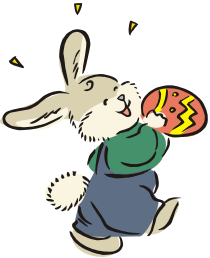


# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2010



## April Services

SERVICES AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGIN AT 10 A.M.



### April 4

Easter: A Unitarian Universalist Perspective – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

An Intergenerational Easter Service that focuses on the mystery and wonder of the season.

All ages are welcome. Nursery care will be available.

*All are invited to bring canned goods for the Jonnycake Center.*

### April 11

Cultivating Happiness – *Rev. Ann Fox*

We all want to be happy. Spiritual teachers tell us that happiness or joyfulness is our natural state. One even teaches a technique guaranteed to induce joyfulness. Really! What is happiness? If we are not happy, is it possible to intentionally cultivate a truly authentic state of happiness? People can and do increase their happiness. Let's explore. Better yet: let's do it!

*Rev. Ann Fox of Unitarian Memorial Church, Fairhaven, Mass., has served the Fairhaven congregation for eight and a half years. She is exchanging pulpits with Rev. Betty today.*

### April 18

Journey Toward Wholeness – *Baha Sadr and Common Ground*

Baha Sadr, Director of the Resettlement Program at the International Institute in Providence, will help us learn about the refugees settling in Rhode Island and their path to resettlement.

### April 25

Earth Day 2010 – Building a Planet that is Both Sustainable and Just – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

As Unitarian Universalists we are devoted to the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part.

How are we living into the spirit of our Seventh Principle?

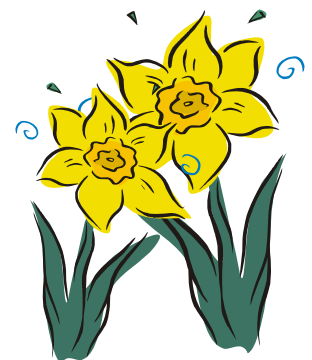
*This service will include a New Member Welcoming Ceremony*

### May 2

Understanding Addiction – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

Addiction affects nearly every family in some way.

This service will discuss the reality of addiction and how we might respond to the challenge with integrity and compassion.



OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R.I.



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

27 NORTH RD., PEACE DALE, RI 02879 • (401) 783 -4170

PUBLISHED ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR

KAREN R. ELLSWORTH, EDITOR ♦ GERRE ALDERWICK, PUBLISHER

DEADLINE: THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

[www.uusouthcountyri.org](http://www.uusouthcountyri.org)

### **Rev. Betty Kornitzer, Minister**

[Bkornitzer@aol.com](mailto:Bkornitzer@aol.com) • Minister's Study 284-3321 • Urgent calls: 932-1515

Office hours Wednesdays 3 to 6 and Thursdays & Fridays 9 to noon, by appointment

### **Debby Hedison, Religious Education Director**

### **Michael Galib, Music Director**

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*Pam Santos, Religious Education Committee Chair • Nick Smith, Personnel Committee Chair*

*Sally Barney, Facilities Committee Chair • Penny Hall, Jean Burke, & Nancy Dean, Committee on Ministry*



*Peter Himmel, Adult Religious Education Committee Chair • Harry Buffum, Music Committee Chair*

*Judi Marcy, Caring Connection Chair • Eileen DeMaio, Social Events Committee Chair*

*Marie Younkin-Waldman & Lisa McHenry, Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs*



**OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH RD., PEACE DALE, R. I. 02879**

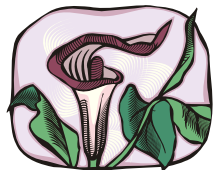
(401) 783-4170 • e-mail address: [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com)

WEBSITE: <http://www.uusouthcountyri.org/> • Webmaster: David Crockett

Services and Children's Religious Education on Sundays at 10 a.m.



***We welcome all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge,  
sexual orientation, age, or national origin.***



## *The Minister's Message*

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

# We've come a long way!

This month I revisit parts of the Minister's Message of November 2008. Today we have come a long way. We have been in our new home for fourteen months; UUCSC is thriving, with many newcomers and many new programs. It is time for us to re-focus on our Strategic Plan and work on the infrastructure that will keep us thriving and growing.

### Construction Plans

It's official, renovations are underway at Lily Pads Unit B. The old convent is becoming our new home. Walls are coming down, bathrooms are gutted and framing is being constructed.

