



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 17, Issue 10

October 2015

October 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.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 4 | The Changing of Hearts and Minds: How Columbus Day Became Indigenous People's Day, and Other Signs That Life is Evolving <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> Where and when did this notion arise? Clearly, it was a strategy that was employed by those who have used non-violent resistance. As we look at the gradual evolution of the understanding of "Columbus Day," let us wonder together about whose hearts and minds can be changed, and whether or not we ought to try. |
| October 11 | Coming Out Sunday <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> This is a time to talk about how our work for LGBT justice and inclusion has changed, what is happening now, and to celebrate the lives, loves and mourn the losses of Queer folk everywhere. With ritual, story, and song, we come together, and come out, as allies and as community. |
| October 18 | You Can Make A Difference <i>Guest speaker Guy Forcone</i> You can make a difference in an abused or neglected child's life. But if that is not your calling, you can make a difference in some way in your own corner of the world. |
| October 25 | Compassion: Can We Care Too Much? <i>Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel</i> In our global society (a mixture of those who HAVE, and those who HAVE NOT, compounded by an instantaneous media machine), we are saturated daily with the pain and angst of others. According to the American Institute of Stress, while "...we have not been directly exposed to these traumas... we hear the story told with such intensity, or we hear similar stories so often ... [that] ...we suffer." Unfortunately, that which makes us human – compassion -- can also hurt us. Let's talk about caring for others, while practicing self-care. |

Please return your Ministerial Search Surveys! Deadline is September 30

The Ministerial Search Committee is hoping for a response of close to 100%.
Prospective ministers are interested in this as an indication of congregational involvement!

If you have already returned your survey, THANK YOU. 😊

If your survey is buried in your email, here are hints to finding it:

Most all of the surveys were sent on Sunday, Sept. 13, about 8:45 pm.

From: UUCSJSministersearch@gmail.com. Subject line: UUCSJS Ministerial Search Survey.

If you are having difficulty, call or email Jack Miller for assistance. You may request a hard copy.



About our guest speakers

Rev. Carol Thomas Cissel is the current Interim Minister at The Unitarian Society in East Brunswick, NJ. Previously, she served as Resident Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa OK, and as the Intern Minister at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Townsend, WA. Rev. Cissel holds a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion, and an MS in Nonprofit & Association Management from the University of Maryland.

An empty nester, she has "... 3 amazing adult children and one adorable grandson." Live music and contemporary Northwest Native American art are two of her passions. An avid traveler and member of a military family, she's visited or lived in almost all 50 states; "I can't wait to reach #50. 46 down only four to go!"

Guy Forcone works for the Division of Child Protection and Permanency. He has worked as a caseworker, a child abuse/neglect investigator, and is currently the Foster Parent Recruiter for Atlantic and Cape May Counties. He spent ten years as a Chaplain at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission and has pastored two churches. Guy is a resident of Atlantic County where he lives with his two children, Guy the Fourth and Sydni.

Book Lovers Group

... meets Friday, October 16 at 7 pm at the UU Center. For October the selection is *A RELIABLE WIFE* by Robert Goolrick. Set in rural Wisconsin, 1907, this is an organic mystery which is rooted in the real social ills of turn-of-the-century America. Helene Gentile will be leading the discussion. Anyone is welcome to come and join in!!!!

Margaret Circle

... will meet on Thursday, October 1 promptly at 1 pm. After sharing Joys & Concerns, there will be a short business meeting. We will enjoy refreshment selections from Peg Felix.

Betsy Searight will present a commentary from Huffington Post and blog writer John Metta, titled [L. Racist](#). Betsy asked that those planning to attend read the article ahead, as we prepare to engage in a healthy discussion on the topic and issues presented by Metta. If you need a copy of the article look for Betsy during service or contact Shelee by email. Please plan to join us for engaging conversation and thought provoking reflection.

♥ Special Collections

A Special Collection totaling \$413 was taken during the September 13 service for the benefit of **Friends of Peace Pilgrim**.

