



# NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore

Volume 20, Issue 7

July 2018

## July Services

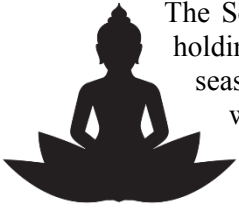
We meet at our UU Center, Pomona Rd and Liebig Street, Galloway NJ (near the north entrance to Richard Stockton College).  
Services are at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

<b>July 1</b>	<b>60 Years of Community Service</b> <i>Lay speaker Bill Felix</i> Bill Felix has recently returned from his 60th college reunion of Yale University. He was on a committee to solicit stories from his classmates about their experiences in volunteering these past 60 years. Many of these stories might strike you as ordinary, but Bill has chosen some that are generous enough to inspire you.
<b>July 8</b>	<b>Trailblazers: Black Women of the 19th Century</b> <i>Women of Margaret Circle</i> In this service, brought to you by Margaret Circle, you will meet five remarkable black women from the 19th century. These were women who did not let their gender or race prevent them from accomplishing the extraordinary.
<b>July 15</b> Special Meeting	<b>7 Books for 7 Principles</b> <i>UUCSJS Book Club</i> While books entertain us they can also be a source of inspiration. They may even shed a new light on our Unitarian Universalist principles.
<b>July 22</b>	<b>The Quest for Meaning</b> <i>UUCSJS Men's Group</i> The Men's Group will be presenting a service loosely based upon the Coen Brothers' classic "Brother Where Art Thou" about our journeys toward self-actualization.
<b>July 29</b>	<b>Finding Balance</b> <i>UUCSJS Everyday Spiritual Practice Group</i> "Soul satisfying spiritual practices can be done, even amidst the demanding confusions, distractions, and duties of daily life." ~ Scott W. Alexander Join us as our Everyday Spiritual Practice group leads the congregation through an interactive service prompting one to consider the ways in which it is possible to sprinkle spirituality into daily routines and discover the beauty of balance between the great mystery and the mundane.

**Family Promise  
Fundraisers**

**JD's Pub & Grille, Smithville – Thursday, July 5, Noon to 8 pm**  
**Villa Rifici, Absecon – Monday, July 16, 4 to 7 pm (order by July 12)**

## The Buddha is Back For More



The South Jersey Secular Buddhist Sangha is holding its second meeting of the current season on July 7, 2018! We are affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship (UUBF) as a local practice group. "Sangha" is an ancient Sanskrit word loosely translated as "community;"

thus our Sangha gets together as a community of practitioners on the first Saturday of every month at 10 am until noon at the UU Center. Although emphasizing secular or agnostic Buddhism, all practitioners of Buddhist teachings are welcome to share their wisdom in community.

This month's meeting will be co-led by Alan Oliver and Dennis Bohn. Our theme will be "How Buddhism can help us be good when times are bad." Last month, we had 12 UUCSJS members attend. To make sure you are on the mailing list, please email Cynthia Grzywinski and you will receive the latest copy of the UUBF newsletter (pdf). The meeting will be held in our sanctuary. An email to Cynthia confirming your attendance would be most welcome.

*Namaste'*

(the spirit in me honors the spirit in you)

**Margaret Circle** will be on summer hiatus till September. However, some of the members are continuing to meet at the usual time (first Thursday at 1 pm) for game time. Come join in the fun!

**BOOK CLUB** will be on summer hiatus until September. Enjoy your BEACH READS!

## Time to declutter!

The center's 'lost and found' stash is piling high with miscellaneous coats and jackets, scarves, gloves, video tapes, umbrellas, toys, lots of kitchenware and much more. Check the coat rack area (high and low) for what you didn't realize you were missing!

*and p.s.:*

out of sight, out of mind. remember to check, every time!



Please remember to drop off your unwanted gently worn **foot wear** into the lime green bin under the coat rack on Sundays **any time of the year**. Less fortunate folks can sure use them!!!



## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FAMILY PROMISE?

~ *Barbara Morell and Debbi Dagavarian, co-chairs*

There are some holes in FPAC hosting schedule for July. To offset budget needs, please consider a special donation to FPAC. Please send check to

**Family Promise of Atlantic County**  
**PO Box 1632, Absecon NJ 08201**

Write "Emergency Housing HOTEL fund only"  
in the Memo line of your check!

