



NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 19, Issue 7

July 2017

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.

<p>July 2</p>	<p align="center">Do We Really Matter? Redux, with a Twist <i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i></p> <p>In the enormity and age of the universe, does our existence really make any difference? Richard brings back an old favorite, renewed and refreshed, to answer that question.</p>
<p>July 9</p>	<p align="center">The Gnostic Gospels: Self Knowledge and Spiritual Meaning <i>Lay speaker Cynthia Grzywinski</i></p> <p>Before the discovery of the gnostic gospels, all that was known of this early Christian sect was what was written about them by their detractors. The Gnostics believed self-knowledge (gnosis) was the key to spiritual union with the divine. The early Catholic Church condemned them as heretics and successfully abolished almost all traces of them. But what made their beliefs so threatening to the orthodox Catholic hierarchy? Can we draw any parallels between our UU faith and Gnosticism? And what's the movie "The Matrix" got to do with it?</p>
<p>July 16</p>	<p align="center">Jainism <i>Guest speaker Ashesh Shah</i></p> <p>Ashesh Shah is a member of the Vaikunth Hindu Jain Temple, our neighbors on Pomona Road in Egg Harbor Township. He will present the history of Jainism, the cornerstone of its ethics and dogma, and the five main vows that all followers of Jainism take. He will show how in many ways they mirror our UU principles -- focusing on "Ahimsa" which means nonviolence, non-injury or absence of desire to harm any life forms.</p>
<p>July 23</p>	<p align="center">Nutrition and Spirituality: Seeing Spirit in the Kitchen <i>Guest speaker Prof. Anthony Dissen</i></p> <p>The foods we eat nourish us physically, yes, but their influence and impact go far beyond the individual nutrients they contain. Our food choices and dietary habits impact the world around us in many different ways. Environmental health, social justice concerns, and animal and planetary welfare are just some of the ways in which the foods we eat have moral and ethical impacts on our world. As a result, many people are looking at their plates in a new light, and thinking about the spiritual nourishment they receive from their meals as much as the physical nourishment they provide. Lets look at how different spiritual traditions view the role of food and eating in the development of the soul, and better understand how to make our kitchen a place of worship!</p>
<p>July 30</p>	<p align="center">Christianity: Lammass (Lughnasadh) <i>Guest minister Rev. Jeanie Collins</i></p> <p>This worship service is celebrating the upcoming Christian quarter feast of Lammass, or "Loaf Mass" that has roots in the Celtic, Northern European first harvest festival of Lughnasadh. The height of the summer is the perfect time to recognize the riches of the season, and contemplate how nothing lasts... enjoy it whilst you can!</p>

About our guest speakers....

Cynthia Grzywinski recently retired from the FAA as an Engineering Research Psychologist, working mainly on human factors experimentation and research on developing weather systems designed for the aviation community. Cynthia received a Masters' degree in Aeronautical Science with a specialty in Human Factors from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, as well as a BA in Psychology from Rutgers University.

She is an animal rights advocate and vegan, and founded South Jersey Animal Advocates, an organization she led for several years. She and her husband Richard continue supporting animal rights causes, with a focus on veganism. As a Buddhist, she also founded the South Jersey Secular Buddhist Sangha and continues her Buddhist studies. Cynthia's plays the piano and flute, and has played at a number of UUCSJS services over the years, as well as participating in the choir.

Anthony Disen holds a Masters of Arts in Holistic Health Studies from Georgian Court University, and a certificate in Plant Based Nutrition from Cornell University. Additionally, Anthony is an Instructor at Stockton University in the School of Health Sciences, and adjunct lectures at Georgian Court University. Anthony also works as a Integrative Health Educator and Dietitian at CentraState Medical Center, and volunteers with a number of local health and wellness organizations.

A life-long student of spirituality, Anthony also writes, lectures, and practices a holistic and pluralistic view of spirituality utilizing teachings from traditions including Buddhism, Hinduism, Tantra, Taoism, Judaism and Christianity.

To continue his professional development, Anthony is a Master of Public Health student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with an emphasis in Public Health Nutrition.

Rev. Jeanie Collins is a Presbyterian Minister, mystic, teacher, and performance artist. She currently serves as Director of Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministries:RUSpiritual. Her ministry involves interactive art installations that ask "The Big Questions of the Universe" and contemplative Christian worship and practice in the traditions of The Iona Community in Scotland, and Taize in France.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

We will be hosting families for Family Promise on July 9 - 15, 2017. Please visit the signup table in the back of the Sanctuary to see how you can participate in this uplifting ministry.