Donations were requested to support the **UU Service Committee** work for Syrian Refugees, and to date a total of \$525 has been collected.



What's new with Family Promise of Atlantic County?

Well, it's finally happening! Family Promise of Atlantic County is expected to begin hosting homeless families by the end of December!

It looks like the **Day Center** will be at **Zion Lutheran Church in Egg Harbor City**. We don't know yet when UUCSJS will have our first hosting week, but we are getting ready.

In the meantime, we will prepare by purchasing (or donating) supplies. For example – although Family Promise provides cots, pillows, pillow covers, and mattress covers – we will need to provide:

sheets, washable blankets, pillowcases, mattress pads, towels, washcloths

Other basic supplies we might be providing for the families include:

alarm clocks, baby food and bottles, disposable diapers and wipes, infant soap and shampoo, cleaning supplies, crayons and coloring books, cooking utensils, tissues and paper towels, First Aid kit, food staples, iron/ironing board, sandwich bags, paper/pencils/pens, plastic or rubber gloves, toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.), toys, books, games, recreational items

You don't need to buy anything yet, because we will have a systematic method of getting what we need without unnecessary duplication. This will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

What can you do right now? Buy a **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends 25% off Shopping Pass** for \$5 to raise more money for Family Promise of Atlantic County. The special shopping day at Boscov's is Tuesday, October 20.

If you are interested in joining us for UUCSJS Family Promise Team meetings, please do! New members are always welcome! We meet every 2nd Monday of the month from 6:30-8:00 pm at the UU Center. Our next regular meeting is on Monday, October 12.

Support our congregation by doing what you already do – buy groceries! with gift cards for your local Acme or Shoprite!

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%. We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!

SIGN of THE TIMES

It's hard to believe that a little over a month has passed since the day we dedicated a sign by the road saying, "Black Lives Matter." Since then, we have become the target of some very confused and desensitized people, both on our social media, and in the real world, as our sign was defaced after about ten days. At the same time, we have received letters of support and gratitude from mayors, elected officials, the Friends meeting, and most recently, the Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church. We've been embraced and held up in many ways by members and leaders of the Black community.

I can't say enough about this final sentence. A leader who is a very busy man, **Kaleem Shabazz**, has taken the time to call me on a regular basis, arranged to be at our service the morning after the sign was defaced, has often talked with civic leaders about our sign.

And more: the greater world of **Unitarian Universalism** sees us. They see the way in which we have handled the decision, the dedication, and the events surrounding the defacement as exemplary. I've written a bit of our story, which will appear on the **Standing on the Side of Love** website this week. (www.standingonthesideoflove.org)

Now I want to say this. It is *not I who did these things*. I have dedicated my ministry to racial justice for 20 years, but I could do very little in Lexington, KY because the congregation wasn't ready and the times weren't right. A moment in history has come, and this congregation had the fortitude, the will, and the wisdom to act with courage and grace.

This goes back to the workshops on white privilege led by **Prim Reeves** and **Shelee McIlvane** before I arrived. It goes to all of the reading, work, service, and thought that many of you have done in your lives and careers. So, when the time came, and we started an Anti-Racism Task Force, that original group looked at me when I asked if they thought we could post a sign (fully expecting hesitation) as many congregations had done, and with confidence, clarity, and courage, said, "Why not?"

From that day on, these people have held me up and even provided courage to me when I almost ran for cover! I kid you not. From the social media savvy of Michael Cluff; the PR skills of Ronda Cluff; the quiet wisdom and grace of Pam Hendricks; the determination and clarity of Mariann Maene; the outspoken truth-telling of Shelee McIlvane; the constant presence of Betsy Searight, Judy Periera, and Jesse Connor; representing the core of our leadership; the connection to the wider denomination that Betsy Erbaugh

offered, along with a reminder of what this meant for our kids... *I canonize these people as UU saints!* (we now have several added members, as well!)