As I stand in the midst of the demolition mess, I smile. I am reminded that we didn't get here by luck. We got here by hard work and planning on the part of a huge segment of our congregation. Our dreams are being realized not because we are whimsical dreamers, but because we have been both visionary and practical, a truly winning combination.

Detailed planning and communication laid the foundation for a successful capital campaign and the purchase of the building. Our architect ultimately produced nine plans before we got it just right. Then the construction documents went out for bid, interviews and deliberations followed, and a contractor was selected. This has been a responsible and deliberate process, and it indicates to me that we have matured a great deal as a congregation. Throughout this process; we've been working with plans.

Last winter the congregation developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan for the next five years. This was crucial, again we are working with plans. We have thought about the direction in which we want to move as a faith community. We have articulated our vision in the Strategic Plan. Here too, we see the marriage of vision and practicality at work.

As we prepare for the many exciting changes that will take place when we move to Lily Pads, it is so good to know that we have plans for the future. We are standing on solid ground because we have embraced vision and practicality.

Friends, today I am asking that we all become familiar with the UUCSC Strategic Plan. This is our plan and our vision. In order to remain a vibrant faith community, each committee and each individual is called to live into our Strategic Plan, to make it a reality. The plan can be found on the UUCSC website: <http://uusouthcountyrri.org/Docpublic/StrategicPlan2008.pdf>

May we continue as a congregation that thrives because we embrace the marriage of vision and practicality.

Peace and Love,

*Betty*

# The President's Letter

I LOVE surprises! Fun, happy ones. However, I can feel anxious or angry when hit with a “surprise” that didn't need to be one and is tied with a “you're in for it now” bow.

So I was very appreciative, in March, of the Finance Committee' “no surprises,” realistic disclosure of UUCSC's financial picture. This situation needs clear-eyed, focused, and creative attention now. If we wait two to three years, when the special trust that has been holding our collective heads above water runs out, well, we're amazing, but breathing underwater . . .

To reiterate the situation, last year the Board and Congregation approved a deficit budget — neither out of keeping with UUCSC history nor bloated with unnecessary line items. (We're still doing our best sans an office administrator and sexton.) But being a small congregation with a big dream, we went out on a financial limb.

The good news is that our Congregation is attracting new members (as anticipated), we have an amazing space to offer a variety of fund-raising community events, and we have

the potential to avert financial distress.



However, our culture shift from renter to owner continues, and operating in enhanced, connected ways remains a prerequisite for success. ALL aspects of congregational life fall under a committee's umbrella. If ALL committees communicate regularly with each other, we'll form a cohesive unit— working in unison. To that end, the Board advises a tweaking to the leadership structure to promote continuity, a smooth transition from one Board to the next, as well as strengthening communication and collective problem solving and implementation.

Beginning this year, the Past President (rather than the Vice President) will run the Program Council, which will meet four

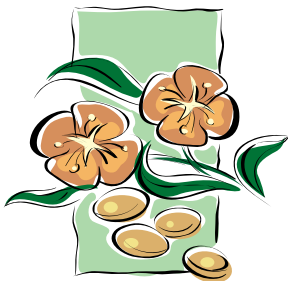
times a year. Several pieces of a plan to invigorate UUCSC's financial health will be communicated in the coming months. By working together, committees can help facilitate, promote, and generate fiscal abundance. (And not in a burdensome manner.)

The underpinning of a congregation's budget is its pledge base. This is the widest block of the pyramid. Individually, this is the place where we can bolster finances immediately.

Likewise, creative plans are being formulated and your ideas are enthusiastically welcome. You can contact Aline Couture, Finance Committee Chair, or myself.

We have a mountain of a challenge in front of us—three years high. AND we have the energy, tools, creativity and the will to manifest our vision. In the words of Henry David Thoreau: “If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost, that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.”

In love and faith,  
– Tracy



## Attention, gardeners!

Please start thinking about our annual Spring Plant Sale on May 16th before and after the service. Doris Anthony started this wonderful fun(d) raising tradition; please do not allow it to lapse. Think now about separating perennials and thinning ground covers. House plants we snip now and pot nicely potted are most welcome. You are urged to look over your flower beds that need some space. Mid to late April is the best time to pot your goodies for transplant into our UUCSC Friendship Garden. Questions about potting? Need pots? Have some pots to contribute (preferably clean)? The person to call is Helene Gersuny.



