



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 20, Issue 2

February 2018

February 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.

February 4	Sports: Our National Religion? <i>Rev. Dawn Fortune</i> Superbowl Sunday is the day when Americans consume more food in a single 24-hour period than any other save Thanksgiving. What is it about sport that causes non-watchers to participate in this annual ritual? Is sportsball actually a religious experience? Even for heretics, that seems like a stretch, but the annual football championship seems to cross boundaries of culture, race, religion, and much more on the first Sunday in February each year. Join us as we consider all this, plus beer ads. Worship kicks off at 10 am.
February 11	Legacies of Love <i>Guest minister Rev. Laura Randall</i> We are each the inheritors and the creators of legacies, for good and ill. What legacies do you aspire to? Struggle with? What legacies are you creating with your own life? What legacies are we, as Unitarian Universalists, creating together? The Rev. Victoria Safford says that transformation comes from “thinking of yourself already as an ancestor, a leaver of legacies for descendants you will never meet, but whose lives are already intertwined with yours.” Join us as we explore the legacies that shape and inspire our shared ministry with the Rev. Laura Randall, Legacy Campaign Director for the <i>Wake Now Our Vision Collaborative Campaign</i> .
February 18	TBA <i>Guest speaker</i> More details forthcoming!
February 25	I’m Black and I’m Proud <i>Lay speaker Shelee McIlvaine</i> As a Person of Color, as a woman in these times, am I able to speak my Truth without reservation, caution, or fear of repercussion or punishment? In the Spirit of Black History Month, let us reflect on the origin of the loss of the African American voice. How did that happen, why is it important, and how can you help celebrate the unapologetic proclamation “I’m Black and I’m Proud?”

About our guest speaker....

Rev. Laura Randall is the Affiliate Community Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Area Church in Sherborn, Massachusetts, serving the broader community through ministries of stewardship and chaplaincy. She is the Legacy Campaign Director for the Wake Now Our Vision Collaborative Campaign, a chaplain with AseraCare Hospice, and the Program Manager with Healing Moments Alzheimer's Ministry.

Margaret Circle ...Every woman you know has a #MeToo story. On Thursday, February 1 in the UU Library at 1 pm, Betsy Searight will lead a discussion postponed in January due to snow. Let us gather together to talk about sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual abuse and sexual attacks. What does this mean for male and female relationships? Let us share with the comfort of knowing we are in a safe space. Light refreshments will be served.

BOOK CLUB will meet at 7 pm on Friday, February 16 in the UU library. Judy Pereira will lead the discussion on our selection for February, *A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW* by Amor Towles. Amor Towles skillfully transports us to The Metropol, the famed Moscow hotel where movie stars and Russian royalty hobnob, where Bolsheviks plot revolutions and intellectuals discuss the merits of contemporary Russian writers, where spies spy, thieves steal and the danger of 20th century Russia lurks outside its marbled walls. Contact Barb Morell for more information.



Guest at Your Table

Thank you to our teen class for leading the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program this winter! The class was charged with researching, publicizing, encouraging donations and finally tallying the total collected. Thanks to their efforts, our congregation raised **\$1450!** In addition, since seven individual donations were \$125, these funds will be matched by the Shelter Rock Congregation raising our total donation to \$2325! Well done Grace, Carly, Kylee, Jackson, Sam, Quinn, and Lauren, and thanks to Jess and Mariann for leading the class through this effort!



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

Are you looking for another way to participate in Family Promise? A vital job is driving the families from the host church to the Day Center in Egg Harbor City, then back to the host church in the afternoon. The morning shift involves going first to Egg Harbor City and leaving your car there while you drive the van to pick up the families. The driver must arrive at the host church around 6 am in order to get the children to the Day Center for a 6:40 am school bus pickup. Then you get in your car and go home. This is obviously a job for those who love to see the sun rise! The good part is you are home or at work early with a head start to your day. For the afternoon shift you arrive at the Day Center by 5 pm and, using the van again, take the families to the host church for dinner and overnight.

Shelee McIlvaine coordinates the drivers in addition to being a driver. Everything has worked splendidly so far. In order to allow our regular drivers to take needed breaks we do need additional drivers.

Chalice Table Ministry

If you have been looking for a way to contribute to the Sunday morning experience at UUCSJS, this may be right up your alley.

Arranging the chalice (and related items) and a "focal point" on the table, and setting up the vessels for the Joys & Concerns (pebbles & water vases; and colored glass "drops" at the base of the central Chalice) is an important ministry that does not require you to 'stand out' in the crowd. It does require that you also take a smallish chunk of time following the service to put things away so that next week's volunteer can find them. Written instructions are available.

If you are interested in helping out, once a month or once in a while, please sign up on the list that will be available following the service this week. If you have questions, see Margaret Rea before or after the service on January 28 or February 4 and perhaps "shadow" her for either set-up or break-down on one of those two Sundays. Thank you.



