



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 07

July 2014

July Services

“We are a people of ... Play”

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.

July 6	<p>The Curse of the Whippoorwill <i>Guest speaker Dave Chapman</i></p> <p>Life is not just full of challenges, it is also full of frustrations. The beauty of the whippoorwill can be tempered by its middle-of-the-night harsh and sleep-depriving call. How do we deal with life’s challenges, and what compensation does life offer us when our hopes and ambitions are challenged or frustrated altogether? Dave shares some thoughts on his experiences with the call of the whippoorwill and the perspectives we need to keep moving along when life doesn’t work out the way we’d hoped.</p>
July 13	<p>Living in a World of Kindness <i>Guest speakers Joseph and John DeMasi</i></p> <p>Join fellow UU musicians/singer/songwriters/storytellers/humorists the DeMasi Brothers as they present an intergenerational service that highlights the many different type of peoples and their abilities that make up the mosaic of our community and world. Through music, story and song they will talk and sing about ability awareness and their work with the famous actor with Down Syndrome Chris Burke who starred as "Corky" on the hit ABC TV show "Life Goes On". This presentation is sure to put a smile on your face and a song in your heart!</p>
July 20	<p>In the UU Shark Tank <i>Lay speakers Bud Smith, Lauren Porr, Michael Cluff, Charlie Roberts</i></p> <p>Can an App for your e-device really make a difference in your life? These tech savvy innovators will pitch their ideas. And you will get to decide.</p>
July 27	<p>Not Okay to be Gay in Uganda! <i>Guest minister Rev. Mark Kiyimba</i></p> <p>Rev. Kiyimba is visiting UU churches in the US to spread awareness about homophobia in his country of 32 million people, where it is estimated that nine out of 10 Ugandans is anti-gay. Uganda’s “Kill the Gays” bill was signed into law in February 2014, after the death penalty provision was changed to life in prison.</p>

Egg Harbor City Annual Hometown Celebration -- Friday and Saturday, July 11 & 12

For a fun time while championing Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC), come to the Egg Harbor City Annual Hometown Celebration! It will be held at Lincoln Park on two dates: Friday, July 11th from 5-11 pm, and Saturday, July 12th from 3-11 pm. Expect music, craft vendors, food, a petting zoo, and a camel ride! While at the celebration, purchase coupons to use on the Friends Helping Friends special sale day at Boscov’s in October that will support FPAC and other charities.

About our guest speakers...

Dave Chapman is a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County in, ironically, Baptistown, New Jersey. He is the leader of one of the congregation's men's Covenant Groups, a member of the Sunday Services Committee and chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Dave is an Interfaith minister, and has led worship services at eighteen Unitarian Universalist congregations in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. He is the part-time minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of South Suffolk in Bay Shore, on Long Island. Since assuming his responsibilities there, the congregation has experienced an 18% increase in its membership in less than six months.

Dave's ministry encompasses three goals: helping people understand the beauty of religious faiths other than their own, understanding the science of Social Psychology and what allows people in one social group to do psychological or physical harm to people in different social groups, and helping parents improve their skills in teaching their children to develop mindsets that enhance lifetime coping skills and a strong sense of self-worth.

Dave surfs in the Atlantic Ocean off of Long Beach Island and loves to fly fish, teaches at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University, and speaks professionally to organizations and businesses on the techniques of overcoming procrastination and improving individual and group productivity. He and his wife, Janice Buffalow, live in Flemington, New Jersey. You can reach Dave at davechapman@wellsaiddave.com.

Mark Kiyimba is a Ugandan Unitarian Universalist minister and activist for LGBT rights in Uganda. He leads the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kampala, Uganda, which runs an orphanage and a school for children infected with HIV/AIDS and who have lost parents to the disease.

He has been a vocal opponent of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill. In 2010, he organized a conference (held on February 14) called "Standing on the Side of Love: Reimagining Valentine's Day", to protest the bill. He has taken his opposition to the United States, seeking support for his mission.

