



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



Volume 18, Issue 6

June 2016

## June 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.

<b>June 5</b>	<b>PRIDE Sunday</b> <b><i>Rev. Cynthia Cain and Guest Speaker Travis Love</i></b> Rev. Cain & Mr. Love, an Atlantic City poet, dancer, and activist, will discuss LGBTQ issues, with a focus upon youth/young adults, current backlash, and issues of intersectionality. Don't miss!
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Optimism, and Its Discontents</b> <b><i>Lay speaker Jon Luoma</i></b> One hundred years ago, some of our Unitarian ancestors saw a future of only "progress... onward and upward forever." A century -- and world wars and inhumanity and environmental degradation -- later, have we become too pessimistic? Today, a message of hope, with evidence!, and a few words from Monty Python.
<b>June 19</b>	<b>There's No Place Like Home</b> <b><i>Heidi Jannsch, Melissa Hutchison, Debbi Dagavarian and the Teen Class</i></b> Join us for this intergenerational, family-friendly service as we bid a fond farewell to Reverend Cynthia. We will celebrate Reverend Cain's two years with us with music, reflections, and Wizard of Oz themed surprises.
<b>June 26</b>	<b>Commies in the Catskills: The Story of Camp Woodland</b> <b><i>Guest speaker Pat Lamanna</i></b> Camp Woodland was a left-wing summer camp in Phoenicia, NY which flourished from 1939-1962. In addition to being known for collecting the folk songs of the Catskill region (and the place where Pete Seeger learned "Guantanamera"), it taught the children who attended (Pat included) a set of values and ideals which are nicely summed up in our own Seven Principles.

***Calling All Poets and Songwriters!***  
*The next poetry service is Sunday, July 10.*  
*To participate, contact Theresa McReynolds.*  
*Let's create something magical!*

**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 5, 2016**

*See page 4 for Agenda.*

### About our guest speaker...

**Travis Love** will be Stockton's next Activist in Residence for the 2017 academic year. While much of his professional career centers on HIV prevention, he has utilized his theatrical and creative roots to evoke positive change in his surrounding community. Since graduating with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts Degree from Montclair State University, Travis Love has worked diligently to mobilize people to celebrate beauty, art and history. Although Atlantic City has very little spaces devoted to art or culture, with tenacity, perseverance, and a little help from his friends he's spearheaded culturally and artistically diverse projects. Most recent credits include directing "*Growing Up in the Other Atlantic City*," based on local writer Turiya Raheem's memoir of that same title.

Mr. Love is a passionate self-starter, being able to communicate and inspire others in realizing their own agency, as well as, having a little courage to challenge the status quo. He's also been involved in establishing Atlantic City's first Juneteenth festival in June of 2014 which celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. He also founded the Sex Brigade, AIDS activists who use art to educate and encourage community members to practice safer sex, responsible for producing the Story Slam series at The Noyes Arts Garage and Stockton's Kramer Hall in Hammonton. With few resources they have brought together as many as a hundred people, young and old alike, to tell their stories and in turn, receive inexpensive, but meaningful awards for categories, such as, the *Made Us Blush Award* and the *Viewer's Choice Award*.

Continuing his charge to lead and empower the community he also directed a number of plays which included "*For Colored Girls Who've Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enough*" at Atlantic Cape Community College, "*The Vagina Monologues*" at the Old Wars Memorial Building and "*Nina In Motion*" at Stockton's Dante Hall Theater in Atlantic City. Many of his productions are done for charity or to educate the community; art and culture is a resource that few people recognize give a city life.

Mr. Love's body of work is an effort to educate the community and enhance the creative spirit of Atlantic City.

**Margaret Circle...** will hold our last meeting for the season on Thursday, June 2 at 1 pm in the UU Center Library. After we share in our sacred time of Joys and Concerns we will indulge in the refreshing delights offered by Kathryn Kelley. Marsha Hannah will engage us in a lively discussion based on a personality questionnaire called "Please Understand Me." Come and join the women of UUCSJS as we learn about each other. Whether you are I or E, N or S, T or F, P or J all are welcome!