And it could not have happened without the vision and leadership of our Board, who voted unanimously to raise the sign, and supported our task force without wavering in our ongoing decisions. I hope you all realize what a competent Board you have and especially what an exceptional President you have in Art Wexler.

Our next stage is the planning of a series of forums with Asbury United Methodist in Atlantic City on the many ways in which **BLACK LIVES MATTER** to Black and non-persons of color: *housing, health, education, arts, ethics, history, and more*. If you know of excellent speakers/presenters, please let us know! I also encourage you **all** to attend or take part in one of the learning opportunities listed elsewhere in the newsletter [see page 7]. And to read, and watch (*not FOX news*) but the many, many excellent thought pieces emerging from the movement.

I am so honored to be a part of this congregation at this time. I know it has been a bit anxiety-producing, but as one of our Black UU ministers has said, "If people are having that kind of reactivity around a sign in front of a church, what's it like for those of us that are walking around day to day in black skin?"

These are the questions I ask myself every day. We are entering a time of change. A time of revolution and perhaps upheaval as, finally, truth and a demand for justice that has been denied comes to the fore. The biggest question is: "What side are you on?" From that will come your answer.

Rev. Cynthia

Rev. Cain's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-2 and by appointment

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

"I guarantee you that every person of color in this country has faced an indignity, from the ridiculous, to the grotesque, to the sometimes fatal, at some point in their ... I'm gonna say *last couple of hours*, because of their skin color. Race is there and it is a constant. You're tired of hearing about it? Imagine how f***ing exhausting it is living it."

-- Jon Stewart, responding to FOX news coverage of Ferguson and Michael Brown's death

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Sunday RE classes are off to a great start! This year, we have three Children's Religious Education classes each Sunday: *SpiritPlay* with Karen York for children in Pre-K-1st grade, *Windows and Mirrors* with TJ Jannsch for 2nd-6th grades and *The Fifth Dimension* with Mariann Maene for Grades 7 and above. Parents, remember to turn in your child's RE registration to me if you haven't already, and feel free to contact me at sjsdre@gmail.com for more information or with any questions.

This summer we began a new tradition: each Sunday before the RE students exit the sanctuary, the light from the community chalice is shared with them. After the food is collected, we line up as usual for the exit song, and then one of our congregants lights our RE lantern from the chalice flame. An RE student and leader carries the flame, leading our youth slowly down the steps to their classes. If you would like to be the one who shares the flame one Sunday, contact me at sjsdre@gmail.com.

This ritual is a beautiful gesture symbolizing the congregation's support of religious education, and acknowledges the RE program as an important part of the community.

Heidi Jannsch

Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education



Photo by Mariann Maene

Create Beautiful Memories

What better way to create a memory than to offer an adventure, excursion, or dinner for UUCSJS's 11th Annual Service Auction! The Auction will be held on **Saturday, November 7**. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the Auction begins at 7 pm.

Donation forms are available in your Order of Service and at the table in the back of the sanctuary.

What can you donate? Items, handmade crafts or baked goods are always wanted. You can also donate services, such as guitar lessons, resume writing, repair work around the house, driving someone to the airport, and much more. And, you can donate nature excursions, themed dinners, an evening at the theatre, a make your own pizza party, a beer tasting, and lots more.

We have three types of auctions:

- A **silent auction** for most of the items, services, dinners/events and handmade goodies. For these, you write your name and your bid on a sheet of paper.
- A **chance auction**, for which you buy tickets and bid on items by placing a ticket (or more, depending on how much you want to increase your chances of winning!) in a cup by the item.
- The **live auction**, with exciting, live bidding on prizes to fit almost anyone's budget.

Remember to donate! Don't wait another week to fill out a donation form! Do it NOW!

Deadline for donation forms is October 11.

You can also buy a sponsorship or ad for the booklet.

Sponsorship Levels

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| \$500 | Ray Bradbury |
| \$300 | Rod Serling |
| \$100 | Viola Liuzzo |
| \$ 50 | Olympia Brown |
| \$ 25 | Herman Melville |

Fire Safety/Security Team

Building & Grounds Committee members met with several members of the congregation who have experience with safety protocols. A core group, led by Shelee McIlvaine, will be training members of a Fire Safety/Security Team.

