



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 18, Issue 10

October 2016

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 2	<p>Putting Our Best Foot Forward: why we take positions on matter of social import <i>Rev. John Marsh</i></p> <p>Taking stands on social issues can divide us against ourselves, can seem to run against what we say about the importance of the individual conscience, can seem like people are playing at being holier than thou rather than promoting effective social change. Here's why we need to do it anyway.</p>
October 9	<p>Days of Awe <i>Rev. John Marsh</i></p> <p>Lessons for Unitarian Universalists from the celebration of the Jewish New Year.</p>
October 16	<p>Let's Be Perfect! Utopian Visions, Part I <i>Rev. John Marsh</i></p> <p>North America was and is awash with attempts to form the perfect society. Boston was to be "a city on a hill." Philadelphia was William Penn's "holy experiment." The state of Georgia was started as an experiment to have a society free of slavery at a time when slavery was still allowed in the other 13 colonies. There were numerous 19th century experiments in communal living – several that were led by Unitarians and Universalists. What can we learn from their enthusiasm?</p>
October 23	<p>The Long Loneliness and the Harsh and Dreadful Love <i>Lay speaker James Gentile</i></p> <p>A celebration of the legacy of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement. Dorothy Day was a journalist, social activist, and a convert to Catholicism. She taught the Berrigan brothers about non-violent resistance, and believed it was just as important to feed the poor as it was to get arrested for protesting nuclear weapons. Popes loved her. Bishops, not so much.</p>
October 30	<p>What did we Learn? Utopian Visions, Part II <i>Rev. John Marsh</i></p> <p>Some utopian experiments came to abrupt ends (remember the one with the Kool-Aid?). Some stories feature villains who betrayed the ideals of community for their own material gain. Other communities flourished for a time, diminished, and then reformed themselves, becoming more like a company town.</p>

Coming up....
Mark your calendars...



Service Auction
Saturday, November 12, 2016
Doors open 6:30 pm



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

Family Promise Fundraisers

Again this year, we are raising funds for Family Promise of Atlantic County through the **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends 25% off Shopping Pass**. The special shopping day at Boscov's is Tuesday, October 18. The Shopping Pass costs only \$5 each, and you save 25% on your purchases at Boscov's! See Janet Longo or Barb Morell for your Shopping Pass.

Also, bring cash or your checkbook on October 2 for our **Family Promise October Soup Sale!** As before, the price is \$8 per quart, or \$15 for two quarts. We will have all kinds of soup – vegetarian, vegan, meat, gluten-free.

Reminder from our Office Assistant

Deadlines for announcements and paste-ready copy:	
Midweek Announcements	Wednesday, 5 pm.
Sunday Order of Service	Thursday, 5 pm.

Questions/comments/concerns? uuocsadmin@gmail.com is where you send things, and you can always call the office and leave a message at (609) 965-9400.

Thanks for your consideration and attention!

~ Matt Honig

Top ten online stories at uuworld.org

April 11–July 3, 2016

1. [UU's Respond to Westboro Protesters at General Assembly](#), by Kenny Wiley (June 24, 2016)
2. [A Candid Welcome to Unitarian Universalism](#), by Meg Riley (Spring 2012)
3. [Westboro Baptist Church Plans to Picket UUA General Assembly in Columbus](#), by Christopher L. Walton (June 17, 2016)
4. [Orlando UU's Reach Out after Gay Nightclub Massacre](#), by Joshua Eaton (June 14, 2016)
5. [Blurring Denominational Lines](#), by Heather Beasley Doyle (Summer 2016)
6. [Rabbi Jacobs: Why I Raised Divestment Concerns during Celebration](#), by Elaine McArdle (June 23, 2016)
7. [Racial Justice Takes Center Stage Sunday at General Assembly](#), by Kenny Wiley (June 26, 2016)
8. [Jeanne Pupke Certified as Third UUA Presidential Candidate](#), by Christopher L. Walton (June 20, 2016)
9. [Berry Street Lecture Takes on UU Clergy Sexual Misconduct](#), by Elaine McArdle (June 24, 2016)
10. [Three Ways Unitarian Universalism Has Helped with My Depression](#), by Kenny Wiley (May 9, 2016)

Be an Auction Sponsor!

