



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2012



April Services



April 1

Courage – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

The Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich writes, "The inner experience of courage, the courage to be, leads to an outward expression of courage, the courage to do." This sermon, inspired by a General Assembly workshop led by Rev. Guengerich, will explore how courage relates to our Unitarian Universalist faith.

April 8

Easter, the Quintessential Season of Joy and Sorrow – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

At this family-friendly service, we will explore the connection between loss and hope, joy and sorrow through the lens of the Easter narrative.

All are invited to Coffee and Conversation with Rev. Betty in the Sanctuary after the service.

April 15

Words From the Wild – Christine Phoenix-Green

Nature has wisdom to share with us, constantly sending us messages to ponder for right relationship, balance, and healing. We can receive these messages not only through our senses, but also through our open hearts and fertile imaginations.

April 22

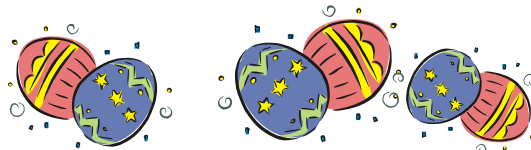
Celebration Sunday – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

This service will celebrate "Reaching In and Reaching Out" as an expression of our Unitarian Universalist faith. We are all stewards of the faith, reaching in to support UUCSC and reaching out to the larger community as a liberal religious presence. Come, let us celebrate together.

April 29

The Annual Youth Service – The UUCSC Senior Youth Group

Join us for a Magical Mystery Service as we explore the mysteries of the natural world, connectivity and the Great Unknown.



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



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

PUBLISHED ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR

KAREN R. ELLSWORTH, EDITOR ♦ VAL FOLLETT & GERRE ALDERWICK, PUBLISHERS

DEADLINE: THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

www.uusouthcountyri.org

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

(401) 783-4170 • uucscri@yahoo.com • <http://www.uusouthcountyri.org> • David Crockett, Webmaster

Rev. Betty Kornitzer, Minister

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.*

Staff Members

Debby Hedison, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Administrator

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Helene Gersuny, Worship Committee Chair

Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer

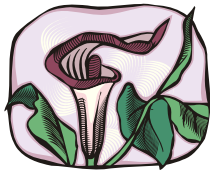
Regular Office Hours – Wednesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays: 9 a.m. to Noon,
and other times, *all by appointment*. Days off are Monday, Tuesday & Friday afternoon.

Office Telephone (non-urgent calls) – 284-3321 Cell Phone (urgent calls) – 932-1515.

E-mail (very effective) – bkornitzer@aol.com

Please be sure to call before dropping by the church during office hours. Sometimes Betty is
called away on business away from her office, even during “office hours.”

*As part of her new part-time schedule, Rev. Betty will be in Florida with family from Friday, April 27
through Tuesday, May 1. In case of emergency, you can reach her on her cell phone. Pastoral concerns
may be directed to Judi Marcy, chair of the Caring Connection.*



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Who We Are and Why We Are Here

Generally we UUs are very expert at defining who we are not, but we are not as skillful at defining who we are. We are diverse, we'd all agree on that. UUs have been known to fret about not having a core theology around which to gather. I believe the fact that we do not have actual dogma at the center of our faith is not a problem but our greatest strength.

I hope people find at UUCSC— the first time they come or in their twentieth year here— that there is a home and place for each of us in all our diversity, eccentricity, and uniqueness. There is a harmony to our presence and our understanding. We don't tell people what to believe but we talk to people where they are now. There are very few places we can bring our whole selves without disguise, and the UUCSC I know is such a place. We can bring our real selves here and figure out the big questions together.

Ours is a faith of free thinkers. Here, we are expected to get down in the theological soil, and to get our fingernails dirty.

As a people of faith, UUs are seekers, and our faith is more than what any label can contain. This is something to rejoice about. I believe that all responsible paths have the potential to provide wisdom and strength, courage and compassion. And that is the deeper truth of our faith.

