



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



Volume 18, Issue 7

July 2016

## July 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>July 3</b>	<b>A Community of Reverence</b> <b><i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i></b> Our Unitarian Universalist faith is manifested in the satisfying sense of community and friendship it inspires. But does that relationship extend into “reverence?” And should it? As many of us left our previous faith did we leave a vexing hole where reverence once resided? Do we fear reverential behavior to each other, our UU home, our UU services and rituals, and, for that matter, to all existence as somehow signifying the abandonment of reason and critical thinking? Would we be treading perilously close to “religiosity” or godliness? How can we develop a more profound relationship to the “all,” encompassing wonder, devotion, charity, deep respect, and affection, i.e., reverence? Let’s explore these questions and more. We’ll finish with one simple exercise – you may be surprised at the result... I was.
<b>July 10</b>	<b>Poetry Party</b> <b><i>Coordinator Theresa McReynolds</i></b> “Breathe in experience, breathe out poetry.” -- Muriel Rukeyser (1913-1980) Join us for one of our community’s favorite services -- sharing, feeling, contemplating the spoken word.
<b>July 17</b>	<b>Everyday Spirituality</b> <b><i>Coordinator Erica Onofrio</i></b> How can one incorporate a spiritual practice into your everyday life? Erica and others from the Everyday Spiritual Practice study group, including Marsha Hannah, Helene Gentile, Kathryn Kelley, and Karen York, will have suggestions and share their experiences
<b>July 24</b>	<b>Men’s Group</b> <b><i>Coordinator Jack Miller</i></b> For quite some time now the Men’s Group has been meeting rather regularly to talk about manly stuff. And well, lots of other stuff too.
<b>July 31</b>	<b>Family Promise</b> <b><i>Guest speaker Barb Sabath</i></b> Barbara Sabath, the leader of Family Promise of Atlantic County, will give a background on the current state of homelessness in our part of the state.

## Atlantic County Secular Buddhist Community

Saturday, July 9, 2016, 10-12 noon

UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Road

*Beginners welcome!*

## About our speaker Richard Grzywinski...

Richard Grzywinski is a Renaissance man. Read on, and you will see why he merits that description. He and his wife, Cynthia, had been UUCSJS members in the past and Richard just recently joined again. Our beautiful, green building would not have been completed in such a rapid speed, high quality, and at such a lower cost if it hadn't been for Richard's efforts. A retired engineer with undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering and an MBA, he served as volunteer manager of the construction of the UU Center, supervising the labor of other volunteers and workers, a year and a half-long project.

The extent of Richard's involvement with UUCSJS is broad and deep: he was a former Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, Chair of a Ministerial Search Committee, Chair of the Social Justice Committee, and a member of the Caring Ministry Team, Membership and Sunday Service Committees, South Jersey Animal Advocates (then affiliated with UUCSJS), Finance Committee, and Choir. He has also been a frequent speaker and lay leader, both at UUCSJS and other congregations. Richard founded and led the Men's Group. He developed a four-part "UU History" service with four lay speakers from the Congregation. He served as a delegate to the 2010, 2011, and 2012 UUA General Assemblies, and has been an annual campaign canvasser. After completion of the UU Center, Richard pursued a Master of Divinity Degree with intention of becoming ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister, but after completing three courses and seminars, he decided to place his energies elsewhere.

Richard has led the way for us in several areas, particularly those related to social justice. He volunteers with the South Jersey Animal Advocates, was the driving force behind Atlantic County's "Occupy" movement, and among other concerns, gave his time as Treasurer of the Atlantic City Long Term Recovery Group, providing aid to victims of Hurricane Sandy. He is also a member of the Atlantic County Secular Buddhist Community (Sangha).

In addition to Richard's enthusiasm and energy for social justice, he has enriched us greatly in many ways. For several years now, he has been living with cancer, showing us all by example how to live in anticipation of every day. He and Cynthia love their pet dog, and traveling to western Europe, especially England. Richard's other interests are varied, too: doing the New York Times Sunday crossword, sailing, science, diverse reading particularly historical novels, writing, anything Shakespeare, Sherlock Holmes, movies, homebuilding and repair, listening to music (ancient, classic, jazz, percussion), drumming, attending ballet, ballroom dancing, downhill skiing, animal rights, home cooking, and vegetarianism/veganism.