Sponsorship Levels

(named after Unitarian-Universalists)

Ray Bradbury (1920-2012) author	\$500
Rod Serling (1924-1975) writer (Twilight Zone)	\$300
Viola Liuzzo (1925-1965) civil rights martyr.	\$100
Olympia Brown (1821-1912) Universalist minister	\$50
Herman Melville (1819–1891) American author	\$25

**Pick up a Sponsorship Form
in the back of the sanctuary!**

Margaret Circle... will be held on Thursday, October 6 in the UU Center. The time of our meeting is changed for this month only, to **12 pm** as we plan to meet and greet Reverend Marsh with a pizza luncheon. We have changed the format and will have our short meeting before our Joys and Concerns. We will have a presentation following lunch as usual.

Book Lovers will meet Friday, October 21 at 7 pm in the UU library. This month Deb Dagavarian will be leading the discussion for ***The Nightingale*** by Kristin Hannah. This story follows two sisters coming of age in France on the eve of World War II and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation of France. All are welcome. Contact morellb@msn.com with questions.

Join Us for

Pomona Road Clean-Up for ACUA, Sunday, October 2 at 8 am!

On Sunday, October 2 we will meet at 8 am on the front porch at the UU Center to get safety vests (or t-shirt), grabber tools, and trash bags – clear for recycles, black for trash... It's often just 3-4 of us, and that's not really enough to do the job as quickly. Can you help? Can you spend one hour or so to help keep our 1-mile stretch of Pomona Road clean? Surprisingly, the effort can be relaxing, and it's fun to share the walk!



**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!

In the Interim...



Virtue (n):

1. Showing high moral standards: goodness, integrity, decency.
2. The seventh highest order of Angels, in Christian angelology.

In 1974, the outgoing Miss USA, Amanda Jones, placed her finger on her nose on live television, as she was handing over the crown to her successor. The gesture was taken from the movie "The Sting" where those perpetuating a hoax used it to confirm that they were working with each other.

The next day the organizers of the pageant compounded the silliness by telling people that she had not done it.

It was one of the many moments when it felt like a page had turned. Beauty pageant contestants we had been told, represented not only beauty and talent, but also virtue. Now the outgoing Miss USA telling us not to be taken in about that virtue thing.

Part of the irony was that Amanda Jones, in revealing the true standards of the pageant, was acting virtuously. She had been a problem for the organizers throughout her reign – declaring she was pro-choice on abortion, was opposed to the U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam, and was an outspoken supporter of what was then called "Women's Lib."

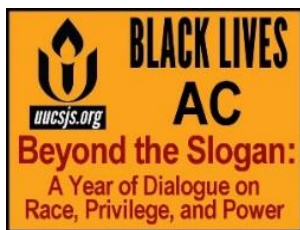
The problem is that we started to treat virtue as if it were (like the order of angels) imaginary – something scoffed by those who really knew what was what.

I see witness acts of virtue every day – many of them done by the members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore. I also see it in politicians who, in running for office, expose themselves to intense scrutiny and whose most embarrassing moments get broadcast to the moon and back.

This does not mean I am nominating any of you (or any current politicians) to be members of the seventh order of angels. I can't imagine that any of you would really want that job. It means that I am inviting you to acknowledge the virtue in yourself, and to openly see it, and acknowledge it in others, even politicians.

Onward,

John Marsh



Black Lives AC
Sat., Oct. 15
2 – 4 pm

Health and WellBeing

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

Our congregation's UU-UNO Envoy is Stephanie Achanzar-Thomas



Stephanie Achanzar-Thomas and her beautiful family

What is a UU-UNO Envoy?

