



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 17, Issue 02

February 2015

February Services

“We Promise... to show RESPECT”

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 1	<p>Utilitarianism and Unitarian/Universalist Ethics <i>Guest speaker Ron Hutchison</i> Utilitarian thought helped to shape some of our most deeply cherished American values. This sermon will explore the history of utilitarianism, and, explain how this ethical framework, when combined with our UU principles, can provide a strong foundation for environmental justice.</p>
February 8	<p>FAMILY SYSTEMS in & out of congregations: PART ONE... Being A Self <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> We hear a lot in Buddhism about no-self (<i>anatta</i>) and losing the sense of a separate self. Family Systems, as espoused by Murray Bowen and Edwin Friedman, is a school of thought which has become widespread in congregational as well as family therapy. It suggests that until one can be self-differentiated, a system cannot attain health. Come, find out more.</p>
February 15	<p>Death With Dignity in New Jersey <i>Guest speaker Ethan Andersen</i> Only three states have a “right to die” law. Although Gov. Chris Christie has vowed to veto it, the NJ Death with Dignity Act is currently moving through the State legislature, and would allow mentally competent, terminally ill patients with less than six months to live to self-administer medication to end their lives. Our guest speaker has worked with NJ’s advocacy group, Compassion & Choices, to get this law passed in New Jersey.</p>
February 22	<p>CELEBRATION SUNDAY ~ INTERGENERATIONAL <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> Celebration of 15 years since Charter Sunday with drama, words, music and afterwards, FOOD!</p>

February 22, 12:45-1:30 pm
Intro to SAFE CONGREGATIONS workshop
 (following the 15th anniversary celebration)

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED to attend but leaders and core members are especially urged to be present.

This begins a 10 session series of workshops led by REV CAIN over the next year in which we will look at all aspects of congregations as places of safety and trust, from communication to physical safety, for children, youth, differently abled, examining the conduct of members, clergy, and all who enter the premises.

These excellent workshops, crafted by the UUA, and utilized by many congregations, will be preparation for UUCSJS as you move toward your next ministry. Please RSVP to Rev Cain as there is a reading assignment that will expedite the meeting. Meeting space TBA.

“Respect”

We continue our 2014-15 Worship theme, in which we focus on the UUCSJS Covenant of Right Relations – its purpose and its 7 promises.

For February we consider this promise: **“To show RESPECT for one another by acknowledging our differences; by listening without interruption; and by remaining open-minded, humble, and patient in our interactions.”** *How can you live out this promise in your relationships with others in UUCSJS? How respectful are you lately?*

Book Lovers Group

The February meeting of the Book Lovers Group will be on Friday, February 20 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library. Up for discussion this month is ***The Burgess Boys*** by Elizabeth Strout. “With a rare combination of brilliant storytelling, exquisite prose, and remarkable insight into character, Elizabeth Strout has brought to life two deeply human protagonists whose struggles and triumphs will resonate with readers long after they turn the final page. Tender, tough-minded, loving, and deeply illuminating about the ties that bind us to family and home, *The Burgess Boys* is Elizabeth Strout’s newest and perhaps most astonishing work of literary art.” So says Amazon.com, and it is pretty much true. Join us if you have read the novel even if you have never before been to a meeting. We always have a good time! *In case of inclement weather an e-mail will be sent out by noon the day of the meeting. You may also call Angela Wexler.*

Margaret Circle

This month's Margaret's Circle will be held in the UU Center Library on Thursday, February 5 at 1 pm. After our check in we will be served refreshing delights by host Maxine Blumenthal. The topic will be “Exploring UU: How deeply do we understand the concepts of UU,” facilitated by Arlene Yacka. We welcome all to bring their whole self. Contact Shelee McIlvaine if you have any questions.



Road Cleanups on Feb 1 and March 14

Help keep our stretch of Pomona Road clean and presentable. *Plus:* UUCSJS earns a stipend from the Atlantic County Utilities Authority for doing this task.

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!

CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In addition to our regularly scheduled Sunday programming, January was an eventful month in our Children's Religious Education program.

Four Stockton students and two Stockton employees volunteered as part of their Martin Luther King Day of Service helping construct some simple play stations in our developing play space in the UU Center “yard.” Their efforts also included reducing the number of pine saplings on the right side of the building, ensuring that our rooftop solar panels will remain shade-free for years to come. Thanks to these volunteers, TJ Jansch for prepping the playground station projects they worked on and Steve Fiedler and Jesse Connor for organizing the additional landscaping tasks.