**Book Lovers** will be meeting Friday, June 17 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library. This month new books will be selected for next year - September 2016 through May 2017. We need you to submit the book(s) that you think would be interesting for us to read and discuss next year. Please email your choice to Barb Morell by June 15 and we will make our selection June 17.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

Our UUCSJS Family Promise Team is currently quiescent, because all of the work at this time is at the County level. And our congregation has been very much involved in that work! The Hope for Tomorrow Gala on April 16 in at the Frog Rock Inn in Hammonton drew 165 people in attendance! As Barbara Sabath said, "Karen Olson's message was so well received and resonated with so many." Karen Olson is the founder of Family Promise in New Jersey. Barbara Sabath also publicly thanked the gala planning team, which included Janet Longo (chair), Colby Tippins, Barb Morell, and Doug Dickinson.

The leadership of Family Promise of Atlantic County continues to secure more host congregations -- the most recent on board is **Somers Point United Methodist Church in Somers Point, our 13th host congregation**. They are also in search for a director and are ironing out contractual issues with the Day Center at Zion Lutheran in Egg Harbor City. It is very possible that all the unknowns at this time will be resolved in time to become operational in July!

The best news is this: you will all be able to volunteer for many rewarding opportunities once we open! We will be providing meals and housing for the homeless families staying with us for the week. Think about whether you can spend a few nights sleeping at the UU Center (on cots, just as the families use); or perhaps you can prepare a few dinners to serve that week; or even shop for their breakfasts and lunch ingredients (the parents will make sandwiches for the children and themselves). Stay tuned!

You will hear more about Family Promise of Atlantic County on July 31 at an upcoming Sunday service: our guest speaker will be Barbara Sabath, the leader of Family Promise of Atlantic County.

### Remember: FACTS for Atlantic County

- 68% of homeless children are 5 and under in Atlantic County
- In Atlantic County, there are only 11 rooms available for children and their families.
- Out of 746 homeless people in Atlantic County as of 2013, 172 were homeless children.
- Of the total of 172 homeless children in these families, 117 were six years or younger and 55 were between the ages of 7 and 17 years of age.

Be a part of this effort! More to come soon! For questions, please see Deb Dagavarian, Colby Tippins, Barb Morell, Janet Longo, or Doug Dickinson.

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**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!

As I enter into the last few weeks of our time together, I am sharply aware of how both how swiftly the time for us to part has come, and how much has transpired in our time together!

Together, we have accomplished much. I recall looking carefully at the UUCSJS website and “packet,” making a decision about whether this would be a place where my ministry could be helpful. It would be my first interim, so I needed to choose a place where the issues would challenge but not overwhelm me. What I observed at the time was a determined, dedicated, and yet somewhat anxious group of people, for whom the defining story of their journey was the quest and the successful completion of a building of their own. *And what a building it is!* You have every reason to be as proud as peacocks. Still it was time for the congregation to move beyond what we in the ministry sometimes call the “edifice complex,” and take the ministry of UUCSJS out into the world.

Of course that vision had already begun. Your commitment to Family Promise was strong and steady. Your activism around environmental issues and economic justice were both consistent themes. Still, there was an undercurrent of uneasiness that lingered from recent rifts within the community. Much of our first year together was spent ferreting out these challenges in ways both big and small, from the pulpit, in on-on-one conversations, in workshops, in small groups, committees, and task forces, as I endeavored to build upon the excellent Covenant you had already crafted, helping you to see that you already had everything you needed to make this wonderful house you had built truly a safe, nurturing, and welcoming home for all comers.

About halfway through my time here, it became clear that national issues around racial injustice were calling UUs everywhere to respond both within our congregations and in the wider community. As soon as we joined the many churches who posted *Black Lives Matter* signs, our ministry together took on a focus that none of us could have anticipated. It has both created a presence for UUCSJS in the community, alliance that may never have been possible otherwise, and projects that involve our members directly in the areas of the most disenfranchised and marginalized people in our geographic areas, and at the same time stirred anxiety within the congregation itself.

So, although a called minister was not secured this year, there will be plenty for you to accomplish with an interim. To begin your *Family Promise* service; to go forward with racial justice work; to look closely at possibilities for growth and professional ministry; and to come to

reckoning with all of these, it will be important to have a ministerial presence to guide, to nurture, and most of all to love you, *and remind you to love one another*, through the challenges.

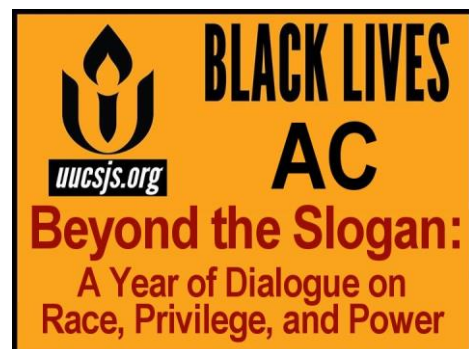
And that, my friends, will be easy! For this congregation is so easy to love. I leave with deep gratitude in my heart, for all that you have shared with me, for your generosity of spirit and your kindness, and your trust in me. I could not have dreamed of a better way to spend the last two years.

