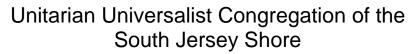


NEWSLETTER





Volume 16, Issue 08 August 2014

August Services

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.

August 3	UUCSJS Hit Parade Lay speaker Barbara Miller, UUCSJS Music Director Let's do some singing! We will do a countdown of our top ten favorite hymns from Singing the Living Tradition. And the winner is		
August 10	Forgiveness Guest speaker Sam Gugino Nelson Mandela had many commendable qualities, not least was the courage to maintain his principles despite 27 years in prison. But his most admirable quality was his ability to forgive. Instead of retribution, he chose forgiveness. And in doing so, South Africa changed from the brutality of apartheid to the freedom of democracy, without a civil war. How can we learn from Mandela's example, that forgiveness is strength, not weakness? And that forgiveness heals the forgiver as well as the forgiven.		
August 17	How Can We Live on the Side of Love? Rev. Cynthia Cain Love is perhaps the most misunderstood and confusing word we have. Still, as UUs, we strive to embody love and to "stand on the side of love." Can we do it, collectively and individually?		
August 24	Religious But Not Spiritual? Rev. Cynthia Cain We've been hearing about the new generation of SNR (spiritual but not religious) folk out there lately. Still, many liberal religious folk quail at the notion of "spirituality." Today I'll endeavor to spark a discussion about what a spirituality for UUs might look like, including a brief look at Spiritual Direction.		
August 31	Reflections on General Assembly 2014: Reaching Out With Love Lay speakers Marcia and Dan Wolfe More than 4700 Unitarian Universalists gathered this past June in Providence, RI for General Assembly. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. UUCSJS delegates Marcia and Dan Wolfe share their reflections and inspiration.		

Do you want to support Family Promise of Atlantic County and get 25% off at Boscov's, too?

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Program enables you to buy a

\$5 coupon to get a 25% shopping pass for Tuesday, October 21, 2014, from 9-11 am.

Your \$5 donation goes directly to Family Promise, and you get to enjoy a nice discount at one of your favorite stores. UUCSJS will begin selling the \$5 coupons for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on Sunday, July 27.

About our guest speaker...

Sam Gugino has been a chef and restaurant owner, restaurant critic at the Philadelphia Daily News, wine columnist at the Newark Star-Ledger, and author of four cookbooks, and has a food blog at samcooks.com. He recently retired as contributing editor and columnist for Wine Spectator magazine. He has been a member of the Unitarian Society of Germantown since 2002 and has served the church in a number of capacities including three years as Membership Chair, three years on the Board of Trustees, the last two as president, and two years chairing the Stewardship Committee. Most recently active at USG with their Public Education Initiative and celebrating the achievements of local students at the local Lingelbach Elementary School whom the USG endeavors to support and tutor.

He has spoken at numerous area UU congregations on topics such as Science and Art of Happiness, Will the Real Jesus Stand Up?, Becoming an Atheist, Thinking Your Way to Health, Happiness and Wisdom, Last Rights, and the Church of the New Millennium.

He lives in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia with his wife, Mary Lee Keane.

Camping in the Grove! - August 10-14, 2014

5 days of fun-filled summer adventure for UU children and their friends in 4th through 7th grade. If you love games, art, swimming, music, nature and bonfires, our camping experiences, where Universalism traditionally began, is just for you! Register Now!

For information: Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center P.O. Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 609-693-5558

murraygrove@murraygrove.org

www.murraygrove.org

Margaret Circle will meet Thursday, August 7 at Noon in the UU Library. Please BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)!

Times of transition are strenuous, but I love them. They are an opportunity to purge, rethink priorities, and be intentional about new habits.

We can make our new normal any way we want. -- Kristin Armstrong

Things change all the time, so why do people make such a philosophical to-do that things are constantly in transition? -- Twyla Tharp

Life is one big transition. -- Willie Stargell

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.

We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

-- Barack Obama

It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad. -- C. S. Lewis

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Exciting news!!! There is a new program starting in mid-September! John Walther will be facilitating lessons from "A Course In Miracles". John has been working with the "Course" for a number of years and brings both his experience and insight to this program. More details to follow.