An Envoy serves as a representative of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) within their local congregation and connects the congregation to our world community. Envoys receive information on UN initiatives, global UU connections, and international engagement opportunities, and then plan events in their congregation to promote the program. Envoys are extremely valuable to the UU United Nations Office because they are the link between the office and local UU communities.

Influence of the UU-UNO at the United Nations

The UU-UNO participates in meetings, conferences, and committees at the United Nations with key UN bodies such as Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Public Information (DPI), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), The United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the World Bank to discuss with them how they can act in the interest of creating a world community that is accepting, just, and compassionate.

Black Lives Matter AC was organized by a coalition of community organizations in and around Atlantic City that meets monthly at Asbury United Methodist Church in Atlantic City to bring together people across lines of race, religion, age, gender, economic & educational levels, in order to learn and listen to one another. We honor the future through our youth, creating space for arts, culture, and local ministry to guide youth away from gangs and toward the arts.

Various speakers present on topics, so we better understand the underlying systems of oppressions which people of color have inherited and which white Euro-Americans have often taken for granted. Since November, we have covered areas such as domestic violence, the prison industrial complex, housing, the current state takeover of Atlantic City, and more. We provide safe and facilitated space for people to begin listening to one another's stories, to build trust, and to foster relationships that lead to organizing and building projects for change.

Our goal is to create relationships where none existed, and then to allow the process of creativity and cooperation to flourish for good, so that the future of Atlantic City and Atlantic County is enhanced for as many people as possible, starting with our children.

– from <http://njplatform.org>

Ministerial Search News



Ministerial Search Committee swearing in, 9/11/2016

Left to right: Helene Gentile, Jack Miller, Betsy Searight, Betsy Erbaugh (and son Oscar), Paul Utts, Aaron Thomas, Jessica Safonof

The Ministerial Search Committee is asking for your help.

Please join one of the Roundtable Sessions that we are planning to hold, and give us your input about what you are wanting in our first called minister. We will be asking questions to guide the discussion.

These roundtable sessions will last between 20 to 30 minutes, and should have no more than 10 people in each. We will hold multiple sessions (as needed) after the service on Sunday, October 9, and on Sunday, October 16. In addition, there will be a session on Thursday, October 6, at 3:15 pm following Margaret Circle, and one on Thursday evening, at 7 pm.

For our planning purposes, we need you to sign up for which of these times you expect to attend.

The signup form is in the back of the sanctuary, or you can email Betsy Searight.

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

Notes for the September meeting will not appear due to technical difficulties with the Board Secretary's computer.

Review the Minutes on our Members webspace when they are released (<http://members.uucsjs.org/board-agendas-minutes/>).

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

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our children's religious education school year is off to a great start! Throughout October, we will hold our regularly scheduled Sunday classes each week, and finish the month with a Halloween Party on October 30. In addition to our Sunday programming, the Children's RE Committee is planning an All Ages Game Night for one evening this fall (date TBD: watch the Midweek Announcements for more information).

The CRE committee is also undergoing a leadership change this month, with Meredith Massey becoming our committee chair. Thanks to Jessica Dunn for serving in this important role during the past year. Jess will now be serving the congregation in another position: as a member of the Ministerial Search Committee.

Most of our UUCSJS families have registered their children for RE, but if you haven't yet filled out the form for this school year, please see Heidi. If you have any questions regarding the UUCSJS Children's Religious Education Program, feel free to contact Heidi at sjsdre@gmail.com

Heidi Jansch, UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Create Delightful Memories!

What better way to create a memory than to offer an adventure, excursion, or dinner for the **UUCSJS's 12th Annual Service Auction!** The Auction will be held on **Saturday, November 12. Doors open at 6:30 pm.**

Donation forms are available at the Auction 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, a kayaking adventure, a make your own pizza party, 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 put your name on a sheet of paper with your bid.
- 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 bidding on prizes to fit almost anyone's budget.

Remember to donate!



Did you know that Stockton University has an Economic Inequality Initiative?

