



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 18, Issue 8

August 2016

August Services

We meet at our UU Center, Pomona Rd and Liebig Street, Galloway NJ (near the north entrance to Richard Stockton College).
Services are at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| August 7 | Perspectives on Mindfulness Meditation <i>Lay speaker Bud Smith</i> A 2010 Harvard study found that people spend 47% of their days thinking about things other than what they're actually doing. The busyness of life, anxiety about the future and regrets from the past are all currents that can move us from the present. As Sam Harris remarked, "A wandering mind is an unhappy mind." Mindfulness meditation can be described as an exercise that allows us stay in the present moment. This simple practice can reduce stress, promote social and emotional regulation, and allow us to live in the wonder of "now." |
| August 14 | What is This Thing Called Guilt <i>Lay speaker Stephanie Garrett</i> Thoughts on where it comes from, its purpose and how to move on. This is a personal reflection with input from friends across cultural/racial and religious lines. An assignment given to me three years ago by a UU minister to help me "get over it" has taken this long to put into words. |
| August 21 | Books as a Path to the Sacred <i>Interim Minister Rev. John Marsh</i> Summer seems like a good time to consider the role that books play in our spiritual lives. |
| August 28 | Women: The Struggle Toward Rights Equality <i>Presented by the Women of the Margaret Fuller Circle</i> Sit with us as we hear the voices of 4 women in United States history sharing their stories about life, family, and their concerns regarding women's rights. |

What do we UUs usually do after the Water Communion Sunday service? We have a PICNIC!!

The picnic will be held on September 11, after the service.

Reverend John Marsh will be joining us, so you can get to know him better, too.

We will provide burgers (veggie and meat), hot dogs, and buns. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or beverage.

For the service, bring a small container of water that symbolizes a feeling or special event for you.

As always, we will blend our water with the water of all.

About our Interim Minister Rev. John Marsh...

Rev. John 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.

BLM Sign Down Again

On Saturday, July 23, 2016, once again our Black Lives Matter sign was found to be unmoored from its posts and lying on the ground. This time, however, it *may* have been due to the storm with 60mph winds that barreled through Galloway and Port Republic earlier that day. The sides, where the sign was screwed into wood, were made of plywood and they are shredded. The message part of the sign could perhaps be salvaged, but the supporting structure would need to be redone.

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

Saturday, October 29, 2016
Annual Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance
An Evening of Elegance
Greate 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



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

On June 30, 2016, Family Promise signed the lease on their new Day Center, and had an Open House on July 27, 2016. The site is at the Zion Lutheran Church in Egg Harbor City.

This means soon FPAC will start hosting families at the 13 or so congregations that are now on board.

UUCSJS is a part of this, and when our week (once per quarter) comes up, we will be providing meals and housing for the homeless families staying with us (from Sunday to Sunday). **Will you join in?** We need folks willing to spend overnights at the Center, prepare breakfast or dinner, shop for food, visit with the families in the evenings (homework help and such) and do laundry.

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

Margaret Circle... will begin again on Thursday, September 1, 2016. Kathryn Kelley will be the program presenter. Anyone interested in providing refreshments for that meeting, please contact Shelee McIlvaine. In the meantime, we will see you on August 28 for the Margaret Circle Sunday Service!

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.

Greater Atlantic City GLBT Alliance August Mixer at Steel Pier

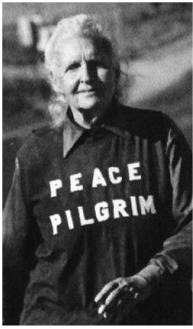
**Tuesday, August 16, 2016
6 pm**

- Appetizers
- Cash Bar
- Raffle Prize
- Discounted Ride Wristbands



**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!



Peace Pilgrim Celebration

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.

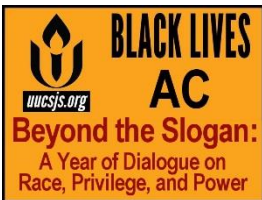
10 am: GUIDED WALK to Peace Pilgrim's childhood home in EHC.