Backup help still needed for the Greenlight Coffeehouse

The monthly Greenlight Coffeehouse is set up and broken down each month. On Thursday night the space is set up, which means moving chairs, setting up tables with cloths and candles, and preparing the kitchen for snacks. Currently the dedicated individuals doing this job include Steve Fiedler, Theresa McReynolds, Karen Zindell, Tracey Staab, and Colby Tippins. It would be advantageous to have a handful of other people to be available as backup in case one of those can't do it. Would you like to see what's involved and serve as an alternate? *Get in touch with Theresa if you can help.*

**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!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Summertime is a great time to sit back, take in the fresh air and sunshine...and begin to think! Begin to think about adult programs that you would like to see at UUCSJS.

If you have attended another UU congregation and were aware of their programs, which ones did you think we should have? Are there parts of our religion that you would like to explore?

As you visit other areas of the country and get a chance to visit another UU congregation this summer, check out what they are doing that we might benefit from.

Send your ideas to adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Summertime Sundays in RE

During the summer months, volunteers from our congregation share their time with our youth by presenting an all-ages activity or craft in the downstairs lounge during the Sunday service RE time. Children begin the service as usual and will be "sung out" (with the exception of July 13, where they will stay the entire service and enjoy a family-friendly music service).

July's summer sessions are as follows:

July 6	Bug jars and personalized notebooks led by Debbi Dagavarian
July 13	<i>Intergenerational Service - children will stay with their families for the duration of the service</i>
July 20	Balloon animals led by Michelle Tomko
July 27	Garden Rock Painting led by Colby Tippins

Stay cool,
Heidi Jannsch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

A Rose by Any Other Name Would Smell as Sweet

Over three years ago we started the Buddhist Sangha at the request of several members of the congregation. I casually called it the "Buddhist Sangha", using the Pali word for community of Buddhists. This word was originally applied only to the community of monks. In more modern times and especially in the West, it has been applied to any group of practicing Buddhists.

I have given it some thoughts, consulted with the group and decided that a name "adjustment" would be appropriate. This group is not an organized group that is intentionally committed to practicing with teachings. It is more about studying, in a more casual way, the teachings. There is a drop-in aspect to it as people attend when they can. It can be a base for future study and commitment. Therefore I think it is more appropriate to call it a "**Buddhist Study Circle**" which is more aligned with terminology used in the UU congregations.

It still is a great base to get familiar with the teachings, share with others, and lay a foundation for future practice. Join us after the service at the end of the month, July 27th from noon to 2:00 pm.

--Alan S. Oliver [alanasoka (at) gmail.com]

In July and August, **Margaret Circle** meets at on the first Thursday at Noon in the UU Library. Please BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)!

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

June 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, June 18, 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.

Happily, Board member Art Wexler reported his retirement became official about two and a half hours ago, and Deb Dagavarian said that hers would be effective tomorrow, Thursday. *Warm congratulations were offered from all sides!*

[*Note*: Board votes reported below were "unanimous" by all the members present; there was one absence.]

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The **congregational gathering at Murray Grove** will take place this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, **June 20-22**.

2) There will be a **Farewell Potluck** immediately after the service on **Sunday, June 29**, to say goodbye to Rev. Charlie Dieterich—the day of his last Sunday sermon from the pulpit as our minister.

3) This year's **UUA General Assembly (GA)**, "Love Reaches Out," will be held Wednesday through Sunday, **June 25-29** in Providence, RI. Elected at the Annual Meeting to be UUCSJS delegates were Dan and Marcia Wolfe. Rev. Charlie will also be attending, and congregant Lauren Porr.

4) The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held **Sunday, July 13** at 11:30 am in a lower level classroom. (*Note*: Talk-Backs have been moved to the second Sunday of the month.)

• DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) **Welcome to new Board members.** President York warmly welcomed Melissa Hutchison and Jon Luoma, elected to the Board at the Annual Meeting on June 1, thanking them for agreeing to attend this meeting one month early in order to take care of a couple of business matters.

a) *Board meeting date.* It was agreed the Board will continue to meet on the **third Wednesday** of the month, but at **6:30 pm** rather than 6:45, *except that* in July and August only, meetings will take place on the **third Tuesday** (due to Board member's summer schedule). Also, it is noted Jon Luoma will be away the week of the July meeting.

b) *Election of President and Vice President.* In order to make sure duly elected officers are continuously in place and UUCSJS is never without official leadership, it has become the practice to choose a new president and vice president before the new fiscal year arrives on July 1.