*Upcoming Fundraisers for FPAC*

## JD's Bar & Grille

Smithville Towne Center  
Route 9 and Smithville Blvd.  
Smithville NJ

**Thursday, July 5**  
**Between 12 Noon and 8 pm**

**10% of your bill will go to FPAC.**

You must bring flyer to participate  
(see Social Justice table for flyer)

## Villa Rifici

308 E White Horse Pike  
Absecon NJ

**Family style take-out dinner for 4**  
**\$35**

**Order by 8 pm Thursday, July 12**  
**Pickup Monday, July 16**  
**between 4 and 7 pm**

Email [angelaylang@gmail.com](mailto:angelaylang@gmail.com) with your order  
or call Leslie at Rifici's 609-641-2000  
Find it on [Facebook](#)

**Rev. Dawn Fortune**  
**609.289.5782**

*Rev. Fortune's musings  
will return!*

Rev. Dawn will be off on medical leave and then vacation until the end of July. They will return on August 1.

If you have a pastoral need in the meantime, please reach out to the pastoral care team: Theresa McReynolds, Helen Utts, Doug Dickinson, and Tracy Staab. If there is a pastoral emergency (death, fire, things where a minister is needed), they have the numbers to contact area ministers who have agreed to be on call in just such instances.

The pastoral care team is also coordinating the support team for Rev. Dawn after their surgery on June 21. Please get in touch with any of the four above-listed people if you would like to help.



**NOTICE of SPECIAL  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
OF THE UUCSJS  
SUNDAY, July 15 at 11:15 am**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a SPECIAL MEETING of UUCSJS members will be held in the Sanctuary of the UU Center on SUNDAY, July 15, 2018 at 11:15 a.m. (immediately following the Sunday service) for the purposes of:

1. **electing a Secretary** to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Trustees; **Shelee McIlvaine** has been nominated (to complete a term which ends 6/30/2019)
2. **approving a revised budget** for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.



**Narenj Tree Foundation**

Narenj Tree Foundation sends full containers of clothes and other needed essentials to help the victims affected by the war in Syria. They have a Donation

Center in Norristown, Pennsylvania where donations are collected and then shipped to the war-torn areas where they are desperately needed.

Besides clothing, toiletries and medical supplies, and non-perishable food, Narenj gladly accepts school supplies for the children.

Colby Tippins makes a few trips a year to this Donation Center, delivering donated supplies which she is continuously collecting. Her next trip will be at the end of September, so include winter clothing in your donations!

Items requested begin with medical supplies of all kinds from band-aids to wheelchairs to surgical supplies. Even opened and expired lotions and medications may be acceptable there. Winters in the Middle East are cold and are as harsh as ours, so warm clothing and bedding will be desperately needed. Toys, basic toiletries, canned foods are also desired.

Please speak with Colby to donate.

**Narenj Philosophies:**

**Give excess**— There is enough to go around! Everyone has something that they don't need that someone else can use.

**Give always**— Make it part of your routine. Go through your items once a month and give away things that you don't need.

**Give extra**— When you shop for your families or yourself, keep others in mind and pick up a couple of extra cans of food at the grocery store.

**Give a little**— If everyone gives a little, there will be more than enough for those who have none. We would all hope that others would do the same if we were in a position of need.



Rev. Dawn's Twitter handle is  
**@queerpreacher**

You can tweet about UUCSJS  
using the hashtag **#uucsjs**

**COME! BE A FLOWER CHILD, AGAIN!**

Our Chalice Table and alter area set up is being overseen now by Colby Tippins. She is asking for volunteers to sign up and bring a flower or an arrangement for all of our 52 Sunday services year after year! There is a selection of vases on hand if needed.

You will find at the Fair Trade coffee table a calendar book for you to sign up as a FLOWER CHILD volunteer for an upcoming Sunday.



## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello, Goodbye from our D.R.E.s

As I have prepared to step down from the Director of Religious Education position this month, I have had some time to reflect on the last eleven years and feel immense pride in the work we have accomplished together. I truly appreciate the opportunity of having a career in religious education here at the UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore.

At the same time, I am becoming more and more convinced that I will hardly be missed with such a fantastic replacement! I am thrilled that Jess Dunn Safonof will be serving as our DRE! Her involvement in UUCSJS has benefited this community in countless ways over the years and her dedication to our faith has been a shining example of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Her commitment to our congregation and her homeschooling experience make her an ideal candidate for leading the Children's RE program.