Once trained, this team of UUCSJS members will be able to lead the congregation in case of a fire or imminent threat. Our goal is to train the team in September and October and to have a mock fire drill during a service in November.

The newly-established Fire Safety/Security Team has met several times. The team generated a list of safety and security measures for which we secured quotes and prioritized for Board discussion and approval. Three of the safety measures have been accomplished:

- We changed security companies to Schuler. Our security system received a thorough testing and evaluation by Schuler -- and everyone who was present for the safety check-up had good things to say about them.

- We cleared the stairwells of flammable materials.
- We trimmed the shrubs in the front entrance to provide better visibility.

We are working on three other measures:

- Funding for installation of a video intercom system at the front entrance for communication with the downstairs offices and the installation of a new, more secure lock in the kitchen door was approved by the Board. Jeff Taylor is overseeing this work.
- A draft of procedures for fire evacuation or sheltering in place has been developed and will be reviewed at the Safety/Security Team meeting on September 29.
- We have tentatively scheduled fire extinguisher training following service on Sunday, October 11. Eddie Hicks has volunteered to conduct the training, which will be open to everyone. We'll confirm the date in the upcoming Midweek announcements.

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL

By Marsha Hannah

To all who make Sunday coffee hour and special events so enjoyable!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard to make coffee hour a great experience for all to enjoy and to those who work to carry out all our special event meals. A special thank you goes out to Richard Schurig for leading the coffee hour team so effectively for so long. While Richard is on sabbatical, we hope to continue his work in a manner that will make him proud.



Kitchen staff. This past year our “Coffee hour team” was led by our wonderful “Minister of Coffee” Richard Schurig. Coffee is brewing by 9:30 am and bagels are delivered and cut by the time service begins. After coffee hour, the team goes to work cleaning the cups, dishes and kitchen.

Richard’s team this past year included Kim, Gabe and Oskar Studzinski, Geri McCluskey, Janet Longo, Eve Pagano, Ron Hutchison, Nick Bonar, John Luoma, Pam Hendrick, Charlie Roberts, and the most recent additions to the team, Sue Parks and Julie Spradlin. Several other unnamed volunteers also assisted Richard this past year.

Bagel team. Did you ever wonder how those fresh bagels get to our coffee hour? The bagel team that picks up our snacks include Charlie Roberts, Paul and Helen Utts, and Bud Smith.

Special Events volunteers. Thanks to all those people who helped out with setting up, serving and cleaning up after our Fellowship Dinner. Volunteers included several teams:

Planning Team. Jesse Connor, Kiara Flores, Charlie Roberts, Geri McCluskey, Betsy Searight

Food Handlers. Kiera Flores, Charlie Roberts Geri McCluskey, Kelly Flores, Kim Trotto

Kitchen cleanup. Christine Tyna, Tracey Staab, Judy Pereira, Julie Spradlin, Sue Parks, Marsha Hannah

Bar tenders. Doug Dickinson, John Searight

Mixer games coordinator. Shelee McIlvaine

Greeters. Kathleen Hartnett, Debbi Dagavarian, Nick Bonar

Room setup. Heidi Jannsch, Marsha Hannah, Gayle Eaves, Jesse Connor, Angela Wexler

Many people whose names are not mentioned also deserve a big thank you for helping out with coffee, food and cleanup.

Thank you to all the people who help out with coffee hour and special events involving meals. We could not provide these services without a team of wonderful volunteers!

News from the Ministerial Search Committee

The month of September was a busy time for the MSC. We participated in a full day workshop with Rev. Libby Smith, whose expertise at team building and identifying our personal skills strengthened our commitment to work together. Rev. Smith stressed the importance of finding a “good fit” for our congregation, which depends on the results of the Congregational Survey and informal discussions with members of the congregation.