—*The Board unanimously approved motions to elect ART WEXLER as President of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees, and JON LUOMA as Vice President of the Board for the new Fiscal Year, July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.*

Other members of the Board: The congregation elected **KAREN YORK Treasurer** at the Annual Meeting on June 1, and **Secretary JUDY PEREIRA** serves for one more year. **MELISSA HUTCHISON** newly joins the Board for FY14-15, re-elected is **JOE TERRAZZINI**, and continuing is **DOUG DICKINSON**. The Board has a total of seven (7) members.

2) **Ministerial transition.** For the Board's information only—nothing to vote on, President York reported our Interim Ministry Contract with **Rev. CYNTHIA P. CAIN** has been duly signed and submitted to the UUA. She will arrive Friday, August 15, and will likely do a Sunday service before departing for Minnesota briefly to attend a training session August 18-22.

The president said she has been gathering names for a Transition Team of five to seven who will help Rev. Cain in getting to know UUCSJS. According to UUA guidelines, these

should be "well respected members of the congregation, not on the current Board of Trustees or former Committee on Ministry serving with Rev. Charlie." Suggestions were sought.

3) **CRE request for OWL funds.** Children's Religious Education (CRE) has requested the extra amount of \$860 to help cover expenses for training and materials for the OWL program. (Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education, also taking the training, has other means of funding available.)

—*The Board unanimously approved a motion to grant \$860 in additional funds to Children's Religious Education to help pay for training and materials to certify two new teachers in OWL (Our Whole Lives), budget line to be determined.*

FYI, according to the UUA website, "Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades 10-12, young adults (ages 18-35), and adults. [OWL] helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information ... Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, [OWL] not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants ... understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality."

4) **Special collection for LGBT Uganda Fund.** On July 27 UUCSJS will be hosting Rev. Mark Kiyimba, UU minister and LGBTI activist from Uganda, who will be in our area.

—*The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve a second collection on Sunday, July 27 to benefit the "UUA/UU-UNO [UU-United Nations Office] LGBT Uganda Fund."*

5) **Family Promise: Ad Hoc Committee status.** The newly-elected chair of the UUCSJS Family Promise Team, Prim Reeves, has requested the group be made an official UUCSJS Ad Hoc Committee. Janet Longo was chosen as secretary.

—*The Board unanimously approved a motion to confer Ad Hoc Committee status on the UUCSJS Family Promise Team.*

6) **GA Action Issues and Banner.** As requested by our delegates to General Assembly (GA), Dan and Marcia Wolfe, the Board considered the five (5) Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) coming before the GA for a vote, in order to provide the Board's recommendation on behalf of the congregation. After our review, two issues were selected: *Escalating Inequality* and *Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue*.

The Wolfes will carry the UUCSJS banner in the procession of hundreds of UU congregations opening General Assembly.

• REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** Adding to his monthly written Board report, Rev. Charlie said the new member ceremony taking place on his last Sunday in the pulpit, June 29, will likely see four (not three) new people signing the book. *Thanks, Charlie!*

2) **Treasurer's Report.** Answering York's inquiry, Carl Benner said he anticipates no cash flow problems in the face of several unexpected expenses at once. Moreover, he added, our bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett, watches the balance carefully and will move funds if needed. He also reported tomorrow our four SRECs will be sold, not held trying to "guess the market."

3) **Notes on Staff & Committee Reports.** The Board briefly discussed some of the pros and cons surrounding a suggestion that the Office Administrator assist in volunteer coordination. No conclusion was reached at this time.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm, and was reconvened immediately in Executive Session until 9:09, continuing work on the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) evaluation of our Minister, due July 1, 2014.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center,

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2014-15

Doug Dickinson, Melissa Hutchison, Jon Luoma, Judy Pereira,
Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

July 2014

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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