Also, keep in mind our current, on-going programs: The Buddhist Study Circle, Small Group Ministries, and Journaling with Bob Baum.

Hope you all are having a great summer!

Charlie Roberts - Adult RE Chairperson

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Planning Ahead in RE

"Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality." -- www.uua.org/re/owl

From July 18 - 20 Paul Utts, Betsy Erbaugh and I attended the Jr. High level *Our Whole Lives* facilitator training. We acquired a tremendous amount of information, and the training included practice facilitating an OWL class. Special thanks go to Betsy and Paul for dedicating their weekend to this important ministry! During August we will be touching base with the parents of our 7-9th graders to finalize our scheduling of OWL in the coming school year. We are looking forward to providing our youth with this course, which will indeed benefit them throughout their whole lives.

Throughout August, volunteers from our congregation will continue to share their time with our youth by presenting an allages activity or craft in the downstairs lounge during the Sunday service RE time.

August's summer sessions are as follows:

August 3	Decorating Tote Bags led by Debbi Dagavarian
August 10	Improv Games with Michelle Tomko
August 17	Cooperative Games with Karen Zindell
August 24	Fireless Campfire with Bud Smith
August 31	Tie-dyed T-Shirts with Colby Tippins

Many thanks to all of our summer volunteers!

Heidi Jannsch UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

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!

Family Promise News

A group of six UUCSJS members took a Family Promise "field trip" recently to the Southern Ocean County Family Promise Day Center in Barnegat. We met with Cheryl Polo, the Executive Director, and Liz, the social worker there. This visit gave us a different view of Family Promise, the home base of the families. This is where parents can look for jobs, children get picked up by their school bus to get to class on time, and relax between job interviews. The Southern Ocean County Family Promise Day Center looks like a regular home. Inside, there is a room with computers for job searches; a kitchen; two full bathrooms; a living room with a large screen TV and a variety of children's videos; and two offices for staff. There is a back yard where children can play. We were able to see all of this because they have no clients at the moment.

Volunteers assist guests with financial and career counseling, resume writing, and childcare while the Center is staffed and a parent has a scheduled appointment for employment or housing options. The Day Center also relies on student interns to help with tasks. Family Promise guests' privacy is protected in that they are known only by their first names (except, of course, to the Day Center staff).

We will be scheduling a training session in August for anyone from UUCSJS who would like to volunteer to assist in Southern Ocean County. They have host churches in Little Egg Harbor and Tuckerton, which are less than 30 minutes from UUCSJS. Contact Prim Reeves for more information, or come to the next UUCSJS Family Promise Committee meeting on Monday, August 11 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

You may have noticed that Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC) was designated a 501(c)(3), an official charity or nonprofit. This is good news to all of us who want our donations to FPAC to be tax deductible.

Also, consider buying a \$5 coupon in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Program. You'll get a 25% shopping pass for Tuesday, October 21, 2014, from 9 to11 am, at Boscov's. Your \$5 donation goes directly to Family Promise, and you get to enjoy a nice discount at one of your favorite stores. Prim and other UUCSJS Family Promise Committee members will be selling the coupons after services.

New Board of Trustees

Welcome to new members and officers for Board of Trustees. The Officers for the Board of Trustees for the 2014-15 year are: Art Wexler as President, Jon Luoma as Vice President, Karen York as Treasurer, and Judy Pereira as Secretary. Melissa Hutchison joins Doug Dickinson and Joe Terrazzini as at large members of the Board. Two Board members are present just after services on the second Sunday of each month for "Board talk-backs". Any member of the congregation may drop in to the sessions if they have a question, suggestion, or concern that they want to bring to the Board's attention. Our regularly scheduled Board meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. However, the August meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19. These business meetings are also open to members of the congregation.

Welcome to Rev. Cynthia Cain, Interim Minister

This month we will all have the opportunity to meet **Rev. Cynthia Cain**, who will serve as our Interim minister for the next two years beginning August 15, 2014. She will be in the pulpit on August 17 and again on August 24. From August 18 to 22 she will be away attending an Interim training session.