We are delighted that Richard is a UUCSJS member again!

### Sunday Food Bank Collection

Barbara Morell is taking over from Carolyn Baum as coordinator of the congregation's weekly collection for the Community Foodbank of NJ. Barbara will be organizing the collection calendar for our wonderful team of volunteers. Please see Barbara if you have any questions or would like to help out. For more information on the southern branch of the Community Foodbank, visit [www.cfbnj.org/news/category/southern-branch/](http://www.cfbnj.org/news/category/southern-branch/).



## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

Family Promise signed **Somers Point United Methodist Church** as the next host congregation. We have enough congregations to begin hosting families, but the Board is still interviewing candidates for the position of director.

The Fund Development Committee met in May and learned from a presentation by Cape May County Family Promise's director, Laurie Johnson, about fund raising. Janet Longo and Deb Dagavarian attended.

Remember, you will soon be able to volunteer for rewarding opportunities once we open. We will be hosting families one week per quarter, providing meals and housing for the homeless families staying with us from Sunday to Sunday. Think about whether you can spend a few nights sleeping at the UU Center; or perhaps you can prepare a few dinners to serve that week; or even shop for their breakfast and lunch ingredients. Parents will make sandwiches for the children and themselves.

Please plan to come to the UUCSJS Sunday service on July 31, to hear more about Family Promise of Atlantic County. Our guest speaker will be Barbara Sabath, the leader of Family Promise of Atlantic County.

For questions, see Deb Dagavarian, Colby Tippins, Barb Morell, Janet Longo, or Doug Dickinson.

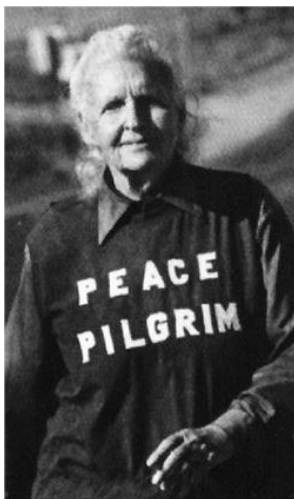
**Margaret Circle...** will restart meetings on Thursday, September 1. In the meantime, we look forward to presenting a summer service on Sunday, August 28!

**Book Lovers** will not be meeting over the summer but will start again Friday, September 16, when we will be discussing *EUPHORIA* by Lily King. This is a work of fiction about anthropologist Margaret Mead and her trip to the Sepik River in New Guinea. There is plenty of time to get started on this book and all are welcome to attend one or more of the book club discussions through the year. Happy summer reading!!!

---

**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!



## Save the Date for Peace Pilgrim

This year's celebration is Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18. We celebrate the life and work of Peace Pilgrim, an American sage who walked her talk, and the United Nations International Day of Peace, which follows on September 21.

Please mark your calendar now! All events at

Peace Pilgrim Park  
500-block London Ave.  
Egg Harbor City, NJ

### *Saturday Sept 17*

**8:30 am:** YOGA under the pines.

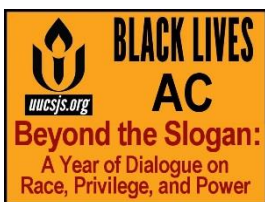
**10 am:** GUIDED WALK to Peace Pilgrim's childhood home in EHC.

**Noonish:** POT LUCK (if you can, please bring a meal to share) under the big top with music, dancing, tie-dying, peace-crane tree, vendors. We will also be collecting gently-used shoes.

**2 pm:** DRUM CIRCLE in the park led by David Shaman.

### *Sunday Sept 18*

**2 pm:** SUNDAY SERVICE in the park in the round with music.



**Black Lives AC**  
**Sat., July 16**  
**2 – 4 pm**

## Poverty and Violence

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

Poetry is about the grief. Politics is about the grievance.