# The Music Corner

by Mike Galib, Music Director

Since I have been speaking with more people at Coffee Hour each week, I have discovered that some of you are wondering what it is I do when it's not Thursday evening (choir rehearsal) or Sunday morning (you should know that one). It seems, then, that it would be, at the very least, of mild interest to look into some of my musical activities in the upcoming months. Now, as a segue, I used to very much enjoy the "Where's Waldo?" series of books when I was younger. It was somehow exciting while living in little Portsmouth, Rhode Island, to vicariously travel by way of the illustrated experiences of this plucky traveler, both through time and space, depending on which book you were looking at. As many of my upcoming activities involve a good dose of travel, let's play a small game of "Where's Mike-o?" (though I would ask you to refrain from calling me that in real life!).

As a musician, a good deal of my time is spent, of course, on piano, but also, more recently, on conducting. Conducting is an odd sort of thing to study in the first place. I mean, really, you just sort of wave your arms and things happen. If you'd like the music slower, you wave your arms slower. If you'd like the music faster, conventional wisdom dictates to move your arms faster. In addition, how do you practice conducting? You could learn every

note, articulation, every instrument entrance in a score of music, but then what? Waving one's arms in front of the mirror for too long is, at best, of little use to anyone, and at worst, of no use to anyone.

The solution to these problems: conducting workshops put on by professional orchestras and conductors, where student conductors prepare pieces to work on with the orchestra. I am lucky enough to be able to participate in several coming up this spring. So Where's Mike this spring? In late April I will be auditing a joint Cornell/Ithaca workshop led by Gutav Meier; in May participating in one in Omaha, Nebraska, led by Larry Rachleff (whom many of you may know from the Rhode Island Philharmonic); and finally in June participating in a two-week workshop in Romania(!). Fantastically, the Romanian workshop allows its participants to conduct the full, professional orchestra in concerts held at the end of each week. And miraculously, despite this schedule, I will only miss one service at UUCSC.

This last bit I am thankful for, since if you were to ask Where's Mike? on Sundays, the answer would be at UUCSC, taking in the inspiring messages and the music of the choir, and enjoying the company of good people.

\*\*\*\*\*



## A call for landscape gardeners

Our landscaping plan for the front of our home at Lily Pads calls for planting of small trees, shrubs, and groundcover.

Spring is here and it's time to plant!

Will you help out by organizing the planting crew?

This volunteer job would entail organizing fellow planters to work the soil and install the plants. Brian Maynard and Lindsey Crowninshield will be consultants, and Brian will also obtain some of the plants and have them delivered.

Please contact Lindsey for more information.

Happy Spring! – Lindsey Crowninshield





## MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

The greening we are experiencing all around us now is a perfect time for the Finance Committee to be rolling up our sleeves and digging into the work of developing next year's budget proposal. It's an exciting and challenging task. At our meeting on April 14, we will take our first look at what we may be able to add to our income. The main part of this increase is through your generous pledges. Our main focus will be to balance our budget and see where we can suggest more financial support to our staff and service areas.

All of our meetings are open to all. We welcome your suggestions and interest.

We would like to express our gratitude especially to all of you who stayed after the Pot Luck on March 7th to share your thoughts with us. Thanks to Virginia Carter, we have all of them down on paper. We will be discussing the possibilities very seriously. Gratefully,

– Aline Couture, Finance Chair

## "Faith Forward"

*Can Unitarian Universalism survive? How might we have to transform our ways of worship, spiritual exploration, faith formation and education to meet the changing dynamics of our society in this decade?*

*Three observers of our faith and society—the Rev James Ford, minister of First Unitarian Church in Providence, the Rev. Eric Wikstrom, UUA Director of Worship and Music Resources, and the Rev Sue Sinnamon, Director of Faith Development for the Thomas Jefferson District—will discuss this in three sermons embedded in an innovative worship service during the Ballou Channing District Spring Conference on Saturday, April 24 at First Unitarian Church in Providence.*

*Jen Shattuck, the BCD Young Adult Ministry Consultant, will lead a workshop on congregations meeting the spiritual and religious hunger of the post-boomer generations, and Peter Bowden, BCD Growth Consultant, will conduct a workshop to explore how the emerging demographic and religious trends may affect congregations' outreach and membership initiatives.*

*The conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the district's annual meeting will take place from 1:15 to 3 p.m. Registration opens at 8:15 a.m. The registration fee is \$22 for adults and \$7 for youth.*

## News from the Facilities Committee

A big "thank you" to Hank O'Reilly for helping to finish the bookcase in the Administration Office, and another one to Joan Youngken and Myrina Cardella-Marengi for continuing Roni Meyer-Force's office organizing work! Please contact us if you are interested in helping to create a functioning church office. We will meet soon to brainstorm and develop a plan!