I wish her the very best as I pass her the torch (or RE lantern, as it were).

In Fellowship,  
Heidi Jansch



Family Promise of Atlantic County is continuing to grow and develop in its ministry of giving homeless children and their families hope, stability and a future.

As FPAC transitions from start-up to ongoing operations we are looking for people willing to serve on the FPAC Board and/or its committees. These groups work to ensure that FPAC has a steady source of funding, that our hosting runs smoothly and that the community knows who we are and what we do.

Helping homeless children and their families doesn't always mean staying overnight or cooking meals! It also means using your creativity, people skills, financial skills and community connections to make sure our program works well.

If you would like to learn more – or would like to recommend someone to us – we would love to talk with you! Please contact FPAC President Barbara Sabath ([sabathsabby@gmail.com](mailto:sabathsabby@gmail.com)) or FPAC Board member Pastor Kathleen Harris ([pastor\\_kathleen@harris.net](mailto:pastor_kathleen@harris.net)). And thank you for your support and your prayers!

I am so excited to be taking over as the Director of Religious Education. Heidi has done such a wonderful job in her tenure as DRE to build a strong program with dedicated volunteers.



Many of you know me from my various roles within our Congregation, most recently as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. My husband Fred and I, along with our three children Quin, Max, and Cyrus, have been members of UUCSJS since 2013 and I have been a regular volunteer teacher in our RE program.

I am continually surprised by the children of our Congregation, and children in general, for their insight and optimism and their willingness to try new things! If you haven't had a chance to volunteer with the RE program yet I highly recommend you try it out. You will learn so much more than you thought possible from our young people. I have always had a passion for working with children, helping them along their path; learning and growing. In my spare time I enjoy reading, knitting, and doing yoga.

I look forward to sharing my commitment to our UU values and partnering with the children and youth of our community to foster their spiritual growth.

Jess Dunn Safonof

**Thanks to Bud Smith, we now have a baby monitor set up in the library. Anyone who needs to leave the service but wants to continue hearing what is being said from the pulpit can go to the library and listen.**



## Shelee R. McIlvaine

Security Supervisor, BALLY'S ATLANTIC CITY

*Shelee's Causes: helping seniors and families in poverty, reducing the property's environmental impact*



Shelee lives by these lines from a Khalil Gibran poem: "I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy."

Shelee not only finds joy in service, she finds joy in leading others. She's a dedicated recycler, leading her department's CodeGreen work, including teaching colleagues how to recycle correctly, turning off the lights and gathering batteries and other e-waste for correct disposal.

Shelee has volunteered more than 200 hours to **Family Promise of Atlantic County**, a nonprofit that assists low-income families. Shelee does it all, from serving on the organization's board to driving a van that provides the families with weekly transportation. She gives selflessly, often encouraging her family to give donations to senior citizens in need in lieu of birthday or Christmas gifts. This dedication to helping others also influences her co-workers: donations from her team are at an all-time high this year!

**Remember our Guest At Your Table initiative??**

**[RAICES](#) (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services) was one of the projects that GAYT funds.**

Join us for a summertime picnic to celebrate

# Peace Pilgrim's Birthday

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018, 5-8 pm  
at PEACE PILGRIM PARK \***

PeacePilgrim100 is hosting this picnic to celebrate the life and work of Peace Pilgrim, an American sage who walked her talk. Born and raised in Egg Harbor City, Peace Pilgrim walked highways and byways for more than 27 years talking with everyone she met about how to obtain peace in the world.

**Family friendly, free and easy.**

**Bring your own food, blanket, chair and a musical instrument.**

**Birthday cake will be provided!**

**SPREAD THE WORD. BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.**

**Learn more at  
[www.peacepilgrim100.com](http://www.peacepilgrim100.com)**

**\*This event takes the place of the annual September weekend celebration.**

From uuworld at <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uus-sponsor-asylum-seekers>:

Unitarian Universalists have opened their homes to asylum seekers who are mostly from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador and have traveled as a caravan through Mexico from Central America in hopes of being legally admitted to the United States.

UU-related organizations are also providing legal support and other assistance to the caravan members.

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

## Staff

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### Minister

Rev. Dawn Fortune (pronoun *they*)  
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## Board of Trustees 2018-19

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Betsy Erbaugh, Marsha Hannah, Melissa Hutchison,  
Charlie Roberts, Damon Smith, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

**July 2018**

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore  
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