We have a faith in the cosmos itself, and in one another, and in humanity, and in the Earth. We are faithful, but not devout. We are committed, but not doctrinaire. We believe in ourselves, one another, and all that is. That is why we, as Universalists, can embrace the whole world. For me, the goal of faith is that embrace.

John Buehrens, while he was President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, was interviewed for a local news broadcast in Salt Lake City. He was asked whether, given that we were so liberal, there is anything that we would not accept. He replied, and I'm paraphrasing, "Of course there is. We don't accept hatred; we don't accept bigotry; and we don't accept oppression, among other things."

As for believing anything you want to, note that our Fourth Principle calls for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. There are some borders to our faith. That is an essential part of a discerning faith. Such an engaged faith enables us to make a difference in the world. That is who we are and why we are here.

Blessings, Peace & Love

Betty

Taking action to change our congregational/community culture

We live in a community in which inequality, consumerism, and war strongly limit our possibilities for becoming all that we can be and for providing opportunity for many disadvantaged in our community and the third world.

As a small example of how becoming more active can influence that reality, one needs only to look at the U.U. Legislative Ministry RI Annual Meeting on March 18.

Attendance was 50 of approximately 1,050 UUs in the state— a decent, modest, “acceptable” showing. But what if there had been 100? Or 200? Possibly with the former, certainly with the latter, we could have voted for five or more of the issues and have sufficient resources to have impact. Participation at the meeting was 5% of our state membership; with 10-15 % attendance, we would gain the resources for a much stronger commitment to change in our state culture. If we could get 20% to 25% involved (one member in four or five), what kind of impact might we have on our state and nation? — *John Glasheen*

Celebrate Earth Day at the Green Task Force presentation on the Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act has been called the most effective environmental law in the world. It has protected the health of Americans for more than 40 years while



generating thirty to forty dollars in benefit for every dollar spent. Now the government and environmentalists are beginning to use the Clean Air Act to fight global

warming, and the big polluters are pushing back harder than ever! Come and learn about this

ground-breaking law, why it may be our best weapon against climate change, and what we can do about it.

Lisa Petrie will give this brief PowerPoint presentation in the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 22 at 12:30 p.m., right after the Dining for Dollars auction. The presentation will last about half an hour, and Lisa will take your questions afterward. Please bring your friends!

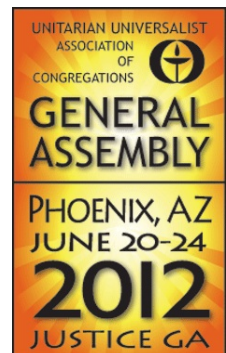
If you would like more information, please contact Lisa.

Justice General Assembly in Phoenix: June 20-24

The UUA General Assembly 2012 will be a gathering that offers multiple to engage in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations.

We will partner with communities in Arizona to bring attention to the injustices and human rights abuses they face. Our service will allow all GA participants to witness in ways that reflect our commitment to justice, equity and compassion for all. We will also do hands-on work with our community partners. Find out all about it at <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/>.

Rev. Betty and at least six other members of our congregation will go to General Assembly in Phoenix. Please join us! You can register and make housing reservations now at <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index.shtml>registration - *Betty Kornitzer*



Hosts are needed for April, May and June



Have you ever hosted a coffee hour after the Sunday service? Hosts are needed for coffee hours in April, May and June. It's fun and it's easy. Don't worry if you've never done it before. We'll team you up with an experienced host so you can learn the ropes. Please help by signing up. Contact Vikki LePree, Melissa Hughes or Garielle Torphy. It makes our work much easier when we hear from you first.

U.U. Legislative Ministry chooses 2012 legislative initiatives

About 50 members of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry Rhode Island (UULMRI), representing four congregations, voted to make tax structure change, women's issues, affordable housing, and opposition to corporate and union campaign funding the group's priority issues for the 2012 legislative session when the group met on Sunday, March 18 at Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich.