Chalice Table Crew Opportunities

Some Sunday mornings have you looked at the Chalice Table and thought, "I could do that (better)!" Perhaps you thought, "I wonder how hard it is to do that." Now is your chance! A sign-up sheet is available at the table in the back of the sanctuary. Margaret Rea, who hoards the job because she loves it so much, will leave for Utah on June 26 and will not return until the end of September. Arlene Yacka, who is Margaret's "go-to gal", is looking forward to doing her share while Margaret is gone. Arlene is not as greedy as Margaret and is willing to share many of the 13 open Sundays. Speak with Arlene or e-mail her (see the congregational directory) to let her know you are interested. If you need instruction (or a refresher) let Arlene know ASAP so that review/training sessions can be scheduled at mutually convenient times.



FILL OUR SHOE BIN!!!

Did you know?

Under the coat rack in our foyer is a lime green bin for your unused, gently used shoes of all generations and purposes. Sneakers, tap, ballet, rain, heels, flip flops, steel toe, no

toe, boots, booties. . . Your donations go to those in need. Pitch in the love!

Margaret Circle will resume on Thursday, September 7 at 1 pm. Enjoy your summer!

BOOK CLUB does not meet in July and August but will start again in September on the third Friday evening of the month at 7 pm in the UU Center library. We have selected an interesting variety of books for the coming year and are looking forward to many friendly discussions. It would be great for anyone to come and try on book club to see if it fits! Enjoy your summer reading. -- Barb Morell

UUCSJS MEMORIAL WOODLAND PATH

Mission Statement: Design a Memorial Garden where UUCSJS families and friends may memorialize their loved ones and where all may seek solitude and quiet to reflect and meditate. The Memorial/Meditation Space should blend in with the landscape and provide a simple, natural, peaceful, and inspirational venue for those seeking comfort, solace, fellowship, or inspiration.

Members of the Memorial Garden Committee first met seven years ago. A long time and many conversations have occurred since our initial Mission Statement was put into place, but I'm pleased to report that the Board has approved the guidelines we recently presented to them. Passage of the guidelines will allow our congregation members the opportunity to purchase memorial plaques that will be placed along our peaceful path in the woods to memorialize deceased members and/or important people in member's lives.

If you haven't walked the looping path that begins past the children's play area, or sat on one of the benches in the meditation circle, I hope you might be able to take a walk or sit for a few minutes soon. Here are the guidelines approved by the Board:

Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial stones with plaques should represent connections to our congregation, paying tribute to either a past member of the congregation or some person important in the lives of a member of our congregation. • Individual stone memorials will be placed at intervals along the path at distances that will allow for quiet meditation. • Some family members might want to have multiple stone memorials in closer proximity to each other. • The path will allow for both individual memorials and family gatherings of memorials.
Memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are in the process of purchasing memorial stones in bulk. This will allow matching stones to be available as requested for many years to come. The stones are colonial bluestone and are approximately 14" wide and 11" high and 2" thick. Once we have them delivered, we will let congregation members know and members may choose to purchase and reserve a stone or stones. • The \$50 purchase price of the stone(s) will help to defray the initial expenses of the Memorial Woodland Path. • If a member purchases a stone prior to needing to sign an agreement form, the cost will be deducted from the price of a future Memorial Agreement and the stone(s) may be placed in collaboration with a member of the Memorial Garden Committee along the path or the stone may be labeled and stored till needed. • Our Memorial Woodland Path will also accommodate individual stones and memorials that differ from our standard plaque and stone. These memorials will need to meet with the approval of the Memorial Garden Committee and will be placed along the loop of the Memorial Path leading directly from the back deck. • The Memorial Garden Committee will oversee mapping the locations of memorial stones and reserve stones using GPS. The committee will insure that GPS locations for all new memorials are added to the master Memorial Woodland Path Map.
Plaques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engraved plaques will be 10" wide by 7" high. • Families will have a choice of either a bronze or aluminum plaque. The background color in both of the plaques will be darkened to allow the engraving to stand out. • Families may choose what they would like to have engraved on the memorial plaque in a maximum of three lines. A limit of three lines has been set to insure that the memorials be simple and egalitarian. • Our Memorial Woodland Path will also accommodate standard Veteran's plaques which might be larger and different than those specified above.
Individual Memorial Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members who want to have a stone and engraved plaque placed along the Memorial Path will be asked to sign a Memorial Agreement which we are in the process of developing. • The cost of the Memorial Agreement will include the stone, a concrete mounting for the stone, installation of the stone and plaque, an engraved bronze or aluminum plaque and future upkeep of the Memorial Woodland Path. • The cost for the Memorial Agreement is \$700 for the bronze plaque and package or \$550 for the aluminum plaque and package. • The price may go up over time as the cost of metal increases. • A separate UUCSJS account will keep track of the monies collected for Memorial Agreements and for the reserve stones, as well as expenditures over time.