The Children's RE committee hosted a potluck supper for families of children in our RE program on the evening of January 22nd in the UU Center Lounge. The evening was enjoyable and relaxed, thanks in part to the members of the “Granny Squad” (Betsy Searight and Janet Longo) who helped with the little ones during the dinner, freeing parents to eat and chat uninterrupted.

Sundays in February will follow the ordinary RE schedule, with the exception of Sunday, February 22 when an intergenerational service will be held in celebration of the Fifteenth anniversary of Charter Sunday. No RE classes will be held so that our entire community can celebrate this milestone together.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Children's RE Program, feel free to contact me at sjsdre@gmail.com

In fellowship,
Heidi Jansch

UUCSJS Director of Religious Education, ACRE*

* Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education!

First Friday Film Night

Friday, February 6, 7 - 8:30 pm.

We continue “The Long Strange Trip”...

This month we watch and discuss the evolution of Unitarianism and Universalism through the late 19th and early 20th centuries as they evolve from Christian bible-oriented religions to our present-day non-creedal movement. The video discusses influences as diverse as the Civil War, Feminism and Suffrage, Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*, and the Social Gospel. Barbara Miller will be leading the discussion.

And yes, there will be popcorn!



AT FIFTEEN...

Just think of it. The UUCSJS will officially be fifteen years old in February. You could squabble, since meetings and even services were held prior to that, and UU recognition came a bit later, but February 13, 2000 was CHARTER SUNDAY, so rather than squabble, what say we celebrate, which is almost always more fun? I say almost always, mindful that in New Jersey we all love a bit of a squabble.

Our CHARTER SUNDAY ANNIVERSARY will be held on February 22nd – 2/22. Easy to remember!

We're making plans. Heidi, Barbara, and I, as your program Staff, are putting our heads together to create a whopper of a Sunday morning event that will bring together the best memories and stories of these past 15 years. This will be an intergenerational service, so everyone will be involved and all are encouraged to attend. We need YOU!

Here are some ways you can help:

- Please **send digital photos** of UUCSJS events, people and services to Marianne Maene at scorpia22@comcast.net or Cynthia by February 14.
- If you have a special **story, anecdote, a favorite sermon or service** or a hysterical memory that you'd love to see included in the dramatic retrospective, send it to Cynthia as soon as possible, but NO LATER than 2/14 at minister@uucsjs.org.
- Are you a **good organizer**? We need to have someone take names of folks willing to bring finger foods for a reception for after the service, and also make a list of people willing to clean up. I've been thinking this would be a neat job for some of our newest members. What do y'all think? Let Barbara, Heidi, or Cynthia know if you will take on this task.
- Volunteer to bring a plate of **goodies, sweet or savory**, and we will have a reception after the service.
- **INVITE friends** who may once have been a part of UUCSJS to come back & reminisce.
- If you have other ideas or want to offer to help in any other way, let one of us know.
- Come looking pretty so we can take another **group photograph** like the one taken in 2000!

We hope to make this a lovely celebration whilst keeping it simple and joyful.

I've been having a wonderful time reading through the newsletters of all of your years together and imagining how I can creatively present them so that you can be

pleased and delighted. I truly believe that valuing and celebrating our past, our accomplishments, and our many memories is part of what makes us human. Let us do this together. It's not about me at all; it's about you, but I am honored to be here to share it with you.

Fondly,

Rev. Cynthia

Rev. Cynthia's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-2
and by appointment

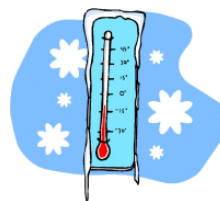
Read more of Rev Cynthia's reflections at
www.ajerseygirlinkentucky.blogspot.com



What's happening with Family promise?

Family Promise has recently received grants in the amount of \$18,000 from Cape Bank, Ocean City Charitable Foundation, and The Greater NJ Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Also, an ART AUCTION is being planned by Family Promise of Atlantic County for SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015. It will take a lot of effort from all of our 10 congregations and their members. We need people helping with publicity, the ad book, soliciting business sponsors, getting donations of food & beverages from local restaurants, obtaining door prizes, a small silent auction, decorations, selling tickets, and set up on the day of the auction. Contact Prim Reeves (primrose.reeves@gmail.com) if you can help in any way.



Did you know?

A "Code Blue" is called during evenings when temperatures dip below 25 degrees, or 32 degrees on rainy and snowy nights. This is when auxiliary shelter is made available to homeless just for the night.