Kate Brock of Ocean State Action, Dawn Euer of R.I. Marriage Equality, and Dan Kubas-Meyer of

Riverwood Housing make presentations on issues, as did some UULMRI Board members.

During the next two months, UULMRI members will meet with their state senators and representatives to explain the UULMRI position on these and other issues.

You are encouraged to attend one or more of those meetings. Please contact John Glasheen (782-2797 or jdglasheen@cox.net) to find out when they are scheduled.

– John Glasheen

R.I. legislative leaders oppose “Citizens United” campaign funding

Following is the text of the joint resolution urging Congress to pass and send to the states a constitutional amendment permitting state and federal regulation and restriction of independent political expenditures. The resolution was sponsored in the House by Majority Leader Gordon D. Fox and Representatives Christopher R. Blazewski (D - Providence, East Providence), Cale P. Keable (D - Burrillville and Glocester), Edith H. Ajello (D - Providence), and Larry Valencia (D - Richmond), and in the Senate by Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, Senate Majority Leader Dominick J. Ruggerio, and Senators Juan M. Pichardo (D - Providence), Michael J. McCaffrey (D - Warwick), and Maryellen Goodwin (D - Providence). – John Glasheen

JOINT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PERMITTING STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATION AND RESTRICTION OF INDEPENDENT POLITICAL EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS, The growing influence of large independent political expenditures by corporations and wealthy individuals is a great and growing concern to the people of the United States and the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, In a democracy the assurance of a fair and uncorrupted election process is of the utmost importance, and the Rhode Island General Assembly believes that it is a legitimate and vital role of government to regulate independent political expenditures by corporations, unions, and wealthy individuals; and

WHEREAS, In fulfillment of this important role the government of the United States and a majority of states have regulated and restricted independent political expenditures by corporations; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the Supreme Court of the United States decided by a bare majority in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* that the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States prohibits restrictions on the use of corporate and union treasury funds for electioneering; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* was a dramatic reversal of established Supreme Court precedent, and overturned decades of statutes enacted by Congress and numerous state legislatures; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United* has served as precedent for further legal decisions harming our democratic system of government, including *SpeechNow.org v. FEC*, which allows wealthy individuals to anonymously channel unlimited political expenditures through Super PACs; and

WHEREAS, In the wake of *Citizens United* there has been an exponential increase in large independent political expenditures by corporations and wealthy individuals which threatens the integrity of the election process, corrupts our candidates, dilutes the power of individual voters and distort the public discourse; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to amend their constitution; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to pass and send to the states for ratification an amendment to the constitution to effectively overturn the holding of *Citizens United* and its progeny and to permit the governments of the United States and the several states to regulate and restrict independent political expenditures by corporations and wealthy individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from Rhode Island in the Congress of the United States.

Red Molly

with special guest Mark Erelli
Friday, April 6



Red Molly's concert last April was one of the nicest ones we've had at Lily Pads. We are very happy to welcome them back. There is something special about these three women. They create an engaging stage presence with great tunes deftly sung with sweet harmonies and fine musicianship.

Their latest disc, "Light in the Sky," is the first CD to feature their newest member, Molly Venter. If one word describes "Light in the Sky," that word is "joyous." Once again, with the "tick-tight arrangements, crystalline vocals and caramel harmonies" praised by the Boston Globe, Red Molly has created an album with gorgeous a capella ballads, blue-grass-tinged folk, and a touch of jazzy western swing, all done up in Red Molly's trademark three-part harmonies, signature dobro licks and inventive arrangements. The title sets the theme for the 14 tracks: optimism, joy, and excitement for the future.

Red Molly are supported by journeyman singer/songwriter Mark Erelli. Here's what Martin Chilton, Digital Culture Editor of Britain's Telegraph, had to say about him:

"Beyond an increasingly tedious music mainstream you can still find original, talented and imaginative work. Mark Erelli is one such artist on the American folk-country scene. He's been around for more than a decade but is still producing fine work and still stretching himself. The fine band Red Molly cover two of his songs on their new album "Light In The Sky" and say in the sleeve notes: "Mark Erelli is not a household name but really, he should be."