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., August 20
2 – 4 pm

Ethics & Education

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



Unitarian Universalist
Legislative Ministry
of New Jersey

The UULMNJ is forming an exploratory Racial Justice and Local Policing group to think about how to move from outrage to local, congregation-based and legislation-supported action.

If you are interested in joining this effort, please be in touch with our Executive Director, Rev. Rob Gregson at execdir@uulmnj.org.

Many New Jersey towns will be a part of the National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 2.

Home To Work Program

Sponsored by The Women's Center

Beginning in August, Colby and Kathleen will be gathering your fabulous suits and other professional apparel for the **Home to Work Program**. These are clothes that could furnish another woman with the confidence to enter or return to the workplace, make a great first impression, and land a job that could change her life.

The program is currently accepting all sizes, new or gently used, interview-appropriate and professional clothing including:

- Matching Suits (jacket, pants, skirts)
- Separates (blazers, blouses, slacks, skirts, dresses)
- Handbags
- Shoes
- Jewelry, Scarves and Belts
- Outerwear



All donated items should be:

- Appropriate for Autumn/Winter
- In Style
- Clean and In Great Condition
- Office attire – no active wear, denim, formal wear.

In order to present clients with clothing that is ready to wear, we ask that all items be **on hangers**... not in bags or boxes.

As you prepare to fill your closet with your autumn wardrobe, please bring last year's autumn/winter wardrobe donations to the Admin Office and Colby and Kathleen will transport them to [The Women's Center](#) in Linwood.

Questions? Kathleen at UUCSJS.Bookkeeper@gmail.com

Ministerial Search Committee Seeks Members

Our Search continues, but two members of the ministerial search committee (MSC) have had to step down (Jim Gentile and Marsha Hannah), and we need to replace those members so that the MSC can continue with its important work in searching for a called minister for our congregation.

The Board has identified two potential MSC member replacements, Jessica Dunn-Safonof and Helene Gentile, based on previous polling results from the congregation from the initial search committee process a year ago, as well as from Board and MSC recommendations. We are open to additional nominations from the congregation. Nominees must be fully committed to the time and attention that the MSC committee demands, and will be voted on by the entire congregation by August 21.

Please submit names for nominations to Melissa Hutchison by August 5, 2016.

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS July 2016

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on **Tuesday, July 12, 2016** at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, newly-elected President Jim Gentile presiding. Chalice lighting opened the meeting and joys and concerns were shared.

➤ **Agenda Items**

• **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Karen York distributed her written report for July showing account balances (6/30) as follows: TD Checking (Operating funds): \$27,955.39; TD Savings (CC3/Capital funds): \$300.01; and Fidelity/Capital Reserves: \$2,788.66. Prepayment of mortgage principal with CC3 funds was made on 6/29 in the amount of \$410.02; the current principal balance on mortgage = \$240,649.97.

The treasurer reported that we are ending the fiscal year "a little in the red," with expenses exceeding income by some \$5,000. She added that this does not take into account, however, two unanticipated grants to UUCSJS late in FY 15-16 (one with no strings attached) totaling \$9,625.83. We had 3.8% "slippage" in FY 15-16, with \$5,605 uncollected out of \$148,130 in pledges. [The treasurer also stated that \$22,995 for Capital Campaign 3 (CC3) is still outstanding, and some of that will not be realized.]

Geothermal maintenance. The treasurer stated that expenses for necessary repairs to our geothermal heating/cooling system will exceed its \$1,500 yearly budget for a total of about \$2,100. Asked why the cost spike, York responded that fittings needed replacement more or less throughout the system, and more still remains to be done. Congregant Jeff Taylor anticipates that \$1,500, or more, will be needed next year as well. The revised budget for FY 16-17 will take this into account and increase the allowance to some \$2,000. "I still feel like we're ahead of the game," the treasurer said; "there have been no costs thus far at all" since installation of the geothermal units during building construction in 2008.