Expanding Options at the End of Life: Changing the Law to Allow for Medical Aid in Dying in New Jersey

Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 7 pm
UU Center

Rev. Dawn Fortune
609.289.5782

View From the Minister's Study

Greetings, Gentle People.

As I write this, I have just returned from a conference called the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Institute for Excellence in Ministry. It was a five-day gathering of ministers and experts in a variety of ministry-related topics. As with most professional conferences, it was exciting and intense and exhausting. I was glad indeed to return to my home and sleep in my own bed at last.

I attended a track of classes focused on stewardship and fundraising led by a diverse panel of professional fundraisers who work in religious settings. We talked a lot about the spiritual practice of generosity, and what it means to be generous in a congregational setting. What is a generous gift for one member or friend might not be a generous gift for another, and we cannot judge (nor should we) levels of generosity based on the size of a person's gift or pledge.

Much of how we behave is rooted in silently held assumptions about what others' capacities might be that often we insult them unintentionally. We heard personal stories of members whose capacity for giving was underestimated because of their age or perceived financial status, and others who felt as though the only time they got attention from congregational leadership was when money was needed.

These situations happen in every congregation and organization that raises money. It's a fact. As humans, particularly as members of the prevalent culture of the United States, we carry the most shame around two specific issues: money and sex. And if truth be told, we'd much rather talk about sex than our personal relationship with money. In a culture based so heavily on a model of scarcity, and of consumerism, we tend to believe that no matter what we do, we do not have enough (money or property) to feel secure, or even sufficient in our lives. That's not a healthy model, as it sets us all up for frustration and failure, and it makes it very uncomfortable to talk about our resources and how we'd like to apply them to things that are important in our lives.

There is so much more I want to share with you about what I learned, but that will have to come over a period of weeks and months, particularly as we engage with our annual Stewardship Campaign beginning in March. I just spent an intense week learning all sorts of interesting things. There is no way I can communicate all of it in one newsletter column or in one sermon or conversation. But believe me, there is so much good information to share! I am very



excited about the coming Stewardship Campaign, and about the workshop on Legacy Giving on February 11 after worship (see below for details.)

For now, I am happy to talk about what I learned individually if you'd like to hear about it. Just make an appointment to see me during my regular Wednesday/Thursday office hours.

Scheduling note: During the month of February, my calendar looks like this:

Jan 31-Feb. 4: On Duty
Feb 5-6: Sabbath
Feb 7-11: On Duty
Feb 12-13: Sabbath
Feb 14-18: Off Duty (regular week away)
Feb 19-20: Sabbath
Feb 21-25: Off Duty (study leave)
Feb 26-27: Sabbath
Feb 28-March 4: On Duty

Blessings,
Rev. Dawn



Shape the Future of Our Congregation and Unitarian Universalism through Planned Legacy Giving

Sunday February 11, 2018

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Laura Randall, Legacy Campaign Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association will be presenting the service at UUCSJS on February 11. She will also offer a workshop on legacy giving. The "Wake Now Our Vision" Legacy Challenge is a special opportunity that qualifies our congregation to benefit *now* and *in the future* from your planned gifts. If you make a legacy gift (in your will or by making beneficiary designations in your retirement plan or other financial accounts) naming our congregation, and complete the "Wake Now Our Vision" pledge forms, this will qualify UUCSJS to receive a **match of 10% of the legacy gift** (up to \$10,000) in 2019 through a grant from the Shelter Rock UU Congregation. Please plan to join us to learn how your future planning can transform UUCSJS and Unitarian Universalism.

Workshop from 11:30 to 1:00 pm, light lunch provided

– Karen York, Treasurer UUCSJS

UUCSJS Participates in the Adopt-A-Road Mini-Grant Program

- Would you like to converse with a fellow UU while helping make our environs free of ugly trash?
- Would you enjoy strolling along the road in the calm of early morning while peering at the waters of Lake Fred?
- Would you simply value getting some of your 10,000 steps accomplished early in the day?

On **Sunday, February 4**, you can join other volunteers at **8 am at the UU Center** to help carry out the *third of four* required cleanups along both sides of Pomona Road that are required to earn our annual \$200 mini-grant offered by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA).



Participating groups with a one-mile (or more) stretch of county road must perform at least *four* cleanups spaced throughout the year. To earn the mini-grant, these cleanups must be conducted between one year's Earth Day and the next. Cleanups need to be

reported no later than April 20, and grants are presented at a free awards dinner in June.

Earth Day (April 22) was founded as an environmental teach-in by Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-WI) (1916-2005) and first organized in 1970 "to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water, and soil pollution," according to one account. On Earth Day in 2016, the landmark **Paris Agreement** to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change was signed by the United States, China, and some 120 other countries. In 2017 the **March for Science** occurred on Earth Day.