Join us for an evening guaranteed to please. Doors open at 7 p.m., and music begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 advance, available at Sweet Cakes, the Alternative Food Co-op and Looney Tunes II, and online at BrownPaperTickets.com. Tickets as available the day of show will be \$20.

Coming in May: Saturday, May 5th - Bruce Molsky with special guests The Honey Dewdrops
Saturday, May 19th - Roy Book Binder with special guest Joe Fletcher

For more information, please visit our website at www.musicatlilypads.org

Can you serve?

The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding and nominating members to fill important elected positions in our congregation. This is a great opportunity to contribute time and talent to the continued growth and development of our wonderful congregation.

This year, we are seeking individuals who are willing to serve as Vice President, Clerk, or on the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know is interested in serving in one of those positions, we are looking for you! If you are willing to serve in one of these positions or if you know someone else who is, or if you would just like more information, please call Paulette Chamberas or Mary Finnegan.



Assembler Needed

Do you like to put things together? Could you help our Director of Religious Education assemble her new lateral file cabinet? Please contact Debby Hedison.

UU World Discussion Group meets April 17

The discussion group that meets to talk about the latest issue of *UU World* will meet on Tuesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. The interests of the group members determine the topics of discussion. At this meeting, we will discuss the Spring 2012 issue, the special issue on "Seeking Justice and Compassion for Immigrants." If you plan to attend, please contact John Glasheen.



Religious Education News and Events

By Debby Hedison, Director of Religious Education

“...go with Wisdom, go with Wonder....”

“Start a huge, foolish project, like Noah.”

— attributed to Rumi

I wouldn't call our church endeavors foolish, but I like the sentiment in Rumi's quote. And I like the way those words are saying, “Go and start something big . . . especially if you want to end up with something big!”

We have an ark to build. No, I'm not talking about the file cabinet that needs to be built . . . hint, hint. I am talking about our Religious Education Library. As you will read below, we are sending out boxes so folks can help us catalogue all our great books. Books are making their way onto the shelves set up in the nursery. Please let me know if you would like to join me one Saturday in May to continue shelving and alphabetizing books!

Namaste!

Debby



Easter Hunt on April 8

Please help us with our annual Easter hunt! Instead of hiding eggs, we wish to hide canned goods to be donated. There will be a box for your canned donations by the entrance to the church, clearly marked “Canned goods for the Easter Hunt.” We are collecting now. Thank you!

Mystery Friend Invitation

This popular intergenerational program is making its debut here at the UUCSC. Kids in the RE classes will be matched up with adults from our congregation. The adults will send a letter or card each week to a child, and the child will answer. As we all know, building connections within our community keeps it strong and adds to our happiness. Check the community room bulletin board if you would like to know how to get involved. Call Pam Santos (789-5568) with any questions.

Adopt-A-Box

Once again I have boxed up some of our precious RE Library books to be “adopted.” If you decide to “adopt” a box of books for a few weeks, your job would be to place library cards into them, read them, and complete a brief information sheet about each book. An Adopt-A-Box contains about ten books, library cards, blank information sheets, and all the instructions you need. It's a fun and easy project that makes a huge ripple.

“Lost in Detention”

“Lost in Detention: President Obama’s Tough Immigration Enforcement” will be shown in the sanctuary on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. The film, originally broadcast on PBS as a Frontline episode, is narrated by Maria Hinojosa. According to the film, “More than one million immigrants have been deported since President Obama took office. Deportations and detentions have reached record levels.” After the film, we will discuss its meaning for Rhode Island and the U.S.

Special program on immigration issues

A six-week program on immigration issues developed by the UUA will be offered on Wednesday evenings beginning April 18.