Are you a decor-ista? Join the Aesthetics Team to help create the most aesthetically pleasing atmosphere for UUCSC!

If you have any spare time on a weekday, evening, or a Saturday, there are a number projects and tasks we need help with. Please check the bulletin board next to the handicap exit in the Community Room for a comprehensive list. Here are just



a few: building storage shelving, installing window treatments, pitching in with vacuuming and light housework, managing materials. Many thanks to all who have already signed up. There are still plenty of opportunities to help out!

The facilities committee needs new members. The current members are coming to the end of their term of service, so it's time for some new willing people to step up and help guide this very important aspect of our congregation's basic functioning. We need at least four members for this committee to oversee the areas concerning maintenance and projects, housekeeping, aesthetics, and grounds.

Mark your calendar for the Spring Cleaning Party on Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join us for an hour or stay for the whole party. It's bound to be a fun community builder!

Contact us to offer your help: Sally Barney, Melissa Hughes, Trish Moreau, & Bill Jones. – Sally Barney



## Religious Education News and Events

By Debby Hedison, Director of Religious Education

*"...go with Wisdom, go with Wonder..."*

### *Our Fountain of Youth*

*"I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way."*

– "The Greatest Love of All," L. Creed & M. Masser

Did you know the fountain of youth is bubbling up directly below our sanctuary? It's true. Just visit our classrooms and you'll feel it. Your inner child can't help but to come out and play.

I had the honor of filling in for Sally Barney and got to lead the Senior Youth Group this past Sunday. Am I allowed to brag? We have such awesome youth in our church. I got to have a small glimpse into their busy and interesting lives and I am amazed at how hard-working, spiritual, multi-talented and dedicated these guys are. I mean, they put in full days at school, play sports, play musical instruments, take drivers ed, deal with SATs, do community service, hold down jobs, attend youth group, and still manage to have social lives.

Not to mention how articulate, funny and thoughtful a conversation with them can be! Oh, yes, and they are a fine looking bunch to boot.

Now, cut and paste everything I just said and apply it to our Junior Youth (except the drivers ed and SAT stuff!). This group is growing to become our biggest group each Sunday. This is middle school aged youth and they are looking forward to being together on Sunday . . . how cool is that?

I wish you could have seen them create a complete dinner for Welcome House. Phenomenal!

So with all my bragging about our youth finished, I wish to turn my bragging rights to the best group of advisors ever!

Thanks to the good work of our Senior Youth Advisors (Sally Barney, Jeff Berry, Cindy Cole Berry and Jaime Dice) and Junior Youth Advisors (Pam Santos and Cindy West), our youth are being given a spiritual and social opportunity that defies description.

So if you are ever interested in jumping into the fountain of youth . . . just do it! We'd love to add to our ranks of adults teaching in the classroom or helping the advisors. And we still need two folks to teach the middle school class in May and June. Jump on in. You won't regret it!

Finally, don't miss the youth-led service on May 16th.

Teenagers Rock!

– Debby

### **April & May Dates In Religious Education**

April 9 - RE Committee Meeting 9:15 a.m.

April 13 - 6:30 to 9 p.m., Spiritual Renewal Worship and Workshop with BCD RE Consultant Deer Sullivan. All are invited to this very special evening. It is a gift to all those who have taught in RE and are currently volunteering . . . the evening is geared to renew and rejoice in the good work we all do for and with our children and youth.

May 2 - Maypole celebration, 11:30 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch, musical instruments, come celebrate with us!

May 7 - RE Committee Meeting, 9:15 a.m.

May 16 - Youth Group Service, 10 a.m.

## *Rev. Betty's Sabbatical*

There is talk going around about "Betty's sabbatical leave," and I want to let you know where things stand.

In July, I will have accrued five months of sabbatical leave, according to the terms of my Letter of Call and Agreement with UUCSC. Beginning in January of 2011, I will take all or part of that sabbatical time. Because of the many positive changes that have been happening in the life of our beloved community, I am in discernment and consultation with church experts about the best time to take the sabbatical. That decision will be made soon, and I will let you know as soon as it is clear.