Rev. Cain was ordained in 1995 at the UU Church of the Shenandoah Valley (Virginia), and she has twenty years of experience as a UU minister in both small and mid-size congregations. Most recently, she was a called minister in at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington (Kentucky) for 14 years. She is originally from New Jersey and has family in the area (Mt. Laurel, Mays Landing, Tabernacle, and more). This will be her first Interim position, but she has a wealth of professional training, ministerial experience and life experience to draw on. She has practiced Buddhist meditation for many years and has a Masters in Fiction writing and English literature in addition to her Masters of Divinity.

The Interim Process

The Interim period provides a structured self-reflective process to strengthen the congregation and help us prepare us for our future and our next minister. The interim minister will not be a candidate for the congregation's future ministry, and the time frame for the Interim ministry is limited to two years. Rev. Cain will carry out the normal responsibilities of congregational ministry, including worship and pastoral care, but she is also charged to help the congregation in addressing the following interim tasks:

- claiming and honoring its past and engaging and acknowledging its griefs and conflicts
- recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges
- understanding the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
- making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources
- renewing its vision, strengthening its stewardship, preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest

Transitions Team

To help Rev. Cain in working with the congregation, a Transitions Team has been selected. The Transitions Team works closely with the Interim Minister as a source of information about the congregation and its members. Our Transitions Team will be: Carolyn Baum, Debbie Dagavarian, Helene Gentile, Mariann Maene, Bud Smith, Jeff Taylor, and Paul Utts.

Submitted by Karen York

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

July 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, new President Art Wexler presiding. Chalice lighting words were recited, and joys and concerns shared. The Board welcomes two new members this month—Melissa Hutchison, At Large, and Jon Luoma, elected Vice President by special vote of the new Board on June 18. (Departing the Board are Carl Benner as Treasurer, and VP Debbi Dagavarian, having served the limit of three terms.)

Melissa Hutchison mentioned with pleasure that she and her husband, Ron, completed the American Cancer Society's 42nd Annual Bike-a-thon on Sunday, July 13, riding 65 miles from the Ben Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia to Buena Vista Campground in Buena, New Jersey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Rev. Mark Kiyimba, a UU minister and LGBT activist from Uganda, will be visiting UUCSJS from July 23 to July 28. There will be a shared meal before the public meeting on Thursday evening, and Rev. Kiyimba will give the Sunday sermon on July 27. Members of the congregation will be hosting our guest, including homestays and transportation. A second collection to benefit the "UUA/UU-UNO [United Nations Office] LGBT Uganda Fund" will be taken on Sunday, July 27.
- 2) The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held **Sun., August** 10 at 11:15 am in a lower level classroom.

REPORTS

1) *Treasurer's Report*. Newly-elected Treasurer Karen York distributed a written report for July 2014 and a 2-page spreadsheet, ""UUCSJS Budget Report for July 2013 to June 2014." The treasurer pointed out last year's expenses were some \$10,000 below budget, whereas on the income side, a budget deficit was closed using funds from various sources, such as sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) (\$4,059.50) and a refund from the IRS (\$2,005.42).

York said total Grocery Card sales for FY13-14 were an impressive \$53,850, for a net profit of \$2,692.50. "Thanks to Peg Gillies for her continuing dedication to this important fund raiser," the treasurer said. "And thanks also to Carl & Kathie Benner who were the top customers, with the Searights, Uttses, Taylors, and Gentiles close behind."

The Special Collections and Donations for FY13-14 were as follows: Family Promise of Atlantic County (11/2013 – \$965), Community FoodBank of NJ (11/2013 – \$1,291), UUSC-UUA Joint Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund (12/2013 – \$632.79), UUSC "Guest at Your Table" (1/2014 – \$335), and Murray Grove Association/"Camping in the Grove" scholarship fund (6/2014 – \$335).

In summary, with a total UUCSJS budget of \$189,000, final figures for **FY13-14** were: **Total Expenses**, **\$179,947** and **Total Income**, **\$188,130** (for a net of income over expenses of \$8,183.)

Concluding her report, Treasurer York said the new budget for FY14-15 sets up the regular payment of \$300 per month extra toward mortgage principal, as recommended by the Finance committee. Our mortgage with the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) stands at \$394,720.13, with an interest rate of 4.25%. The loan must be refinanced in February 2016, the application due in the Fall of 2015.

• DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) Roles of trustees and meeting management. President Wexler reiterated from last month that he sees the

work of the Board as a team effort, and as a first step, asked Board members to share in providing words to light the chalice each month. He also requested items for the monthly agenda, to assist in staying on top of congregational issues and needs.

- **2**) **Board meeting schedule**. The Board will continue to meet on the <u>third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm</u> in the UU Center downstairs lounge (except in July and August, when the Board meets on the third Tuesday).
- **3) Process of collecting monthly reports**. President Wexler asked if Board members see this as an area needing attention. It was noted that some committees seldom if ever report or are inactive or defunct, but are still listed in the bylaws, or as "ad hoc" committees.

It was agreed our committee structure should be a target issue for the interim ministry period. "I'm sure that will be a core function of the interim process, the president stated; "Committees are key."

• UPDATES

- 1) Family Promise. Doug Dickinson reported our UU team joined Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC) to table at Egg Harbor City's Hometown Celebration on July 11 & 12 in Lincoln Park. With UUCSJS, eight congregations have now signed on to "host" for FPAC, and five more are sought. The UUCSJS Family Promise Team meets regularly with a focused and proactive agenda, led by Prim Reeves. Dickinson said that on Friday, July 18, six members of the team will travel to Barnegat to learn about the branch of Family Promise in Southern Ocean County. Purchase of \$5 passes for "Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Day" benefitting FPAC will be available soon.
- 2) Ministerial Transition Team. Karen York said Rev. Cain starts at UUCSJS on Friday, August 15 and will be preaching that Sunday, August 17 before departing for a brief training in Minnesota. She returns to the pulpit the following Sunday, August 24. A team of seven will help Rev. Cain get "up to speed" on how UUCSJS functions. Information will also be sought from other knowledgeable congregants. Serving on the transition team are Carolyn Baum, Debbi Dagavarian, Helene Gentile, Mariann Maene, Paul Utts, Bud Smith, and Jeff Taylor.
- **3) GA (General Assembly) Action Issues.** Our GA delegates, Dan and Marcia Wolfe, have said they had an amazing experience at GA in Providence, RI, and reported that "Escalating Inequality" was chosen as the new Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for 2014-2018. (On behalf of the congregation the Board recommended that issue, as well as "Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue," as our choices.)
- **4) Social Justice organizational model**. President Wexler said he put this on the agenda so that Joe Terrazzini's suggestions on how to revitalize Social Justice didn't just slip away. "The model had something to strive for," he observed. "We'll ask Rev. Cain, what does she think?" Terrazzini said.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Hymnal bookshelves. Responding to the suggestion offered at the recent "Board Talk-Back" that we install bookshelves at the rear of the Sanctuary to permanently house our hymnals (and also upgrade the table used to distribute orders of service and sell grocery cards), Karen York said she will send a message to the chairs of the relevant committees: Building & Grounds/Aesthetics, Membership, and Worship.

The committees will in turn explore the idea thoroughly and if approved, submit a detailed, written proposal, including costs to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

• Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, August 19, 2014** at <u>6:30</u> pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

White Allies Working For Racial Justice

Friday **September 26**, 2014 at 6:00 PM EDT -to-Sunday **September 28**, 2014 at 1:00 PM EDT

> UU Church of the Restoration 6900 Stenton Avenue Philadelphia. PA 19150

Come join us for a weekend workshop on whiteness.

Participants will deepen their understanding of whiteness and the forces that have shaped our own personal racial identities. We will explore the dynamics of white identity and privilege in the age of President Obama and the changing demographics of our country. We will discuss ways to be allies to People of Color, to end racism in white controlled institutions, and to shape anti-racist identity and practice within ourselves and the people in our lives.

Facilitators:

- Betty Jeanne Rueters-Ward, Consultant and Adjunct Faculty, Starr King School for the Ministry
- Rev. Bill Gardiner, Consultant and Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training Board Member

The formal workshop will take place Friday, September 26 at 6 pm and run through Saturday, September 27 ending at 5 pm. Saturday afternoon from Noon to 5 pm there will be a caucus gathering of JPD People of Color at Restoration. Saturday evening, there will be a dinner and 7:30 concert by Professor Louie and Cassendre Xavier at the Folk Factory Coffeehouse for people of all cultural backgrounds from the JPD interested in racial justice.