Immigration as a Moral Issue is the UUA’s current Congregational Study/Action Issue. This program will explore the history of immigration in the U.S.; the causes of immigration; the economics of immigration; security, enforcement and human rights, who benefits from a broken system, and seeking solutions.

The program will take place on April 18 and 25, and May 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Social Action Committee meets on April 10

If you are a relatively new member or friend of the congregation (or even if you’re not), you are welcome to attend the meeting of the Social Action Committee on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m.

The committee, which meets every other month, has three subcommittees—the Green Sanctuary Team, Common Ground, and Standing on the Side of Love. The purpose of the committee meeting is to explore and develop programming for members. Committee members also

explore UU theology to understand more fully how mature spirituality means taking action on behalf of one’s beliefs and demonstrating in one’s behavior a witness to spirituality.

At this month’s meeting, we will select recipients for the “Share-the-Plate” program for the next several months, review the schedule for meetings with

our state senators and representatives to discuss the UULMRI legislative initiatives, review the activities of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, develop a proposed committee budget for 2012-2013, and schedule programming activities for the next several months that will engage the entire congregation. – *John Glasheen*



Easter Coffee with Rev. Betty

Everyone is invited to join Rev. Betty for coffee and conversation after the service on Easter Sunday, April 8. Please pick up some refreshments in the community room and join us. We will gather in a circle in the front of the sanctuary to share conversation about whatever is on your mind. This is an especially good opportunity for newcomers to UUCSC to ask questions and get to know some of our members.



From the Administrator

There are so many thoughtful and helpful things that happen any given week here at UUCSC. This week “Bish” Bishop came by and put a new doorknob on the door to the kitchen. Plus, now we have the new safe that was securely installed by our Facilities Committee Chair Ed Burrell and Tom Patterson.

Cash is not usually kept on the premises but we are now able to keep our keys and occasional cash and checks safe and secure. If you do have cash or checks for the Collector from a fundraiser or other event, please make sure to deliver it to the office when staff is available, so the items can be put securely into the safe. The folder in the office where checks could be left for the Collector has been removed.

Committee chairs are in the process of reviewing and updating their job descriptions posted on our website. The time frame for completion is the last week of April. The updated documents should be e-mailed to the office (uucscri@yahoo.com) so they can be archived. Do you have other congregational documents that might be maintained electronically for future use? If so, please let me know.

– Best, Kathy Carland

The Path to Membership

As we do twice a year, Rev. Betty and the Membership Committee will offer classes for those who would like to learn more about our faith, especially those who are considering joining the congregation. The classes will be held after Sunday service, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on three Sunday mornings.



Please let us know if you will need child care.

April 1 – The History of Unitarian Universalism – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

April 22 – The Theology of Unitarian Universalism – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

April 29 – The Workings of Our Congregation – the Membership Committee

If you are already a Unitarian Universalist and planning to join the congregation, you don't need to attend the first two classes unless you want to, but the third class is very important to attend. A New Member ceremony for those who decide to join will be part of the service on Sunday, May 6th. – Val Follett and Barbara Pagh



“What Moves Us?”

Saturday, April 14th

Rev. Betty will offer an additional segment of the UUA's “What Moves Us?” class created by UU theologian Thandeka on Saturday, April 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The class explores the more spiritual aspects of our faith, offering us readings and exercises to help us experience similar moments of wonder and transcendence.

The topic of this segment is “William Schulz, Modern Unitarian Universalism in a New Key.” Rev. Schulz was the executive director of Amnesty International. He is a recognized leader in the UU commitment to international human rights.

The Art of Allowing: An Introductory Series on the Law of Attraction for Manifesting the Fullness of Life

Presented by Christine Phoenix Green
Thursday, April 26 and Thursday, May 24
from 7 to 8:15 p.m.

It is ancient knowledge that how we think is what we get in life. The magnificent “secret” is that when we change our thinking, we can call forth our dreams and desires into manifestation, and move through our challenges in a state of blessing and support to find meaning and peace in all situations.