Meanwhile, I'll be here until June 20, when I head for *General Assembly*. If you have things on your mind or heart that need to be discussed, by all means let me know. I'll make time!

I'll close with a summary of the “message” that I usually would say all of my sermons are really about: *We are so much more free than we allow ourselves to believe. We already have within us all that we need. Together, we can liberate ourselves and others. That is really the only worthy goal. If we strive to be free and to free others, we will find joy, and we will have lived a life worth living.*

I won't say good-bye... just fare well until we meet again, as I am sure we shall!

Much love, Cynthia



**Black Lives Matter AC**  
**Saturday, June 18**  
**2 – 4 pm**

### **Dismantling White Privilege**

Asbury United Methodist Church  
1213 Pacific Ave. Atlantic City, NJ  
We're on Facebook: Black Lives AC: Beyond the Slogan

## 2016 ANNUAL UUCSJS NATIVE PLANT SALE & SWAP FUNDRAISER – A BIG SUCCESS!!!

This year's plant sale and swap was our most ambitious and most successful to date!

We can all take pride that we are helping to spread the important message of sustainable landscaping to folks in southern Jersey -- and take pleasure that the message is energizing people to take positive steps to create better-functioning backyard ecosystems.

This year 80 customers pre-ordered 267 shrubs and trees of 28 different species and 1,012 perennials of 32 different species. In addition, at the Swap, hundreds of native plants were swapped or purchased and Raven Ahmed graciously offered additional plants for sale as well.

That's a total of more than 1600 native plants helping to enhance backyard ecosystems in southern Jersey. GOOD WORK TO EVERYONE INVOLVED! And, lest I forget to mention --we raised \$5,000 at the same time!

The pre-sale and swap are complicated efforts, requiring over 30 volunteers for the planning, publicity, paper work, physical labor, organizing, assisting with sales and swaps, educating, cashiering, and book-keeping necessary to make the sale and swap a success.

Special thanks to Judy who was under additional pressure this year to design and update our order forms and flyers before her early-spring trip to New Zealand. Once again, Judy worked her magic and came up with great-looking, easy-to-read flyers and order forms.

Thanks to Mariann, Ronda, and educator-naturalist, Pat Sutton, for helping to publicize the swap and sale. Once again this year, we had many first-timers. Great!

Thanks to Raven for once again offering plants from her Earth First Native Plant Nursery for sale and for donating the mark-up of the plants she sold.

Thanks to Pat Sutton, Patti Cassidy, and Steve Whitford, our non-UU friends, whose gardening expertise was greatly appreciated at the swap.



Heartfelt thanks to all the other UU volunteers who helped with the myriad of tasks needed to pull off this annual event. A special shout-out goes to those of you who helped with the Friday off-loading and set-up in the pouring rain! Thanks to: Mariann, Angela, Barb Morell, Betsy S, John S, Jack M, Jack C, Barbara F, Marsha H, Pat K, Helene G, Debbi D, Nick B, Pam H, Jon L, Betsy E, Diane D, Barbara Miller, Stephanie T, Kathleen H, Gayle E, Kathryn K, Judy P, Michele B, and Steve Fiedler.

And kudos and thanks to Bud and Jack M for braving the rain to protect the plants from deer and the possibility of vandalism.

-- Jesse Connor

## AGENDA of ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UUCSJS Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

### Main items on the Agenda are:

**Financial Report and Approval of the Proposed Budget** for the next Fiscal Year (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017) -- Karen York, Treasurer

### Election of members of the Board of Trustees (4)

Nominees for 2016-2018:

Karen York, Treasurer [2nd 2-yr term as Treasurer]

Melissa Hutchison, At-Large [2nd 2-yr term]

Damon Smith, At-Large [1st 2-yr term]

Jim Gentile, At-Large [1st 2-yr term]

*[Continuing until 2017: Judy Pereira, Secretary; Charlie Roberts and Art Wexler, At-Large]*

### Election of members of the Nominations Committee (3)

Nominees for 2016-2018:

Jack Miller [2nd 2-yr term]

Betsy Searight [2nd 2-yr term]