We also met with Rev. Don Garrett, the Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Joseph Priestley District, who gave us perspective from both sides of the process. One of his chief messages: *no minister can satisfy everything.*

In addition to the survey we will be eliciting the congregation's input during roundtable discussions, described below.

If you still have questions or an opinion you want heard, **every first and third Sunday** after the service two MSC members will be available for a Talk Back session after the service. The members of the MSC are Betsy Erbaugh, Jim Gentile, Marsha Hannah, Jack Miller, Betsy Searight, Paul Utts, and Angela Wexler.

Ministerial Search Roundtables

Hopefully, you either have completed, or almost have completed, the Congregational Survey. The Survey is an important first step in the Congregation’s call of a Minister.

The next important step is for the Congregation to participate in “roundtable conversations.” The roundtables add another dimension to the information that the Congregation will be presenting to candidates interested in being our called minister.

During the roundtables you will be speaking with other members of the congregation about your vision for our Congregation and what skills you hope the minister will bring to the Congregation to further that vision. The roundtables are an important way to be involved and are critical to the democratic process by which a candidate will be called. Members of the Ministerial Search Committee will facilitate the roundtable discussions, and the information obtained during these roundtable discussions will be shared with the ministerial candidates.

Another reason that these roundtables are so important is that they will give you an idea of the visions of other members of our community and their hopes as to what a minister will bring to enable that vision to grow.

Please make time to attend and fully participate. All roundtable discussions will be held at the UU Center. You can sign up for one of these roundtable discussions beginning September 27, 2015.

The roundtables are scheduled for (you need only attend one):

- Sunday, October 11, 11:30 am
- Wednesday, October 14, 2011, 6:30 pm
- Thursday, October 15, 2015, 11:00 am
- Sunday, October 18, 2015, 11:30 am

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS September 2015

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Art Wexler presiding. Chalice lighting opened the proceedings, and joys and concerns were shared following the guest presentations.

• Presentations

—The president welcomed our three guests, congregants **Steve Fiedler**, **John Searight**, and **Jeff Taylor**, who attended the meeting to present their views on the current status of safety and security at the UU Center. The three are among those working with Building & Grounds (B&G) Chair, Jesse Connor and others on these matters. (Also present at the meeting were Barbara Fiedler; Congregational Bookkeeper Kathleen Hartnett; and soon after we convened, chair of the Ministerial Search Committee, Jim Gentile.)

a) **Jeff Taylor** reported that he met with Schuler Security, Inc., of Marmora, and during their building walk-through Schuler pointed out many things that needed attention. Job quotes were obtained to provide an **audio/video intercom system** between downstairs offices and the lobby, among other items. Jeff reported that he also got an estimate from Huber Locksmiths, Inc., of Pleasantville, **to repair and/or upgrade door hardware** in several locations. In conclusion, Taylor strongly recommended that UUCSJS switch to Schuler Security immediately as our permanent contractor to obtain improved service and better pricing.

b) On behalf of both he and Barb, **Steve Fiedler** read from a statement prepared in advance that opened by calling for “a significant, sweeping overhaul of this building’s security and fire equipment, emergency preparedness and staff protocols.” The statement went on to say that he and Barb have decided to take a leave of absence from UUCSJS. He indicated that they are feeling over-extended in many ways and need some time to re-energize and reset their priorities. “If you want to use the term burnout, I guess that would be fair,” Steve wrote. “We can envision an exciting new path for this congregation, but until some serious changes are made and more volunteers come forward, we will only be involved for training, outreach, ceremonies or emergencies.”

The Fiedlers concluded their statement by offering love “to all of you here, to the staff and to this wonderful congregation.” Board members spoke appreciatively about the exceptional gifts of talent and generosity extended to the congregation by the Steve and Barb over many years, well before they “signed the book” in 2010, and support and thanks were offered for their heartfelt statement. They have not resigned membership.

c) **John Searight** stated that he had come to communicate his concerns directly, which center on the importance of finding a balance between our security and our identity as a UU congregation. After hearing mention of panic bars, CCTV cameras, obtrusive signs and the like, Searight said that he began to sense things might be happening too quickly and threatening to “turn our church into a fortress.” If that happened, he continued, “I might not want to be here.” In sum, Searight suggested that we slow down and as a UU community of faith, take the time to ask probing questions about how certain security measures could affect the climate and atmosphere of our religious home.