The introductory Art of Allowing series, inspired by the teachings of “Abraham” and Esther Hicks, as well as guidance from ancient wisdom sources, will help you to unlock the powerful creative source within you to manifest a life of your dreams.

“If you think you can or you think you can't, either way, you are right.” – Henry Ford. Fate is when you just roll with the punches, but destiny is when you create your future through new and positive thinking. Come and dream your dreams with the Law of Attraction and the Art of Allowing.

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Monday, April 16 to discuss *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*, by Priscilla Warner, Ranya Idliby and Suzanne Oliver. Linda Hull has reserved copies at the Peace Dale Library. Please contact her to find out how to borrow them. All are welcome to attend. If you have questions, please call Helene Gersuny.



The Ballou-Channing District Spring Conference will look at the mission-focused church



Please join Rev. Betty at the Ballou-Channing District Spring Conference and annual meeting on Saturday, May 5 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven, Mass. The theme is "The Mission-Focused Church: Living into the Community."

The Rev. Ron Robinson, minister of A Third Place in Turley, Oklahoma, is the keynote speaker. A Third Place is a unique, mission-driven congregation in a poor Oklahoma town whose focus and purpose is on service to the community rather than just traditional worship and programs. Workshops will look at various aspects of being mission-focused, including spiritual-based social justice work, seeing our churches a more than just what is within the walls, and finding one's spiritual center as the foundation for doing church work.

Congregation resources for physical and spiritual wellness



The Agape Fund

The Agape Fund allows the minister to confidentially assist members and friends of UUCSC with basic needs such as food and shelter. The fund is made up of contributions from the congregation at our Christmas Eve service each year. Please call Rev. Betty at her study (284-3321) if you'd like to talk confidentially about receiving assistance.

and help nurture the spirit. Rev. Betty continues to offer pastoral care; the lay team supplements her work, affording a wider and deeper resource of attention to our growing community. Members of the Pastoral Care Team are Val Follett, Penny Hall, Pat O'Reilly and Lynda Wells. Call Rev. Betty (284-3321) with



your pastoral concerns. She will speak with you and make referrals to the PAT when appropriate. A brochure and further explanation are available in church and on our website.

of acute and long-term health issues. The method we use is validated by substantial clinical research done in major hospitals, including the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and Kaiser Permanente in California. Members of the Wellness Team are Sarah Bell, Paulette Chamberas, Lindsey Crowninshield, Val Follett, Lynda Wells and Rev. Betty.

The process takes about one hour. It is empowering and effective. The Caring Connection can refer people to the Wellness Team, or you can request a session yourself by contacting the Wellness Team Coordinator, Lynda Wells.

CLEAR HEART SANGHA

Sunday, April 1st
6 to 8 p.m. in the
Sanctuary



This is a meditation group in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hahn, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk. The sangha is led by dharma teacher Joanne Friday. All are welcome.

UUCSC Meditation Group
The Meditation Group meets in the sanctuary every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. We practice sitting and walking meditation and share a reading and time of discussion. All are welcome; no meditation experience is needed.

The Wellness Team

Our Wellness Team offers a technique that helps people prepare for surgery, heal faster and use less pain medication. This mind-body-spirit technique is also used successfully in lessening the side effects of chemotherapy, radiation, and the challenges

The Caring Connection

The Caring Connection, chaired by Judi Marcy, is a caring resource that offers support and provides meals, rides to church, and help to those without transportation to get to the supermarket, bank, or medical appointment. Their caring outreach and is a mainstay of congregational life at UUCSC. Please contact Judi Marcy if you would like assistance, more information, or to volunteer.