Code Blue initiatives have been in place in Atlantic City for years, but only recently have been started in other area cities such as Vineland, Bridgeton, and Millville. Recently we posted on our [UUCSJS Facebook page](#) an item about the Millville group and how they are organizing this effort.

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
January 2015

Highlights of the January meeting are not being reported in the February newsletter due to Board Secretary Judy Pereira being on vacation.

**Miss this informative summary?
Be sure to tell Judy! She works very hard
on these notes each month.**

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

Disruptive Persons Policy

Happy Valentine's Day from the UUCSJS Board of Trustees! This is my first year as a representative to the board, and I am learning what it takes to help govern our congregation. I am impressed by the level of intelligence, skill, and compassion demonstrated by our leadership at UUCSJS.

One of the things that the board has been working on under guidance from Reverend Cynthia is an update on policies for governance. Recently, a subcommittee consisting of myself, Rev. Cynthia, Joe Terrazzini, Pam Hendrick, and Jack Miller met to review our congregation's policy on disruptive persons.

Almost all UU congregations have such a policy, and most of them contain language that has been suggested by the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations). We followed the recommendations of the UUA, and updated the disruptive persons policy to adopt as our own.

The policy helps to address steps to take when the disruptive behavior of an individual causes 1) actual threats to the safety of others, 2) the disruption of church activities, or 3) diminishing appeal of the congregation to its potential and existing membership.

Once any of these criteria have been met, there is a process put in place to respond to the disruption, with an outline of possible consequences for the perpetrator.

The full policy can be found on the UUCSJS members webspace at members.uucsjs.org/policy-guide/, and a copy will be available in the church office.

We hope that you will be glad that we have this policy in place, as it aims to set healthy boundaries for what is considered to be acceptable behavior in our community. If you have any other questions regarding the details of this policy, please feel free to speak to me or to any other board member.

With UU Valentine Love, and respectfully submitted,

Melissa Hutchison

A Major Recycling Myth

Although you can recycle a multitude of items (check www.acua.com/disposal-recycling/residential/recycling/ for what is recyclable in Atlantic County); there still exist a few items that are especially hard to recycle. A major recycling myth is that even though you can in theory recycle most things, you should not assume that your local recycling center can accept everything you put out.

Recycling has several steps that need to be completed to keep the cycle functioning properly. First the recyclable materials are brought to a center (either by recycling truck or from recycling drop-off), then they are sorted and packaged, and the materials are transported to a facility that makes them into new things. Lastly, these things end up on store shelves and we buy them. All these steps need to be followed so that, financially, recycling supports itself.

In Atlantic County, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) provides [curbside recycling pick up](#) in most of the county's 23 municipalities. These materials are sorted and packaged, but what if there isn't a market for these materials? Does it make sense to collect these items? Without a market for recyclables, these items could end up in the landfill.

A couple of items that are NOT able to be recycled in Atlantic County include **plastic bags** and **Styrofoam**. This is true even though they may have a recycling symbol on them. Plastic bags which are received at the Recycling Center are problematic; first they have to be ripped open manually to release what they are carrying and then have to be sorted and baled and there is little market for them. Sadly, some items just make more work and can get caught in the recycling machinery. [Plastic bags](#) can be brought to some stores (many supermarkets) for recycling. You should switch to **reusable bags** as much as possible because of the environmental problems plastic bags cause when they end up as litter and the difficulty in recycling them.

[Styrofoam \(polystyrene\)](#) is simply a very hard item to recycle and there is no nearby market that will take this item. [Packaging peanuts](#) can be brought to businesses that utilize them such as UPS. Other styrofoam items, such as egg cartons and coffee cups, are NOT to be placed in your curbside recycling in Atlantic County.



Bag It!

Film to be shown at Steve & Cookie's,
Margate

in March (postponed from January due to weather)

The Surfrider Foundation - South Jersey Chapter has partnered with **Sustainable Margate** and the **Ventnor Green Team** to reduce the number of single-use shopping bags given out in these communities. Many bags end up as litter, getting stuck in trees, clogging the storm drains, and blowing out into the bays and ocean. The award-winning documentary **Bag It!** will be shown at Steve & Cookies on a date yet to be determined in March 2015.

Learn more about this award-winning documentary at www.bagitmovie.com.

