Barbara Miller  
uucsjsmusic@comcast.net

### Director of Religious Education

Heidi Jansch  
sjsdre@gmail.com

### Office Administrator

Cassandra Shellhorn  
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

### Bookkeeper

Kathleen Hartnett  
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



**P.O. Box 853  
Pomona, NJ 08240  
(609) 965-9400**

## Board of Trustees 2013-14

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

**May 2014**

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of the South Jersey Shore  
P.O. Box 853  
Pomona, NJ 08240**