Road cleanup volunteers wear safety vests or safety t-shirts and make use of grabber tools provided by ACUA to pick up trash. ACUA guidelines say that gloves (provided) must be worn by all participants and groups should work "only one side of the road at a time" to avoid becoming a traffic hazard. Volunteers must be 11 years or older, and a permission slip is required for anyone under 18.

The trash sweeps usually take an hour to an hour and a half—though with more helpers, the time could be less. We are eager to welcome newcomers. Somewhat surprisingly, some of us who often do these cleanups have come to regard them as an opportunity for rumination and reflection. *Consider giving Pomona Road cleanups a try; they can be quite gratifying.*

—Judy Pereira

February 4:
Souper Bowl Sunday
Soup Sale
to benefit Family Promise!



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



To the members of UUCSJS,

Earlier this month I notified the Board of Trustees and the Staff of my intention for the 2017-2018 school year to be my final year serving as the UUCSJS Director of Religious Education.

I feel very fortunate to have served in this position for the last eleven years and to have shared in the congregation's journey; from settling into our new home at the UU Center to recently hiring our first called minister, there has never been a dull moment!

I am proud of the work we have accomplished together, and appreciate the opportunity of having a career in religious education while also being able to be home for Jesse and Carly during their formative school years. But since Carly will be graduating high school this spring, I feel it is time for me to return to full-time employment.

I plan to continue to serve as DRE through the end of June of this year and have spoken to Rev. Dawn who is currently researching the UUA hiring procedures for us. I am confident that the Children's RE program is strong and will continue to flourish under different leadership thanks to the continued dedication and support of the Children's RE Committee and all the members of UUCSJS.

In fellowship,
Heidi J Jansch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Welcome to our latest New Members!

Marty Quish and Tony Zitelli

Back in the early fall, Marty Quish and Tony Zitelli discovered UUCSJS while driving past the UU Center on Pomona Road one day. As they already had a special connection to Unitarianism, they decided to try us the very next Sunday. That special bond with Unitarianism came 35 years ago, when they first met at the only safe space where LGBT folks in that part of New Jersey were welcomed back then -- the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. They continued meeting there for over 20 years, in the Gay Activist Alliance. Later, they moved to Galloway.

Marty is a Business Development Officer in Insurance Premium Finance with BB&T Bank. Tony is retired now, and was a Guidance Counselor at Madison High School. He was also a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, teaching Human Sexuality, Biomedical Ethics, and Dealing with Death for Health Professionals. At present, he serves on the condominium board where they live.



Both Marty and Tony enjoy reading, walking, music, and theatre. Tony particularly enjoys reading historical fiction and nonfiction. Marty likes to read any kind of fiction and nonfiction. Their musical tastes are not as similar, however, as Marty enjoys all kinds of music, and Tony draws the line at contemporary sounds.

They are very happy to have found UUCSJS, and like many of us, actually look forward to Sundays! We are also delighted that they joined!

Paul Murphy



Paul Murphy first visited us at the rally held in our UU Center following the Charlottesville White Supremacy March this past August. His 12 year old son, Rudy, was with him. Paul was impressed by what he had experienced, and the people that he met. He returned numerous times. He has joined our Racial Justice Task Force, and wants to be active with our other social outreach programs.

Coming from a Catholic background, Paul left that faith about six years ago to become active in the St. Mark and All Saints Episcopal Church in Galloway. This is an important community for Rudy. Paul has been one of the Sunday School teachers, and plays the guitar for the children's services. Paul expects to continue this activity for now, but will make room for times to attend our services. He has been active with the Family Promise program there, and expects to help us during our rotation.

Paul works with Public Partners, to provide direct services to people with developmental disabilities in their homes. He got his start in this area through working for the ARC, and has been working with this population for 30 years. He enjoys music, guitar, reading and hiking.

Sally Williams and Jerry Schoenleber

Sally and Jerry began attending UUCSJS in September. Among the things that brought them here was a search for community. Both retired this past April, and although they had been living in New Gretna for 30 years, they had not developed a community network. Sally comes from a Catholic background and Jerry from a Methodist one.

For the past 15 years Sally was the Atlantic County Mental Health Administrator, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Among her duties was leading the Mental Health Disaster Response Team, where she got a workout with Hurricane Sandy. Prior to this she worked with Atlantic County youth programs. She worked for the county for 33 years.

Jerry worked for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for 29 years. He was the supervisor of a group that collects various environmental samples. He was the technical editor of the Department's "Field Sampling Procedure Manual" and had a leadership role with developing environmental field sampling techniques.

The couple has many interests. Jerry has been a birdwatcher for many years. He also enjoys motorcycling. Sally enjoys gardening, working out, reading, and animal advocacy. They live with their two feline companions, Yuki and Diwali.

Both Jerry and Sally express eagerness to become involved in our congregational life. Jerry has already helped the Men's Club with the Soup Kitchen at Asbury United Methodist Church. Sally offers to become involved in our outdoors and grounds, and other activities or committees needing participation.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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