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL

We are an active congregation, where many contribute their time, energy, and talent, to help keep our congregation thriving. We're all so busy helping out, that over the years we have been remiss in identifying and thanking all of you who serve. This month we're beginning a series of newsletter articles and initiatives in which we'll focus on one aspect of our congregational life; thanking those who are making contributions in that area. We begin our gratitude initiative by featuring the programs that come under the umbrella of social justice.

ADOPT-A-ROAD

In 2005, our congregation joined the Atlantic County Clean Communities Program and adopted a half-mile stretch on either side of our property – long before we had even started construction on our Center! For the past ten years, UU volunteers have been providing stewardship of the environment by faithfully picking up trash and recyclables on Pomona Road four times a year. The success of our Adopt-A-Road program stems from the committed leadership of **Michele Bellinger** and **Judy Pereira**, as well as the enthusiasm of the volunteers who support this ongoing mission: **Mariann Maene, Doug Dickinson, Betsy Searight, Patrick Taber, Angela Wexler, and Shelee McIlvaine**. Thanks for volunteering on Adopt-A-Road consistently!

FOOD BANK CREW

Every Sunday we revel in the sight of our adorable RE children collecting "Gifts for Those in Need:" food for food pantries, personal hygiene items for the women's shelter, and pet food and supplies for animal shelters. Over the years, thanks in large part to our Food Bank Crew, who pack up the items after service and deliver them to one of our area food banks, we have donated thousands of pounds of food and items to help those in need. A heartfelt thanks goes out to **Carolyn Baum** for coordinating the Food Bank Crew and to the volunteers who transport the donations: **Maxine Blumenthal, Shelee McIlvaine, Meg Bryant, Kiara Flores, Paul Carbinio, Theresa McReynolds, Nancy Brail, Art & Angela Wexler, Bud Smith, Barb Morell, Gayle Eaves, and Carolyn & Bob Baum**.

SOCIAL JUSTICE TABLE

Back when we were in the Lion's Center for the Blind and striving to put our UU principles into practice despite not having a building of our own, Mariann Maene suggested that we purchase Fair Trade Coffee for our coffee hour. What a great idea! We've been serving Fair Trade coffee

ever since, as well as selling Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and chocolate after service. **Bob Gillies** has headed up this effort in recent years and has recently had to step down. He deserves our deep gratitude for helping us to continue to live up to our principles of supporting sustainability and economic justice. In addition, profits from our Social Justice Table sales help us meet our yearly fundraising goal. We're delighted to have **Angela Wexler** and **Barb Morell** take on the leadership role. Thanks goes out to the volunteers who have helped staff the Social Justice Table over the last year after service: **Bob Gillies, Angela Wexler, Barb Morell, Kim Trotto, Diane Mullee, and Colby Tippins**.

FAMILY PROMISE TEAM

We are grateful to all on our energetic and passionate Family Promise team, which has led us to become the 7th of the 13 congregations needed to ensure the Family Promise program in Atlantic County. Special thanks go to **Prim Reeves** for chairing the team, and for **Robbenmarie Insogno**, who spoke to us so clearly and eloquently about the need and worth of this program, leading us to approve it at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

The team has been busy raising money for the county effort. Discount tickets for Boscov's were sold (\$240); with the enthusiastic leadership of **Colby Tippins** and **Janet Longo**, \$807 was raised at the Holiday Cookie Sale; and lots more will be raised with the Super Bowl Soup sale. **Debbi Dagavarian** and **Shelee McIlvaine** sold their homemade Jewelry and Photograph at a Family Promise Craft show, and **Kelli** and **Kiara Flores** arranged children to have photos taken with Santa (aka **Doug Dickinson**). All of these money raisers, along with \$965 in two second plate collections, has raised \$2012 in the past six months.

Most of our Family Promise team has received training to help homeless families, and some have helped a Tuckerton Church who was housing homeless families. Special thanks go to **Barbara Morell** who coordinated the food, and recruited her adult son to spend the night along with **Jack Miller**. Attending the monthly county-wide meetings consistently have been **Prim Reeves, Robbenmarie Insogno, Janet Longo, and Colby Tippins**.

Debbi Dagavarian deserves special thanks for writing weekly pieces for midweek announcements and newsletter articles. In addition to the names already mentioned there are lots more folks on the team. They are: **Bob & Carolyn Baum, Nick Bonar, Diane Dreby, Kathleen Hartnett, Dave King, Geri McCluskey, Barbara Miller, Judy Pereira, Bud Smith, Dan & Marcia Wolfe, and Karen York**.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2014-15

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Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

February 2015

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
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