Before moving on to the rest of the agenda, President Wexler stated that although in his view UUCSJS did the right thing by keeping the defaced “Black Lives Matter” sign in place, the Board needs to pay close attention to the congregation as a whole, and seek more ways for those who may be worried, or still have questions, to become part of the dialogue; in other words, it’s essential for all our voices to be heard.

• Updates/Follow-Up

—**Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)**. The president welcomed MSC Chair Jim Gentile, who reported that a one-day team-building retreat facilitated by Rev. Libby Smith was held last week, and that the 2015 Congregational Survey will be distributed on Sunday, September 13, with a tight two-week turnaround time. Paul Utts agreed to serve as treasurer, and the MSC will meet with Ministerial Settlement Rep, Rev. Don Garrett later this month. There were no budgetary matters for the Board at this time, and it was agreed that we’re all on the same page. With the Board’s thanks, Jim departed.

• Reports

1) **Treasurer’s Report**. Treasurer Karen York distributed her written report for September 2015. There were no action items. Pursuant to the above presentations, the treasurer said that some \$4,500+ could be made available in the short term to fund improvements in safety and security; she noted that this would further deplete our already low capital reserves and agreed that the Finance committee could be asked to consider further funding sources. [The treasurer’s complete written report(s) may be found in the “Members Only” section of the UUCSJS website.]

2) **Minister’s Report**. In her absence the Board acknowledged receipt of Rev. Cain’s monthly report. “During the month of August,” she wrote, “my time has been spent with catching up, both with members who may need/have needed pastoral care or visits, and with Staff and other leaders regarding the coming year.” She also reported taking part in “Coalition for a Safe Community” walks in Atlantic City; volunteering at the A.C. Food Bank; and on Friday, September 11, will be speaking (with Music Director Barbara Miller providing music) at an Interfaith Service at Congregation Beth Judah in Ventnor.

• Discussion/Action Items

—**Building/Grounds Security**. Pursuant to the above presentations, the Board first considered whether or not to change security companies as recommended.

—*A motion that the Board approve a switch to **Schuler Security, Inc.**, as our permanent contractor, effective as soon as possible, was adopted unanimously by those present.*

In the discussion that followed, it was made clear that the Board is supportive with respect to safety and security concerns and wishes to be helpful in any way possible. The Board expects to receive a proposal shortly from the Building & Grounds Safety subcommittee, based on their deliberations, and will be prepared to act immediately, if requested.

—**“Black Lives Matter” Initiative**. The consensus of the Board is that the defaced sign should stay in place until the Anti-Racism Task Force has a chance to determine next steps. In providing some guidance, the Board requests increased communication about “Black Lives Matter” (BLM) as part of a larger process to make sure all voices are heard. The Board welcomes the congregation’s growing interaction with the wider community through the BLM initiative.

There was much more on the agenda than can be covered in this short “Highlights” version of the proceedings.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6:30 PM** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

Here are two upcoming opportunities to learn about anti-racism, white privilege, and to better understand what we mean when we say Black Lives Matter.



2015 JPD Racial Justice Conference

Strengthening Racial Justice and Social Justice Connections - The Journey Toward Wholeness Continues

The Joseph Priestley District invites you to join us for the 12th annual racial justice conference, hosted by the UU Church in Cherry Hill, in partnership with the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey.