Sabbatical is a productive and creative time in the life of the congregation, and can engender a congregation's empowerment and growth. A Sabbatical Committee has been formed, and planning will have begun by the time you read this. The Sabbatical Planning Committee will address all areas of congregational life. Worship services, pastoral care, and emergency pastoral coverage will be pre-arranged. A sabbatical

booklet will be available that carefully articulates all of the plans for this leave time. It will be good for us all. *"All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well."* – Julian of Norwich, 14th Century mystic

### **Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer**

Regular Office Hours: Wednesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays: 9 a.m. to noon, and other times, all by appointment.

Days Off: Monday and Tuesday.

Minister's Study telephone (for non-urgent calls): 284-3321. Cell phone (for urgent calls): 932-1515

E-mail (very effective): [bkornitzer@aol.com](mailto:bkornitzer@aol.com)

**A note about Office Hours:** For the most part I will be in my study during these posted office hours, though other scheduled activities sometimes call me away. If you'd like to stop by, it's a good idea to call the minister's study (284-3321) to confirm that I will be there. I am also available at many other times by appointment.

**My vacation:** I will be on vacation from April 14th through 18th. During this time I can be reached on my cell phone ((401) 932-1515) in case of emergencies. Pastoral concerns may be addressed to Judi Marcy, chair of the Caring Connection.

### **Guest at Your Table**

April is the month that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee tallies all the money collected by congregations who participated in the Guest at Your Table campaign. It is an honor to announce that our congregation raised \$905.06. A job well done by everyone! Special thanks go to Rev. Betty and Debby Hedison.

– Gerre Alderwick

### **An update on our UUCSC Evaluation**

Thanks so much for your great participation in our evaluation process!

Our Cottage Meetings were well attended and gave us lots of good information about what is working well and what we need to work on. We are now in the process of going through all the responses collected, and pulling them together to send you all a summary. (We're saving copies of all the responses also.) It's taking a long time! Before we started, we thought we'd finish in a couple of weeks, but although we're making good progress, we need more time to do the job right. We just want you to know that you have been heard, and we appreciate your patience in waiting for the results.

– The Committee on Ministry: *Nancy Dean, Jean Burke, and Penny Hall*



# What is ‘Common Ground’?

It's great to see new people coming to UUCSC! Perhaps you're wondering about some of our committees. Common Ground is the sub-group of the Social Action Committee that is devoted to anti-racism. We work to raise our own and others' awareness of racism in all its forms and effects, through reading and honest discussion.



We have been looking at the legacy of slavery,

examining educational reform, sponsoring a film series, and organizing a drive to collect household goods for refugees from Ethiopia and Eritrea who are settling in Rhode Island.

Each year we do a worship service called “Journey Toward Wholeness,” focusing on some aspect of the process of coming together as human beings and celebrating our diversity.

If you are interested in joining us, please call Penny Hall. We welcome new members and new ideas!

– Penny Hall

## *This year's “Journey Toward Wholeness” Service*

*Common Ground is preparing this year's Journey Toward Wholeness service on April 18. Each year we devote this service to some aspect of our ongoing commitment to connecting with our human family. This year our speaker will be Baha Sadr, Director of the Refugee Resettlement Program at the International Institute in Providence, who will tell us about current refugee populations in Rhode Island, their path to resettlement in the United States, and services and benefits available to refugees when they arrive. We will also learn about ways that volunteer groups can support newly arrived refugees. Common Ground already is involved with one project with the Institute, filling laundry baskets with new or gently used household items such as sheets and dishes for families settling here as a result of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Please continue to bring your contributions! This year's special collection during the Journey Toward Wholeness service will be divided so that two-thirds will go to the International Institute and one-third will go to the Whitney Young Urban Ministries for work in our inner cities. We appreciate your generosity.*

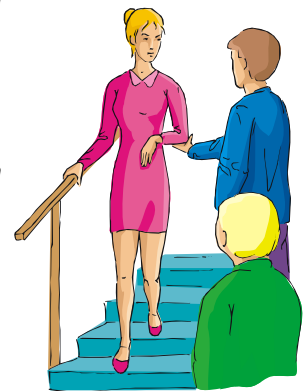
– Penny Hall, for Common Ground

## Path to Membership Classes Continue

For those interested in learning how the UUCSC operates, a class will be held on Sunday, April 11, after church, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., led by the Membership Committee. This class is especially important for anyone thinking of becoming a member in the near future . . . and that future could be on Sunday, April 25, when a New Member Welcoming Ceremony will be included in the morning service. Please let Rev. Betty, Barbara Pagh or Val Follett know if you plan to join our congregation on that day. If ceremonies are “not your thing,” no problem — we welcome new members in any way they choose to join. Just let the same people know of your wishes. – Val Follett