Helene Gentile [1st 2-yr term]

*[Continuing until 2017: Michael Cluff, Debbi Dagavarian] (Jim Gentile is resigning early to run for Board of Trustees)*

### Election of delegates to the 2015 UUA General Assembly (Columbus, OH – June 22-26, 2016)

Nominees [up to three (3) official UUCSJS delegates]:

Melissa Hutchison and Ron Hutchison

[+ one (1) delegate floor nomination (if any)]

### Report of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC)

Jim Gentile, Chair – Members of the 2015-16 MSC are Betsy Erbaugh, Jim Gentile, Marsha Hannah, Jack Miller, Betsy Searight, Paul Utts, and Angela Wexler

### Three Ways to Vote:

1. By attending the meeting in person;
2. By Absentee Ballot;
3. By Proxy

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

## Murray Grove Annual Gathering

**Two Nights!! June 10-12, 2016**

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday, June 10 to Sunday, June 12. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots. Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we enjoy an indoor pot-luck dinner. Sunday will include a participant-led Children's Chapel/Sunday service. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy, a ga-ga pit and playground for the kids, and swimming is usually available.

*Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event!*

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. We have 30 spaces available if you want to stay overnight. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$25 per adult and \$10 per child per night, or \$50 per adult, \$20 per child for the weekend (babies free). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you are interested in attending or participating, look for more information and sign-up sheets on Sundays in May or contact Heidi Jannsch at [sjsdre@gmail.com](mailto:sjsdre@gmail.com)

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**FAIR TRADE! Starting in June, the Fair Trade table needs volunteers to sell coffee and chocolate. It is only a 30-minute commitment on Sundays after the service and no heavy lifting is involved. Stop by any Sunday or talk to Angela Wexler.**

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Gratitude, Fellowship and Outreach in Children's Religious Education

This month marks the completion of another successful year in Children's Religious Education at UUCSJS.

In addition to our regularly scheduled programming, this year we added the ritual of lighting the RE lantern from the congregational chalice before the children exit to RE each Sunday. This ritual reminds us that the children and RE leaders are still connected to the greater congregation, even though they are not physically present. This winter our teen class completed a volunteer project painting the UU Center hall closet and creating an art installment for the downstairs lounge and our Children's RE students participated in a service project creating greeting cards for Spring Village, a local assisted living and senior care facility. In February our RE families got together for third annual shared meal. Our teens and pre-teens assisted with bussing tables at this year's Fellowship Dinner on March 12, and our younger students led the congregation in a few songs with the help of Barbara Miller. Our 2-6th grade class is currently finalizing plans for a bake sale fundraiser which will benefit Go Green Galloway, and plans are underway for our annual congregational retreat at Murray Grove, to be held from June 10-12.

With hearts full of gratitude we appreciate this year's lead teachers: Jessica Safanof, Karen York, Michael Cluff, TJ Jannsch, Mariann Maene, and Melissa Hutchison; all the volunteers from the congregation who served as teacher's assistants; and our Children's RE Committee: Karen York, Meredith Massey, Jessica Safonof, Betsy Erbaugh, Ronda Cluff, and Colby Tippins.

Thank you for another great year!

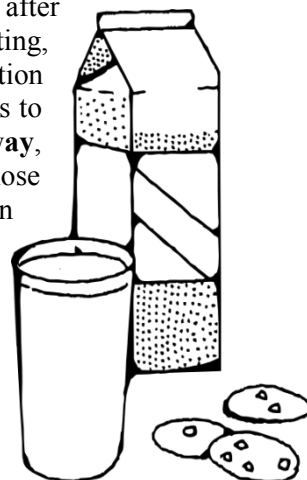
Happy summer!

Heidi Jannsch

UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

## Children's RE Bake Sale!

On Sunday, June 5, immediately after the Annual Congregational Meeting, our Children's Religious Education classes will be selling baked goods to raise funds for **Go Green Galloway**, a sustainability task force whose mission is to reduce the carbon footprint of the township. Our 2-6th graders chose a bake sale for Go Green Galloway when they were asked to think of ways they could help a local organization that shares our congregation's values in some way. So buy some goodies and help our children make a difference!



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

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### **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**

Kathleen Hartnett  
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

### **Bookkeeper**

Kathleen Hartnett  
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



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## **Board of Trustees 2015-16**

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Melissa Hutchison, Jon Luoma, Judy Pereira, Charlie Roberts,  
Damon Smith, Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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

**June 2016**

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