Peace Pilgrim collection. The Board authorized a special second collection to benefit "Friends of Peace Pilgrim" at the service on Sunday, September 18. This was deemed the best available date for our traditional yearly collection taken around the time of the annual Peace Pilgrim celebration in September in Egg Harbor City.

Building rentals. No Board action was requested. The treasurer detailed three current rentals: *Earth & Sky Center of Many Paths* on Thursdays twice a month (\$50 each); *Citizens Climate Lobby of Atlantic City* for first meeting on 8/13 (\$50); and a member private party on 8/13 (\$50).

• **Secretary's Report**

Interim Appraisal. Board members agreed that the final deadline will be Monday, August 1 for written comments. The secretary will collate responses and circulate the appraisal before electronically forwarding on to Rev. Cynthia Cain and UUA Transitions Office.

Correspondence. None noted.

• **Issues pertaining to the reorganization of the MSC.**

Member changes. The president announced that he and Marsha Hannah will be leaving the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) and will need to be replaced. Gentile is resigning because he now serves on the Board of Trustees, and Hannah because she anticipates being away for a significant period of time this winter.

Congregational vote. Two nominees for the MSC have been put forward as replacements, and Gentile proposed that a *Special Congregational Meeting* be scheduled for [Sunday, August 21] immediately after the service, to approve the reorganized MSC. (Approval for the FY 16-17 revised budget will also be sought at that time if possible; a revised budget is indicated because we will now be supporting an Interim, rather

than a Called Minister.

• **Rev. Marsh's visit, July 17-19.** Our new Interim Minister, Rev. John Marsh, will be present to introduce himself at the July 17 Sunday service during his three-day visit here to meet people, explore the area, and seek housing. There will be a Sunday supper "meet & greet" for Board members and spouses, and additional meetups are planned with the MSC, Men's Group, and others. Rev. Marsh's ¾-time tenure begins August 15, 2016 for one full year; we expect his first sermon to be on Sunday, August 21.

• **Hiring of Administrator.** Congregant Ronda Cluff, who has been filling in as Office Administrator for the last few months following an unexpected resignation, has announced that she would like to end her volunteer tenure as of August 1. The subcommittee of the Board tasked with seeking and recommending a replacement, including Board members Melissa Hutchison and Art Wexler, and Staff member Kathleen Hartnett, are moving forward on this matter.

• **General Assembly "mini" update.** Melissa Hutchison, one of three UUCSJS delegates to the UUA General Assembly (GA), told the Board that this year's event was attended by some 3,800, and that it had been an amazing personal experience, especially singing in the GA choir. Melissa briefly described the confusing situation surrounding the selection of this year's CSAI (Congregational Study/Action Issue), when the author/sponsor of "Climate Change and Environmental Justice" suddenly changed course and endorsed "A National Conversation on Race," instead. When the dust settled, "The Corruption of Our Democracy" had been selected over the other three choices, which also included "Ending Gun Violence in America." (Board members on behalf of the congregation had suggested that we support "Climate Change," with some votes for "Race" or "Gun Violence," too.) This year's chosen CSAI, *The Corruption of Our Democracy*, will be in place for four (4) years, 2016-2020.

• **Committee Reports**

B&G Pollinator Garden. As reported by Building & Grounds' chair, Jesse Connor, our UU butterfly garden at Galloway's Patriot Lake has become impossible to maintain, having been overrun with mugwort, an invasive weed. The site will be turned over to a nonprofit "willing to take over ... with the volunteers and funding to hopefully reclaim the garden," Connor stated, adding: "The UU Pollinator Garden looked terrific for many years but at this point I think we have to walk away from an unmanageable situation."

Family Promise on the verge. As reported by UU Family Promise (FP) Team chair, Deb Dagavarian, arrangements are nearly complete for congregations to begin hosting families under the auspices of the FP program. On July 31 we will be hearing directly from Barbara Sabbath, President, FP of Atlantic County, who will deliver the Sunday message that day.