## Want to help us fill in those empty seats?

Are you noticing that we are growing, and seat availability on Sunday mornings can at times be an issue? To help solve this problem, we are looking for volunteers to be temporary ushers on Sunday mornings. We would like to find two volunteers each month whose job would be to encourage congregants to sit in the first few (usually empty) rows, and to sit closer to each other, leaving seats near the center aisle empty so that later arrivals don't have to climb over people to get to a seat. Does this sound like fun to you? I hope so. Please let Barbara Pagh or Val Follett know if this sounds like your cup of tea. – Val Follett



## Growing, Growing, Growing...

Attendance at Sunday services has grown to the point where we regularly reach over 80% of the capacity of our sanctuary. This is the threshold where the UUA recommends a growing congregation should consider ways to alleviate overcrowding such as moving to two services. In the spirit of the UUCSC we must make this a group project where everyone is invited to participate in finding a solution. Our breakthrough congregation is now starting to outgrow its new space. Come to the first informational meeting to discuss how to handle the success of our growth.

Solving our Growing Delimma – Sunday, May 2, after the service

### Welcome House meal

Wednesday, April 14th is our day to provide a meal for the 20 residents and staff of Welcome House.

The volunteers from our congregation brings a salad, an entree, or a dessert to the house by 5 p.m.

Please contact Gerre Alderwick if you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information.

Save this date:

**Saturday, May 15th**

7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

**Community Contra Dance**

in the UUCSC Sanctuary.

Live music by many local musicians, led by Deck

Nieforth. Dance Caller Lucia Watson will teach all dances.

Sponsored by the Social Events Committee.

*We all should try to remember to share our love and joy with each new face we see coming into our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Please pat the empty seat beside you, watch who stands up to introduce themselves (brave souls) for “welcomes,” and keep you eyes peeled for the red coffee mugs that are reserved for guests. People who feel truly welcomed soon become friends.*  
– Gerre Alderwick

## The Wellness Ministry Team will help you heal faster

*“We envision a community that embraces faith, health, and spirituality and ministers to all these ways of being fully human.”*

The members of the Wellness Ministry Team have taken Peggy Huddleston’s “Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster” training, and we are prepared to offer you a free one-hour workshop on the specific issue that concerns you. This groundbreaking clinical work focuses on positive emotions and our human spirit to enhance healing.

Joan Patterson recently underwent surgery. Before her surgery, she met with one of our Wellness Team members for an hour to enhance her post-operative healing. Here is what she has to say about her experience with this technique:

*“Thanks to Rev. Betty and the Wellness Team for bringing the book and CD by Peggy Huddleston to our congregation. I used it before total knee replacement in January and found that I had less pain, more mobility, and a faster recovery. I was back at church before anyone missed me. I recommend this to anyone who is in need of surgery. Paulette Chamberas came to my house and helped me to go through the CD in preparation for the operation. Check it out!”*

To arrange a one-hour workshop, please call Lynda Wells. – Lindsey Crowninshield



### Green Task Force “Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month”

We have heard that reducing our carbon footprint is one way to help mitigate global warming. Even small steps can help reduce the amount of energy we use in our homes. For example, each time you use your dishwasher, about two pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) is produced. If you run your dishwasher only when it’s fully loaded, you might reduce your use by one time/week. Using the energy-saving ‘air dry’ setting to dry dishes instead of ‘heat dry,’ also consumes less energy. These two actions will reduce your annual CO<sub>2</sub> output by about 100 pounds.