If you have any questions, we'd be happy to answer them. Please see me or another member of the Memorial Garden Committee: Paul Utts, Helen Utts, Bill Felix, Peg Felix, Betsy Searight, Marsha Hannah, Richard Grzywinski, or Angela Wexler.

-- Jesse Connor

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
June 2017

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on **Tuesday, June 13, 2017** at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary at the UU Center, President **Jim Gentile** presiding. All Board members were present, as was ex-officio member, **Rev. John Marsh**, Interim Minister. A chalice lighting opened the meeting, and joys and concerns were shared.

Also present were newly-elected Board members **Jessica Dunn Safonof**, *Secretary*, and **Marsha Hannah**, *At Large*. Present for one agenda item, **Jesse Connor**, chair of the Memorial Woodland Path committee.

➤ **Agenda Items**

● **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Karen York stated that she would not have the usual written report this month, and had three (3) business matters to raise. [It is noted for the record that the Draft Budget for FY 17-18 as proposed by the treasurer was approved unanimously at the Annual Meeting on June 4.]

–**SECUR-NJ.** The treasurer referenced her June 12 informational email letting Board members know that she had submitted a grant application on behalf of UUCSJS requesting 10K for improvements to our security systems. The grant would fund new measures, only. The grant application included a Facility Assessment, York said, which was one of the useful outcomes of the process, "whether we get the grant or not." The **SECUR-NJ** program will provide a total of \$1 million for eligible non-profit organizations; only 20 religious non-profits will get grants.

–**UUA Legacy Challenge.** The treasurer informed Board members that this new national campaign aims to encourage legacy gifts to UU entities, which will be matched at 10% and then awarded in 2019 to those named. There is a maximum of \$5 million in matching funds available—the generous gift of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY. The **Legacy Challenge** was rolled out in time for this year's General Assembly in New Orleans (June 21-25). *Stay tuned!*

–**Piano Tuning.** The treasurer requested authorization for funds to cover piano repairs. These would not be new funds, she said, but a reallocation from excess in the budget for the current fiscal year ending June 30. —*A motion to authorize \$650 to cover costs for piano tuning was adopted unanimously.*

● **Secretary's Report.** The secretary requested approval for the minutes of the Annual Meeting. —*A motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2017 Annual Meeting, distributed via email, was adopted unanimously.*

● **Minister's Report.** Rev. Marsh reminded Board members that there needs to be a final evaluation of his Interim Ministry (which can be based on the mid-year appraisal in this case, given that nothing fundamental has changed). He then requested permission to use a photo of the art work hanging above the dais. —*A motion to approve Rev. Marsh's use of an image of the wall hanging in the Sanctuary, as the backdrop for YouTube videos of three or more of his sermons, was adopted unanimously.*

Rev. Marsh also shared with the Board two concerns about money matters, going forward: first, the seeming lack of *written fund-raising policy*, and second, UUCSJS's lack of *endowment*.

As you may know, Rev. Marsh's year at UUCSJS ends officially on August 15, 2017. (And as announced to the congregation, he will be moving on to serve as interim minister at the UU Church of Greater Lansing, Michigan.)

● **Children's Religious Education (CRE).**

There were two (2) CRE documents for Board approval, which will then be added to the UUCSJS Personnel Manual. "Childcare Policy and Procedures" (2/8/17) and "Sunday Caregiver Job Description" (4/17) were written by DRE Heidi Janssch and

members of the CRE committee. —*Motions to approve each of these two CRE documents, and adding each to the UUCSJS Personnel Manual, were adopted unanimously.*

● **Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC).**

The Board continues to monitor our situation with respect to FPAC. Co-chairs of the UUF team, Deb Dagavarian and Barb Morell, have expressed concern about how well the program is fulfilling its mission. Recently, expectations appear to be expanding beyond our original commitment with requests for weekend staffing at the Day Center, for example, among other things. Sign-ups for our next hosting dates, July 9-15, have been in progress for the last three Sundays; volunteer spots are still open. The president reiterated that UUCSJS has an interest in the program's success given that we have contributed some \$7,000 to the organization so far through fund-raising and donations.

● **Memorial Woodland Path.**

—*In preparation for this item, Board members received via email an explanatory letter and proposed guidelines for the UUCSJS Memorial Woodland Path, on behalf of the Memorial Garden committee. The president invited chair Jesse Connor to be present to talk about the plan and answer any questions.*

In discussion Board members expressed enthusiasm for the proposal and thanked the committee for its efforts (Jesse Connor, Richard Grzywinski, Betsy Searight, Bill & Peg Felix, Marsha Hannah, Paul & Helen Utts, and Angela Wexler).