Friday, October 23 - Sunday, October 25, 2015

UU Church in Cherry Hill
401 N. Kings Highway
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Friday, October 23 - Rethinking White Privilege – 6-9 pm

Saturday, October 24 - UU Legislative Ministry Through a Racial Justice Analysis

Sunday, October 26 – Sunday
Service/Lunch/Community Dialog

Cost: \$25 Friday Only (dinner included); \$40 Saturday Only (lunch included); \$65 Friday and Saturday

<https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/2015-jpd-racial-justice-conference/>

Hard Conversations:

An Introduction to Racism,
Unconscious Racism, and Silent Racism

FOUR-WEEK ONLINE SEMINAR

Online Readings, Live Conversations,
and Interviews about Racism

October 1-31, 2015

This is an ONLINE COURSE on white privilege. *It is not UU-sponsored.* STARTS OCTOBER 1, so DO NOT DELAY if interested! There has been very high praise for this. Please consider, especially if you are struggling with understanding white privilege, or explaining it to others.

Registration fee is \$25, but an offer has been made to help pay for this if you are interested – don't let the \$25 fee be a barrier. Please let Cynthia know.

<http://www.37days.com/racism/>

WEEK 1: On Systemic Racism

WEEK 2: On White Privilege

WEEK 3: On Color Blindness and Microaggressions

WEEK 4: On Being an Effective Ally: What Will You Do Next?

Memorial/Meditation Garden Update

The Memorial/Meditation Committee met twice in August. For the sake of new members, and to refresh everyone's memory, the Memorial/Meditation Garden's Mission Statement is:

Design a Memorial Garden where UUCSJS families and friends may memorialize their loved ones and where all may seek solitude and quiet to reflect and meditate. The Memorial/Meditation Space should blend in with the landscape and provide a simple, natural, peaceful, and inspirational venue for those seeking comfort, solace, fellowship, or inspiration.

At our August meetings we considered new alternative sites on our property, but ended up agreeing that our original site -- the placement of uniform-looking inscribed markers around the circle that sits 100 feet in from the stone path -- was still the best way to meet our mission statement. We also agreed that the option of more individual-looking inscribed memorials located somewhere along the trail (leading away from the circle, through the woods, and back to the Center in front of the deck steps) was the best way to meet some of the congregation's expressed wishes.

We agreed on the design of three metal benches to be placed around the circle. They have been purchased and donated by three members of the committee and were put in place prior to Bob Gillies' Memorial Service on September 12. Thanks goes out to TJ Jannsch for assembling and installing the benches so quickly after their purchase.

We are now investigating stone types that would have a uniform look and could be inscribed as needed. We envision purchasing eight to twelve stones and placing these stones around the circle. Placing the stones as soon as possible (before they are inscribed) will help create the look and feel of a sacred area. We are uncertain how these stones could be paid for and will be looking at possible means of funding -- once we know what the stones will cost. Eventually, the cost will be covered by families selecting and purchasing one to be inscribed for their loved one.

Jesse Connor

I am resisting the call to "Unity."

In articles and Facebook posts, I have read a plea for "unity." They reference the Black Lives Matter movement and recent shootings of police officers and say, "Enough is enough. We are one country. All lives matter. We need unity."

The call to "Unity" is seductive and pernicious. Fake correlations are put up: If you support "Black Lives Matter," then you do not support police officers. Of course this is ridiculous, but this is what we do as a culture. They said that if you were against the Vietnam war, you were against soldiers; if you were for equal rights for women, you hated men. This pattern keeps repeating ... who among us right now doesn't feel the need to say "I Support Black Lives Matter, But I Also Love Honorable Police Officers!"

from the blog of Rev. Joanna Fontaine Crawford. Read more here: <http://bootsandblessings.blogspot.com/2015/09/i-am-resisting-call-to-unity.html>

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

Interim Minister

Rev. Cynthia Cain
minister@uucsjs.org

Music Director

Barbara Miller
uucsjsmusic@gmail.com

Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education

Heidi Jannsch
sjsdre@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Corrin Disman
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

Bookkeeper

Kathleen Hartnett
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



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

Board of Trustees 2015-16

Melissa Hutchison, Jon Luoma, Judy Pereira, Charlie Roberts,
Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

October 2015

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