-- Robert Frost

## Walk A Mile in My Shoes = WAMMS

is a 501c3 non-profit organization which advocates/facilitates individual empowerment through the simplicity of sharing a pair of gently-loved shoes with folks who will benefit from this simple, yet vital gift. In its 9th year, WAMMS has shared/given away 28,000 pairs of shoes. From our congregation in the past 2 years we have donated nearly 200. Keep bringing in shoes -- all types, sizes, colors, steel tipped to high heels and everything in between -- including new flip flops -- for all ages. Many miles of thanks to UUCSJS. – Colby Tippins

### Housing/Room needed

Do you have a spare room? Do you need someone to help around the house (and maybe with computer problems)?

Matt Honig (me!) is looking for a place to live starting at the end of July. I can buy my own food and contribute towards living expenses a little bit, but not much (as I am still struggling to find a job). Preference is a cat and baby-free home if at all possible, but not required. Contact me at [honig.matthew@gmail.com](mailto:honig.matthew@gmail.com) if you have any room available. Thank you!

## Mainland/Pleasantville Branch N.A.A.C.P.

**Saturday, October 29, 2016**

**Annual Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance**

**An Evening of Elegance**

Grete Bay Country Club

901 Mays Landing Road, Somers Point, NJ 08244

6pm-10pm

Tickets \$65.00

### 2016 Honorees

Local Government: Captain Danny Adcock

Health; Dr. Anjeanette T. Brown

Secondary Education; Dr. Robin L. Moore Greene

Post Secondary Education; Dr. Beverly Vaughan

Youth In Action: Sierra Jordan, Mary Ann Amro Sarhan

Organization Business: Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

# Board of Trustees

## HIGHLIGHTS

### June 2016

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on **Tuesday, June 14, 2016** at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Art Wexler presiding. Challice lighting opened the meeting and joys and concerns were shared. Also present were Jim Gentile, newly elected to the Board, and outgoing Interim Minister, Cynthia Cain.

- **Reorganization.** Before taking up the regular agenda, a brief reorganization meeting was held to elect officers for FY 2016-17. Board members voted Jim Gentile as new UUCSJS President, and as Vice President, Melissa Hutchison. Also serving on the Board are Karen York, Treasurer; Judy Pereira, Secretary; and At-Large members Charlie Roberts, Damon Smith, and Art Wexler. The Board decided that regular monthly meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the UU Center lounge.

- **Announcements**

- **Board Talk-Back.** The next Talk-Back will be held Sunday, July 10 at 11:15 am in a downstairs classroom.

- **Correspondence.** The secretary acknowledged receipt of thank-you letters from Family Promise of Atlantic County, Community FoodBank of NJ, and Tibetan Buddhist monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery, in exile in India.

- **Reports**

- 1) **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Karen York distributed her written report for June along with two additional budget documents, one condensed and the other complete for July 2015 to May 2016. The report showed account balances (5/31) as follows: TD Checking (Operating funds): \$18,832.95; TD Savings (CC3/Capital funds): \$265.02; and Fidelity/Capital Reserves: \$2,788.64. Prepayment of mortgage principal with CC3 funds was made on 5/25; the current principal balance on our mortgage = \$241,841.54.

NEW INTERIM MINISTER: A letter of agreement has been signed with Rev. John Marsh (First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, Canada) as our new interim minister, serving the congregation for one full year (8/15/16 to 8/15/17) with option to renew. Rev. Marsh will be visiting from July 17-19 to explore the area, meet people, and find housing.

TWO GRANTS: a) **Joseph Priestley District (JPD) grant for \$1,625.83.** UUCSJS was honored to be one of only two congregations in the district to receive a cash grant. No restrictions are placed on these funds, but JPD hopes they will be used for more outreach efforts. In his award letter JPD's Rev. David G. Pyle thanks UUCSJS for "your efforts to witness to the truth that Black Lives Matter," and tells us that JPD's Board "has been inspired by your commitment to witness for our faith in Southern NJ." He concludes: "We see you, and may you use this small grant to continue to be as bold and courageous as you have already shown yourselves to be."

b) **UUA Funding Panel (Fund for UU Social Responsibility) grant for \$8,000.** Rev. Cynthia Cain had applied for this grant in support of our anti-racism initiatives in the larger community and our partnership in sponsoring the year-long series of events entitled "Black Lives—AC: *Beyond the Slogan*; Conversations on Race, Privilege & Power." The UUCSJS Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) will administer these funds in cooperation with the treasurer; the ARTF is currently led by congregants Shelee McIlvaine and Michael Cluff.