RESULTS: It was determined that no motion was needed; Board members agreed that the committee should proceed using these guidelines. With the Board's go-ahead, the committee will undertake the following: Develop and distribute a handout that explains the Memorial Woodland Path; Publicize the opportunity to purchase and reserve a stone at \$50 each to defray price of a pallet of stones; Arrange for delivery of a pallet of stones; Oversee the storage of reserve stones and the placement of stones as requested by congregation members; and finally, Create a Memorial Agreement form which will detail what is included in the cost of the agreement.

There will be two price points: Memorial Agreement cost will be \$700 for a *bronze plaque*, and \$550 for an *aluminum plaque*. (Prices may rise as the cost of metal increases.)

● **Reorganization for FY 2017/18.**

It was determined that regular Board meetings will continue to be held on the SECOND TUESDAY of each month at 6:30 pm.

The newly-elected Board of Trustees then proceeded to elect officers for the coming fiscal year:

—*A motion to elect JIM GENTILE to serve as President for FY 17-18 was adopted unanimously.*

—*A motion to elect MELISSA HUTCHISON to serve as Vice President for FY 17-18 was adopted unanimously.*

➤ **Adjournment**

After extinguishing the chalice, the meeting adjourned at 8:15.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm** in the Sanctuary at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

~Before signing off, may I add a personal word.

It has been my honor to serve as your Board secretary for six (long) years. Coincidentally, my third (and last) two-year term technically ends *today* (June 30), just as I'm finishing my last "Board Highlights"! Bye now, Judy

Mark your calendars now:

Peace Pilgrim Celebration September 23 -24, 2017

10th Annual potluck in Peace Pilgrim Park next to Egg Harbor City Police Dept and Municipal Building and adjacent to the Egg Harbor City Historical Center.

We need some help!

Please contact Colby Tippins if you can assist or volunteer your talents.

1.

We are looking for two people to be a team at our celebration from 11-2 pm Saturday, September 23. One adult-sized person to wear our famous BAG MONSTER costume which is hand-made from 500 plastic single-use plastic bags and their team-mate following aside or behind, holding a sign saying

**1 YEAR
+ 1 SHOPPER
= 500 BAGS**

STOP THE ERA OF SINGLE-USE BAGS!

This person will also be responsible for collecting any stray bags falling off Bag Monster!

2.



Donate your skilled labor to set a few dozen 6x6" tiles at the base of Peace Pilgrim statue in EHC before August 30. If you or someone you know has this particular passion and skill, please contact Colby.



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!

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fun in the Summer

Our Coming of Age class gave an inspiring service in the beginning of June, sharing their credos and their voices in song with the congregation. During the service, they held a special collection to benefit Murray Grove's *Camping in the Grove* summer camp. Thanks to all who contributed to this cause; they were able to raise \$430 for *Camping in the Grove*!

Our annual gathering at Murray Grove Retreat Center was held June 9-11. Those in attendance enjoyed a relaxing weekend, great company and wonderful weather. A highlight of the weekend was the Tree-sure Wizard scavenger hunt headed by Rev. Marsh and the Children's RE Committee, and RE teachers were treated to a tea party in appreciation of their dedicated work this year. Campfires, a dance party, ga-ga matches, puzzles and pool-time rounded out the weekend. Visit the DRE blog at sjsdre.wordpress.com for some snapshots of the fun.

During the summer months, an all-ages activity is provided for the children during Sunday service. Throughout July, the activities in RE include:

July 2	Bubble Art with Heidi Jannsch
July 9	Tie-Dying with Colby Tippins
July 16	Kite Making with Bud Smith
July 23	Jewelry Making with Debbi Dagavarian
July 30	Service Animal Presentation with Helene Gentile (and special guest Harry the greyhound)

In fellowship,
Heidi Jannsch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2017-2018

Jim Gentile, *President (2018)*
Melissa Hutchison, *Vice President (2018)*
Karen York, *Treasurer (2018)*
Jessica Dunn Safanof, *Secretary (2019)*
Marsha Hannah, *At-Large (2019)*
Charlie Roberts, *At Large (2019)*
Damon Smith, *At-Large (2018)*

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

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."
~ John Lubbock, *The Use Of Life*

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2017-18

Jim Gentile, Marsha Hannah Melissa Hutchison,
Charlie Roberts, Jessica Dunn Safonof,
Damon Smith, Karen York

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

July 2017

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