# Our favorite reads

On a beautiful winter morning, fifteen of us gathered for the first Books and Bagels event. While enjoying bagels and cream cheese, muffins, fruit, tea and coffee, we shared our favorite books read in 2009. Linda Whyte Burrell was a wonderful facilitator, and we discussed an exciting variety of fiction and non-fiction. Many in the group agreed that we should meet at least twice a year. Want to know more? Please contact Peter Himmel, chair of the Adult Religious Education Committee, or Iris Donnelly. – *Iris Donnelly*

Here is a summary of our favorite reads. (F – fiction; NF – non-fiction; HF – historical fiction; B – biography; A – autobiography)

**Virginia Carter:** Books by Stephen Jay Gould, especially *The Panda's Thumb: More Reflections on Natural History* and *Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History* (NF); *Sepulchre and Labyrinth*, both by Kate Mosse (F)

**Charlie Donnelly:** *Silver Rights*, by Constance Curry (civil rights in the South in 1960s) (NF); *Confederates in the Attic*, by Tony Horwitz (about how the Civil War is still being "fought") (NF)

**Iris Donnelly:** *The Zookeeper's Wife*, by Diane Ackerman (saving Jews during World War II) (NF); *The House at Sugar Beach*, by Helene Cooper (her family's history from slavery in the U.S. to modern Liberia) (NF)



**Nancy Rose:** *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder (medical work in Haiti) (NF); *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak (hiding Jews during WW II) (F); *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World*, by Greg Mortenson (building schools

for peace) (NF); *The Book of Negroes* (reissued as *Someone Knows My Name*) by Lawrence Hill (a story of slavery from Africa to the U.S., to Canada and back to Africa) (HF)

**Nina Collier:** Anything by Alexander McCall Smith (including The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series and the Isabel Dalhousie mysteries) (F); *The Hemingses of Monticello*, by Annette Gordon-Reed (winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in history) (NF)

**Marie Younkin-Waldman:** *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett (relationships between domestics and employers in the South in the 1960s) (F); *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery (F); *Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why we Need a Green Revolution and How it Can Renew America*, by Thomas L. Friedman (NF); *To Hear the Birds Sing: Conversations with my heart*, by Marie Younkin-Waldman (A)

**Charlotte MacLean:** *The Pillars of the Earth*, by Ken Follet (building a cathedral in 12th century England) (HF); *The Far Pavillions*, by M. M. Kaye (colonial India) (HF)

**Eileen Jones:** *I, Elizabeth*, by Roasalind Miles

(Elizabeth I of England) (HF); *Lucia in the Age of Napoleon*, by Andrea DiRobilant (HF)

**Mary Finnegan:** *Maisie Dobbs*, by Jacqueline Winspear (F); *A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League*, by Ron Suskind (B); *The Healing Connection: How Women Form Connections in Both Therapy and in Life*, by Irene Pierce Stiver and Jean Baker Miller (NF)

**Joan Youngken:**

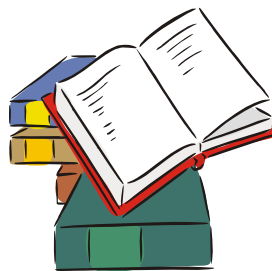
*American Bloomsbury*, by Susan Cheever (the lives, loves, and work of the Transcendentalists) (NF); *Letters of Susan Hale*, Caroline P. Atkinson, ed. (teacher, art student, lecturer, amateur actress, avid traveler, sister of Edward Everett Hale and manager of the family household in Matunuck) (NF)

**Maureen Grove:** *My Stroke of Insight*, by Jill Bolte Taylor (brain scientist suffers a stroke) (NF); *Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America*, by Paul Tough (educating children in Harlem) (NF)

**Vicki LePree:** *Gilead: A Novel*, by Marilynne Robinson (F); *Eat to Live*, by Joel Fuhrman, M.D. (NF)

**Peter Himmel:** *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, *What the Dog Saw*, *Outliers: The Story of Success*, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, all by Malcolm Gladwell (NF)

**Paulette Chamberas:** The Benjamin January series by Barbara Hambly (mysteries set in early 1800s New Orleans) (F); *Infidel*, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (a powerful feminist critique of Islam) (NF)



**Linda Whyte Burrell:** *The People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks (how the Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the earliest Jewish religious volumes to be illuminated with images, survived centuries of purges and wars) (HF); *The Wandering Heart*, by Mary Malloy (F)

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**“Money is a terrible master  
but an excellent servant.”**

– P.T. Barnum (1810 -1891)

*A prominent Universalist and the most influential American showman of the 19th Century, Phineas Taylor Barnum died 119 years ago this month. A generous supporter of Universalist causes, he gave Tufts College \$50,000 for a museum of natural history, and later another \$100,000 to build two wings on it. From his circus, he sent to the museum mounted skins, skeletons and the hide of the great elephant Jumbo.*



“Mutual admiration between  
Barnum and Jumbo”  
by Thomas Nast

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