



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



Volume 19, Issue 2

February 2017

## February Services

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

<p><b>February 5</b></p>	<p><b>“Too High a Spirit to be Encumbered by Old Nonsense”</b> <i>Rev. John Marsh</i></p> <p>These words by Ralph Waldo Emerson describe his thoughts about his own past as well as external hindrances. We'll consider his friendships, his thoughts on solitude, and his support for John Brown.</p>
<p><b>February 12</b></p>	<p><b>Love: In Anticipation of Valentine's Day</b> <i>Rev. John Marsh</i></p> <p>Rev Marsh will talk about Love.</p>
<p><b>February 19</b></p>	<p><b>After the Ball is Over</b> <i>Rev. John Marsh</i></p> <p>Some post-Valentine's reflections.</p>
<p><b>February 26</b></p>	<p><b>I've Seen Fire &amp; I've Seen Rain</b> <i>Lay speaker Bud Smith</i></p> <p>Mining the origins of the Pentecostal Revival for Purpose &amp; Perspective.</p> <p>Something happened in an old warehouse on Azusa Street in Los Angeles just after the turn of the 20th century. A religious meeting quickly became transformed into a movement, then into a worldwide phenomenon. Why did these people come? What did they want? And when they looked at their world, what did they see?</p> <p>All that memorializes this spot today is a small sidewalk plaque outside a Korean grocery store. But the questions remain and seem as pertinent as ever.</p>

**Save the Date: on Sunday, March 5, 2017,  
our new Black Lives Matter sign will be installed!**



**Margaret Circle** will gather on Thursday, **February 2** at 1 pm in the UU Center library. After a short meeting and the sharing of our Joys & Concerns, we will be delighted by refreshments from Judy Brown. Debi Dagavarian will once again lead us in an interactive program. Come and join us as we take the time to learn more about one another.

**Book Lovers** TIME CHANGE !!! We will start our **February 17** meeting **one half hour earlier, at 6:30 pm**, in the UU Center library and divide the time between the books **THE GLASS CASTLE** by Jeannette Walls and **STILL LIFE WITH BREAD CRUMBS** by Anna Quindlen. *The Glass Castle* will be led by Jesse Connor: "Remarkable memoir of resilience in a deeply dysfunctional family. The Walls children survived a brilliant, alcoholic father and an artistic, totally irresponsible mother." . *Still Live with Bread Crumbs* will be led by Helene Gentile: "A wise tale about second chances, starting over, and going after what is most important in life."



## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

The UUCSJS Family Promise Team would like to thank everyone who volunteered during our **first week of hosting**. Whether you brought a meal, hung out in the evening, or slept overnight, you contributed mightily to this important cause. For us and the other congregations in Atlantic County, Family Promise is still a fledgling endeavor. We are all learning how to do this work better and better. And we're doing it to help families in need.

If you weren't able to help out this time, please volunteer to help during our next hosting week, **April 30 - May 7**.

Again, our sincere gratitude to each and every person who volunteered this first week!

### It's Coffeehouse Time Again!

**The UUCSJS Men's group, the dUudes, are sponsoring a Valentine Coffeehouse at the UU on Friday, February 10, 7-9 pm.**

**This family event is open to all. Calling all singers, dancers, poets, musicians, mimes, ventriloquists, comedians, jugglers & fire-walkers. It's time to go public! No worries, you'll be in the company of those who love you (it's the Valentine season!).**

**If you'd like to perform please let Bud Smith or Jeff Taylor know! There is no cost for this event.**



### 2017-2018 Annual Stewardship campaign

is just around the corner.

Would you be willing to host a small group gathering?

Although 2017 has just barely begun, it is time to begin planning for our annual stewardship campaign. This year's campaign will be accomplished through small group gatherings beginning the week of **March 5, 2017**, and hosted by different members. **We are asking for ten members or families** who would be willing to host a small group stewardship gathering. It could be over brunch, wine and cheese, coffee and desserts, or soup and sandwiches. It can be in your home, at the UU center, or another location. The details are up to the host.

Once we have hosts, members will be able to choose the gathering that is most convenient for them. Each gathering will also have a facilitator to lead a stewardship conversation, and members will be asked for their pledge of support for the year ahead (2017 to 2018) at the event.

This year's whole community **Fellowship Dinner will be held April 22**, and will serve as a wrap-up to the stewardship campaign. If you are willing to serve as a host or a facilitator for the stewardship campaign, please contact Karen York, and please make a note of these important dates.



**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!

### Chocolate is back at the Fair Trade Table!

In addition to the large bars, we are offering mini pieces for 25 cents.



I love the recent Saturday Night Live Sketch in which one of its comics declares: "I'm with Michelle Obama: When they go low, I get high!"

However, as much as it is important to laugh at yourself, it is still more important to treat those with whom you disagree with kindness and respect. The two things are connected. Those who cannot afford their critics worth and dignity also seem to be the same ones who cannot laugh at themselves.

Some have taken the results of the recent election as proof that civility is outdated. At the end of the day, it is a question of what kind of person you want to be, and what kind of world you want to live in.

I believe we are called to look at the nastiness around us without blinking, and respond without demeaning.

After Andrew Jackson won the popular vote, but lost his first Presidential bid, one of his supporters declared that he would "hold a candle" to the administration of John Quincy Adams, and where he saw it doing good work, he would support it. Where he disagreed, he would fight with everything the law permitted.

So let's resolve to be like the angels, who fly by taking themselves lightly, speak words of clarity of kindness, urge people to "be not afraid" and also, when the occasion demands, manage to slay a dragon or two.

Onward!

John Marsh



Rev Marsh speaking at Atlantic City's Peace Park for MLK Day

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Shakespeare's Richard II

With Rev. John Marsh

Sunday nights at 6 pm in the sanctuary  
January 15, 29 and Feb. 5

This is a story about an unhappy transition of power. It brings to mind Michelle Obama's comments about going low and going high. (Richard insists that those who would depose him must rise to his level; his deponents insist that he must lower himself to theirs). There is also much allusion to the sun and to gardens. Issues of power and powerlessness are a focus.

No prior knowledge of the play or Shakespeare is necessary. We will: go over the plots and subplots and talk about the issues they raise; read some of the scenes aloud to each other (bring a copy of your complete Shakespeare if you have one – there will be extras on hand); and watch portions of professional performances.

### Road Clean-Up

**SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 5  
8:00 AM**

*(before the service)*



*All welcome!* We'll meet as usual on the front porch to pick up **safety vests, gloves, grabber tool and trash bags**, then walk with at least one other person back & forth on both sides of Pomona Road.

**RAIN or SNOW CANCELS!** *Cancellation announced via UU listserv by 10:00 pm the day before if possible.*

### Last Chance to Sign Up for Circle Dinners

February 5 is the last day to sign up for the February 18 or March 18 Circle Dinners. This is a great way to get to know UU members and friends in a relaxed, small group atmosphere. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the rear of the sanctuary after the service. You may also email Marie Taylor to sign up or ask questions.

*A Warm Thank You* to all who shared their Christmas Eve with us and donated a generous \$500. for the Soup Kitchen at the Asbury United Methodist Church in Atlantic City. TJ Jansch and Jim Gentile are working with the Soup Kitchen on the details of installing the much needed freezer so they may continue serving over 300 free meals every Saturday to those in need.

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

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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](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

**February 2017**

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