➤ **"Board Retreat" Portion of the Regular Meeting**

Board members participated in a one-hour roundtable, sharing their takes on issues/goals for the coming fiscal year and suggesting mechanisms for how to address/reach same.

➤ **Adjournment**

Following the Board Retreat portion of the meeting, and after extinguishing the chalice, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 6:30 pm** (2 weeks later than usual) in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War

A Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky film

A new Ken Burns documentary will air on PBS on September 20 at 9 pm, and people across the country will be talking about two historic Unitarian Universalist figures. Released with companion book from Beacon Press, *Defying the Nazis* is the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a young Unitarian minister and his wife who undertook secret missions in Nazi-occupied Europe to rescue Jews, dissidents and refugee children at great personal sacrifice during World War II.

The Defying the Nazis UU Action Project encourages UUs to not just watch the film and read the book, but to also take action, through interfaith cooperation, to show commitment to the values the Sharps embodied. Unitarian Universalist congregations and groups can use this unique opportunity to deepen their faith and share the UU values that the Sharps embodied. Faith development, interfaith dialogue and outreach event resources will be available to engage with the film and book.

The project is co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School. It is supported by a generous grant from Artemis Joukowsky and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY.

For more info, visit uaa.org/sharpsstory. The project is using the hashtag **#WeDefy** on social media.

To learn more about the Sharps' story, visit the *Defying the Nazis* [website](#).

Wanted: UUCSJS Office Assistant

UUCSJS is seeking a part-time Office Assistant to begin working in early September 2016. The position is for a personable, self-motivated, and reliable individual to work 3 days/10 hours per week between Wednesday-Saturday.

The successful applicant will be:

- Detail oriented, able to multi-task
- Work independently with minimal to moderate supervision
- Support Minister, staff, and lay leaders as needed
- Be proficient in Microsoft Office
- Compose weekly church bulletin and on-line newsletter
- Maintain church calendar, building schedule, and office supplies
- Answer phone calls and messages
- Contribute to website and other social media.
- Communicate effectively, verbally and in writing.

Candidates are being sought between now and August 8, when screening will begin for this position. Interviews will be scheduled for mid-August. Please forward your resume, including references, for consideration to Kathleen at uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com. Resumes without references and strong attendance records will not be considered.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Summer Fun Continues!

Each Sunday throughout the summer, our children are treated to an all-ages activity or craft led by a volunteer from the congregation. Our activities in July included games, tie-dying t-shirts, a nature walk, and making balloon animals. More fun is on the roster in August, when our Sundays will include the following activities:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| August 7 | Painting Birdhouses with Debbi Dagavarian |
| August 14 | CD Project with Colby Tippins |
| August 21 | Summer Olympics with Bud Smith |
| August 28 | Giant Soap Bubbles with Rev. John Marsh |

Our regular Religious Education classes will resume on September 18, and the Autumn RE class descriptions will be included in the September newsletter.

Heidi Jannsch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Comparative Mythology

"Myths are clues to the spiritual potentialities of the human life."
-- Joseph Campbell

A new Adult Religious Education program will start Sunday, August 14 at 11:30 am in the yellow classroom. Matt Honig will facilitate a discussion of the commonalities of Abrahamic, Ainu, Hopi, Norse, and Chinese myths and how they helped people make sense of the world. All are welcome. Please join us!

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

South Jersey Humanists presents
Speaker Julien Masolino, author of [The Soul Fallacy](#)
UU Center, August 10, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Masolino's book explores where soul beliefs come from, why they are so widespread culturally and historically, how cognitive science offers a naturalistic alternative to religious conceptions of mind, and how postulating the existence of a soul amounts to making a scientific claim.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2016-17

Jim Gentile, Melissa Hutchison, Judy Pereira, Charlie Roberts,
Damon Smith, Art Wexler, Karen York

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

August 2016

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
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