Lay Pastoral Associates

The Lay Pastoral Associates Team (PAT) assists Rev. Betty in caring for members and friends of UUCSC who are experiencing times of challenge and transition. Pastoral Associates provide a caring presence. They listen

Henry Bergh: Protector of Animals

This month marks the 146th anniversary of the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Its founder, Unitarian Henry Bergh, abandoned a life of leisure to become the most prominent proponent of animal welfare in the country.

Born in 1811 into a wealthy family, Bergh attended Columbia College, worked in his father's shipbuilding business, and traveled the world. In Europe, he saw cruelties toward animals that inspired his mission.



At that time, animals were routinely abused and neglected in America. Horses, a major source of conveyance, were starved, denied regular watering, beaten, and denied protection from extreme weather. When mules and horses were considered no longer fit for service, they were typically released into the streets to starve. Domestic animals were often without regular food or shelter and were subject to physical abuse.

Alone and in the face of indifference, opposition, and ridicule, Bergh began working as a speaker and lecturer, in the streets, in the courtrooms, and before the legislature. He received death threats, physical attacks, and public ridicule. Newspaper articles referred to him as "The Great Meddler."

Bergh used his wealth and prestige to raise public awareness of the suffering of animals and to enlist support from powerful New York businessmen, politicians, and religious leaders. Bergh's minister, Henry Whitney Bellows of the First Congregational Church of New York City (now the Unitarian Church of All Souls), helped him recruit wealthy patrons.

In April of 1866, the New York legislature chartered the ASPCA and enacted the animal protection statutes Berg had written.

As president of the ASPCA from 1866 until his death, Bergh daily intervened on behalf of mistreated animals on the streets of New York. Wearing a special badge, he arrested and prosecuted violators of the state anti-cruelty laws.

"This is a matter purely of conscience; it has no perplexing side issues. It is a moral question in all its aspects."

An early entry in the ASPCA annals reads: "New York City, April 1866: The driver of a cart laden with coal is whipping his horse. Passersby . . . stop to gawk not so much at the weak, emaciated equine, but at the tall man, elegant in top hat and spats, who is explaining to the driver that it is now against the law to beat one's animal. Thus, America first encounters 'The Great Meddler.'"

The ASPCA operated an ambulance corps that removed disabled

animals from the street, and a derrick that rescued them from excavations into which they had fallen. Bergh funded the construction of hundreds of drinking fountains for animals.

When Bergh began his work, no state in the country had a statute protecting animals from cruelty. By the time of his death, 37 of the 38 states in the United States had enacted anti-cruelty laws and the federal government had banned cruelty to animals used for interstate transportation.



When asked about the founding of the ASPCA, Bergh commented, "This is a matter purely of conscience; it has no perplexing side issues. It is a moral question in all its aspects."

When Bergh died in 1888, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow delivered Bergh's eulogy. P.T. Barnum—originally an adversary but eventually a supporter and contributor to Bergh's cause—was one of the pallbearers.

On May 6, 2006, ceremonies honoring Bergh were conducted at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Berg is entombed. A bas-relief statue in his honor was unveiled, the NYPD Emerald Society bagpipers played, and dogs were allowed to accompany their owners into the cemetery for the first time in 100 years.

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“I have an almost complete disregard of precedent, and a faith in the possibility of something better. It irritates me to be told how things have always been done. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I go for anything new that might improve the past.” – Clara Barton (1821-1912)

Raised as a Universalist in Oxford, Mass., Clara Barton was working in the Patent Office in Washington, D.C. when the Civil War started. She took supplies to young men of the Sixth Massachusetts Infantry, many of who had been her students, and later to other soldiers in the city. Eventually she decided she was most needed in the battlefield. Obtaining a quartermaster's pass and six wagons full of supplies, she arrived at Culpeper, Virginia a few days after the battle there. She unloaded the wagons at the ill-equipped field hospital and worked among the wounded, both Union and Confederate, for two days and nights without food or sleep.

Clara Barton's battlefield hospital work continued throughout the war. In 1881, she was the chief organizer of the American Red Cross. Clara Barton died 100 years ago this month.