Learn more at <http://www.stockton.edu/ei>

Here are some upcoming events:

Expressing Inequality in the Arts

October 8-30, 2016

"Focus on Economic Inequality," a **community exhibition of artwork** designed to bring attention to the impact of economic inequality in the US, will be exhibited from October 8-30, 2016 at the Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University, at Fairmount and Mississippi avenues in Atlantic City, N.J.

Learn more: <https://stockton.edu/news/economic-inequality-art-exhibit.html>

October 14, 2016

There will be a **panel discussion** followed by awards and a reception on Friday, October 14 at 4 pm at the Arts Garage. Panelists will include: artist Larry McKim, an artist from Frenchtown, N.J., who has shown nationally in over 30 group and 10 solo exhibitions; Wendel White, Distinguished Professor of Art at Stockton; Joyce Hagen, executive director of the Atlantic City Arts Foundation; and Christina Jackson, assistant professor of Sociology.

All of the events are free and open to the public.

Economic Inequality Blog

<https://eistockton.wordpress.com>

Some recent posts:

- [Jay Z Calls the War on Drugs an "Epic Fail." Citing Economic and Racial and Class Inequalities](#)
- [Stockton Partners with Bridgeton, NJ: One Way to Confront the Challenges of Economic Inequality through STEM Education](#)
- [Refugee Children Struggle to Help Families Make Ends Meet](#)
- [Economic Inequality: A Condition for the Rich, by the Rich?](#)
- [TED Talks on Economic Inequality](#)
- [Professor Colin Gordon, University of Iowa: Inequality 101](#)
- [We the Economy: 20 Short Films](#)

Professor Deb Figart's presentation on Student Debt:

<http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/eii/content/docs/Figart%20Student%20Loans%20and%20Economic%20Inequality%20presentation.pdf>

Stockton is a participant in the American Democracy Project (ADP), an initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities:

Economic Inequality in Our Democracy A Joint ADP/TDC National Initiative

In February 2014, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)'s American Democracy Project (ADP) joined with community colleges in The Democracy Commitment (TDC) and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich at San Francisco State University for a webcast about his documentary film, *Inequality for All*. This event served as the inspiration for the first joint ADP/TDC national initiative, an effort centered on economic inequality and co-led by ADP's Keene State College (N.H.) and TDC's Mount Wachusett Community College (Mass.).

America has long been heralded as the "land of opportunity," but:

- Between 1947 and 1972, the average hourly wage, adjusted for inflation, rose 76%. Since 1972, by contrast, the average hourly wage has risen only 4%.
- In 2011 the poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 40.9%.
- In 2009, CEOs of major U.S. corporations averaged 263 times the average compensation of American workers.
- Between 1979 and 2007, wages for the top 1% rose almost 10 times as fast as those for the bottom 90%: 156.2% versus 16.7%.
- "[T]he two years in the last hundred that mark the apogees of inequality – when the richest 1% received a record 23.5% of total income – were 1928 and 2007."

Some degree of economic inequality occurs naturally in a free and open society, but a vibrant democracy experiencing these dramatic trends ought to be asking tough questions:

- *How did the extreme inequality we find today happen?*
- *What are the implications of such dramatic economic inequality?*
- *How much inequality is too much?*
- *If these trends undermine the integrity of our democracy, then what can we do?*

Our democracy deserves answers to these questions.

"We make the rules of the economy – and we have the power to change those rules." – Robert Reich

We need to approach the problem of widening income inequality from 6 different directions. The trick is to understand how they all fit together while choosing manageable actions... We may not be able to do everything at once but think of each action as an incremental step towards the structural change our economy needs.

- Raise the minimum wage
- Strengthen workers' voices
- Invest in education
- Reform wall street
- Fix the tax system
- Get big money out of politics

Learn about Robert Reich's film, *Inequality For All*, here: <http://inequalityforall.com>

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2016-17

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Damon Smith, Art Wexler, Karen York

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

October 2016

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