END OF FISCAL YEAR REMINDERS: The treasurer reported that pledge reminders have duly been sent out. There is \$10,619.67 in pledges still outstanding as of 6/9, she said, adding that she expects at least half of these monies to be paid before the end of the fiscal year (June 30), despite some predictable amount of "shrinkage" in each pledge period.

STEWARDSHIP: Current total in new pledging is \$144,465 from 62 families (average of \$2,330 per family). "This is comparable to last year's numbers of \$148,130 from 69 committing families," the treasurer noted. Nine (9) new pledge units were added, and 27 families increased their pledges. "This is generous support considering our membership and attendance numbers are lower than last year," she observed (108 certified members, down from 115), "and several current members/friends have moved or are moving."

BUILDING USE REQUESTS: a) The Board voted to approve making building space available for the **Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) of Atlantic City** to meet in a downstairs classroom on the second Saturday of each month from 12 noon to 2 pm for a fee of \$50 per use. (CCL is a non-profit, non-partisan, 501c(3) group working "to build the political will to create a livable world.") b) **Earth & Sky Center of Many Paths** (formerly met at Smithville Community Center) has accepted our offer to meet on first and third Thursdays for a three-month trial period at \$50 per evening (beginning 6/16).

2) **Minister's Report.** Rev. Cain's written report was augmented by her comments on the vigil in memory of the victims in Orlando being planned for Saturday, June 18 at 11 am jointly with Rev. Blake Spencer of Ocean Heights Presbyterian. Also on Saturday: the June forum event at 2 pm at Asbury Methodist, this month on White Privilege.

3) **Staff & Committee Reports.** The secretary said that reports were sparse in June following Annual Reports in May.

- **Discussion/Action Items**

- Geothermal System Repair.** The president reported that he had been contacted by congregant Jeff Taylor regarding repairs being conducted on our geothermal heating & cooling system units. The treasurer confirmed that we have some \$1,500 in the budget for maintenance of the system, and Luoma noted that so far the system hasn't cost us anything since its installation in 2008.

**CONSENSUS:** *It was the consensus of the Board that repairs should go forward on both geothermal units as needed.*

- **Updates/Follow-Up**

- Office Assistant Position.** It was agreed that we need to move forward in this matter as soon as possible in order to relieve volunteer Ronda Cluff, who has been capably producing the Midweek Announcements and Orders of Service, among other tasks, for several months now, with the help of our Congregational Bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett.

**NEXT STEPS:** A subcommittee composed of Kathleen Hartnett, Melissa Hutchison, Art Wexler, and if available, Shelee McIlvaine, will be deciding how to proceed.

**Family Promise (UUPF & FPAC).** As reported by UUPF Chair Deb Dagavarian, Family Promise of Atlantic County now expects us to begin hosting families in July. FPAC President Barbara Sabath will be delivering the message at the July 31 Sunday service. The efforts of congregants Janet Longo as organizer, and Colby Tippins' work on silent auction baskets, and other UU volunteers and attendees, contributed much to the success of FPAC's "Hope for Tomorrow" Gala at Frog Rock Golf & Country Club on Saturday, April 16 in Hammonton.

- **Adjournment** – Outgoing President Art Wexler thanked Board members for their cooperation during his tenure for the past two years, and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey



## Ministerial Search Committee Report

At the close of this new fiscal year and the beginning of the next, it seems appropriate to summarize in the Monthly Newsletter the work that was done by the Ministerial Search Committee since June 2015.

As the Committee has reported over the past few months, the Congregation's search for a called minister, to serve the Congregation on a ¾ time salary, did not result in the Committee finding a candidate which it could recommend to the Congregation to call. While this is disappointing, it also presents the Congregation with exciting challenges.