Cost is \$125 per person for the formal workshop. Scholarships are available. Registration deadline is September 10. Contact Bruce Pollack-Johnson at pollackjohnson@verizon.net or Paula Cole Jones at pcolejones@gmail.com for more information.

For more info: http://www.jpduua.org/news-and-notes/white-allies-working-racial-justice

UUA approves fossil fuel divestment

Delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association's 53rd General Assembly approved divesting the UUA of most of its investments in companies that produce or process fossil fuels, including oil, natural gas, and coal.

The June 28 vote in Providence RI was held after 30 minutes of debate, but the resolution had overwhelming support.

The divestment resolution was carefully crafted over the past year and had the support of environmental activists, including the organization UU Ministry for Earth, as well as the UUA administration and Board of Trustees.

The resolution permits the UUA to keep some fossil fuel stocks in companies with which the UUA is engaged in shareholder actions seeking environmental justice.

Terry Wiggins, a member of First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, led the crafting of the agreement over the past year, along with the UU Ministry for Earth, the UUA Socially Responsible Investing Committee, and Treasurer Brennan. "We, private citizens and the private and nonprofit sectors, need to take matters into our own hands," Wiggins said, "and use every strategy we can to convince the government and public at large of our planetary emergency, and that we must act now."

'Love Reaches Out' is theme at 2014 UUA General Assembly

The General Assembly's programs this year were organized around the theme "Love Reaches Out."

For Saturday evening's public witness event, the UUA sponsored Providence's WaterFire public arts festival, which is attended by thousands of local residents. President Morales and Moderator Jim Key carried torches from the convention center to the river as hundreds of Unitarian Universalists in "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts followed on foot or on scooters. At the river, Morales and Key passed the flame to torch-bearers on boats, who lit pyres in the center of the river. UUs mingled in the crowd, answering questions about their yellow "Love" shirts or gathering at a stage near the illuminated spire of First Unitarian Church to hear UU musicians.

The General Assembly gave a raucous ovation to Sister Simone Campbell, a Roman Catholic nun and activist, who called on UUs to "walk towards trouble" in the Ware Lecture, GA's keynote address.

In his sermon at Sunday morning's worship service, the Rev. Mark Stringer said his congregation had to overcome squeamishness about other people's religious beliefs and practices in order to participate in interfaith social justice work. "We are no longer known as the people who don't pray or aren't sure why we are a religion," he said. "We are known as the people who show up."

"Let's choose to be the religion we are called to be," Stringer said: "the religion whose love reaches out."

From uuworld.org: www.uuworld.org/news/articles/296156.shtml

Helping to tip the scales

Topeka, Kans., is not located in a hotbed of liberalism. There's a ban on same-sex marriage written into the state constitution. [But] the Topeka City Council passed three LGBT-friendly ordinances in recent months, including one establishing a domestic partnership registry.

There was a Pride Prom in Topeka in June. A month earlier, it held the seventh annual Million "Fag" March. Last September there was a Transgender Day of Remembrance. Next fall will be the first Topeka Pride Parade and festival.

There is a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Topeka, and it's been hip-deep in all of these happenings. The 129-member UU Fellowship of Topeka can't take credit for all these changes, but stop and think for a moment about how much it's been worth over the years to have a congregation steadily encouraging public officials—and the public itself—to do the right thing.

Reflecting on all the recent change, [longtime member Vicki Chronister George] observed, "Would all of this have happened without the fellowship? In my opinion the change we've seen was inevitable, but I'd like to think our presence certainly helped tip the scales."

Read more at www.uuworld.org/news/articles/296267.shtml

How to be alive

Like many parents before her, Christine Leigh Slocum discovers that parenting is teaching her important life lessons.

I am approaching the tasks of parenthood with the orientation that my job is to show her how to be alive. . . .

In order to show my daughter how to love life, I need to be loving life. If I want to teach her to appreciate the nature, or know how to be loving to others, I need to appreciate nature, and be loving to others.

From her blog *This Too Shall Pass*, June 26, www.christineslocum.net/picking-wildflowers

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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August 2014

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