The search process caused us, as a community, to engage in a conscious assessment of who we are as a Congregation. It has made us examine who we perceive ourselves to be, both in our individual relationships to our community and within the context of the integral roles each of us has within the Congregation simply by choosing to be members of this community. Any such honest assessment leads to the conclusion that this is a Congregation that is nothing less than a treasure to each of us; a place which lends to us purpose, meaning, and renewal. As each of us can attest, these things are not easy to find; and it is hard work to nurture and to grow these things that call us here. Yet each time we engage with each other, we engage in that purposeful work of community; and we do so in the spirit of the rich and broad traditions of Unitarian Universalism.

So while the Ministerial Search Committee did not find a candidate which we could recommend to the Congregation, we anticipate that we will continue to search for a called minister during the coming year, as Rev. John Marsh serves in ministry with us, and we serve in ministry with him.

This continues to be an exciting time for our Congregation. Within this time come challenges. May we openly embrace these challenges; and in that embrace it is certain that we shall continue to find the purpose, the meaning and the renewal of this most treasured community.

Jim Gentile  
Chair, Ministerial Search Committee

## UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2016-2017

Jim Gentile, *President (2018)*  
Melissa Hutchison, *Vice President (2018)*  
Karen York, *Treasurer (2018)*  
Judy Pereira, *Secretary (2017)*  
Charlie Roberts, *At Large (2017)*  
Damon Smith, *At-Large (2018)*  
Art Wexler, *At-Large (2017)*

*year given is end of term, e.g. (2018) means thru 6/30/2018*

I was reading the dictionary.  
I thought it was a poem about everything.  
-- Steven Wright

## New Interim Minister!



We are pleased to introduce **Rev. John Marsh**, selected by the Interim search committee, who will serve as our Interim minister for the next year (August 15, 2016 to August 15, 2017).

Rev. Marsh grew up in Massachusetts, earned a BA in Literature from U. of Massachusetts at Amherst, and a M. Div. from Harvard Divinity School. He has 34 years of experience serving UU congregations as a minister of religious education in Los Angeles (3 yrs), and as a Parish minister in Edmonton, Alberta (8 years), San Francisco (8 years), and Ottawa Canada (7 years). He has also served as Interim minister for three different congregations, as well as the Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Pacific Central District. While in California, he was involved in efforts to abolish the death penalty, in Edmonton has been active in outreach to the gay and lesbian community, and he is a published author. We are excited about the wealth of experience and insight he can bring to our congregation in the year ahead.

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Summertime RE

As we wrap up another successful Religious Education school year, we can't forget to thank our trusty volunteers who made it all possible! Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our lead teachers and toddler room supervisors; Karen York, Jessica Dunn, TJ Jansch, Mariann Maene, Michael Cluff, Melissa Hutchison, Meredith Massey and Olivia Smith. These lovely volunteers and the members of our CRE committee were appreciated with a "Thank You Brunch" on June 26. May they all enjoy a wonderful summer!

Each Sunday throughout the summer, our children are treated to an all-ages activity or craft led by a volunteer from the congregation. Our summer Sundays for July will include the following activities:

July 3	Board Game Day with Heidi and TJ <i>bring your favorite board or card game to share</i>
July 10	Ocean Bingo with Karen York
July 17	Tie-Dye T Shirts with Colby Tippins <i>UUCSJS will provide shirts, but for an exact fit, you may bring your own 100% cotton t-shirt, prewashed</i>
July 24	Nature Hunt with Jessica Dunn <i>wear walking shoes, bug spray/sunscreen</i>
July 31	Balloon Animals with Michelle Tomko <i>back by popular demand!</i>

Happy Summer!

Heidi Jansch  
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

---

### **Interim Minister**

Rev. John Marsh  
minister@uucsjs.org

### **Music Director**

Barbara Miller  
uucsjsmusic@gmail.com

### **Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education**

Heidi Jannsch  
sjsdre@gmail.com

### **Administrative Assistant**

Ronda Cluff  
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

### **Bookkeeper**

Kathleen Hartnett  
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



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

## **Board of Trustees 2016-17**

---

Jim Gentile, Melissa Hutchison, 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)**

**July 2016**

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

