



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2011



## February Services



### February 6

The Fourth UU Principle: “A Free and Responsible Search  
for Truth and Meaning” – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

It has been said that Unitarian Universalism is a heretical faith. What does this mean? We will explore the historical context of our “heresy” and view its relationship to our Fourth Principle.

### February 13

Standing on the Side of Love, Year Two: Is Civil Marriage  
a Civil Right? – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

Now is the time! Rhode Island is poised to make equal marriage rights a reality in our state. We will explore Unitarian Universalism’s commitment to support GLBT rights, and the theological roots of that commitment.

### February 20

Sun on Shadows – *Laura Geoghegan Kellner*

February can be the harshest month, but the growing light reminds us that the planets continue their journey around the Sun and that the season will change. We will consider that contrast between anticipation and arrival, darkness and light, not only in nature but in our lives as well.

### February 27

William Ellery Channing: Founder of the Unitarian Movement  
in America – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

William Ellery Channing, a Newport native, was one of the most influential religious leaders of 19th Century New England. We will explore the lasting impact of his thoughts.

### March 6

The Fifth UU Principle: “The Right of Conscience and the Use  
of the Democratic Process within our Congregations  
and in Society at Large” – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*



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

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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

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

### *Board of Directors*

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*Lisa McHenry & Vikki LePree*, Hospitality Committee  
Co-Chairs

### **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 and Tuesday.

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

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

### **Church Cancellation Policy**

The Congregation President and the Minister will determine if Sunday services should be cancelled due to bad weather. Cancellations will be broadcast on the Eyewitness News Pinpoint Network, TV channels 12 and 64, and radio stations WHJJ AM (920), WWBB FM (101.5), WHJY FM (94.1) and WSNE FM (93.3). A notice will be posted on the UUCSC website and a message will be sent on the congregation e-mail list.



## *A Poem for Valentine's Day*

*The Minister's Message is on sabbatical this month along with the Minister. Here instead is a love poem to mark Valentine's Day.*

somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond  
*by e. e. cummings*

somewhere i have never travelled,gladly beyond  
any experience,your eyes have their silence:  
in your most frail gesture are things which enclose me,  
or which i cannot touch because they are too near

your slightest look easily will uncloset me  
though i have closed myself as fingers,  
you open always petal by petal myself as Spring opens  
(touching skilfully,mysteriously)her first rose

or if your wish be to close me, i and  
my life will shut very beautifully ,suddenly,  
as when the heart of this flower imagines  
the snow carefully everywhere descending;

nothing which we are to perceive in this world equals  
the power of your intense fragility:whose texture  
compels me with the color of its countries,  
rendering death and forever with each breathing

(i do not know what it is about you that closes  
and opens;only something in me understands  
the voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses)  
nobody,not even the rain,has such small hands

E.E. Cummings (1894-1962), a poet and painter, was the son of Edward Cummings, a Unitarian minister of the South Congregational Church in Boston.

This poem is from *Complete Poems: 1904-1962*, edited by George J. Firmage. Copyright © 1923, 1931, 1935, 1940, 1951, 1959, 1963, 1968, 1991 by the Trustees for the E. E. Cummings Trust. Copyright © 1976, 1978, 1979 by George James Firmage.

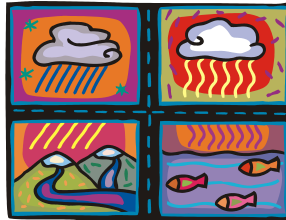
# The President's Letter

Hope everyone is keeping warm. So far so good; we haven't had to cancel Sunday services because of inclement weather.

Haven't heard from Reverend Betty—which is a good thing: she is on a well-deserved one month sabbatical and is doing what she needs to refresh herself.

At its recent meeting, the Board passed three items concerning social action submitted by a sub-committee of the UUCSC's Green Task Force. One was to join Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light. Their mission is to “fulfill our moral responsibilities to be faithful stewards of Creation. We work with local faith-based institutions to raise awareness about climate change, related spiritual teachings and practical responses. We speak with and on behalf of the religious community to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. We advocate

protecting Earth's ecosystems and safeguarding the well-being of future generations and of the poor of the world who are least responsible for, but most vulnerable to, climate change impacts.”



The other two items concerned endorsing Ethical Eating as a Study/Action Issue at the UUA's General Assembly next June and the changes made to the draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) by a subcommittee of the UUCSC's Green Task Force. Study/Action Issues are part of UUA's social witness program. According to the UUA's website, “The Congregational Study/Action Issue

is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and confront it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it, take action—each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement—it is a question.” More information to follow.

A group of seventeen of us met on a recent Saturday morning for the annual Books & Bagels. At this event, we were able to enjoy coffee and tea along with bagels and cream cheese, muffins, and fruit, while sharing our thoughts on up to 3 books read in 2010. The choices were eclectic and covered both fiction and non-fiction. Thanks to Kathy Swink for being the facilitator or “cat herder.” This event was sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee and is another example of how this vibrant congregation provides food for the soul, the mind, the ears, and the heart. — Charlie Donnelly

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## ‘Dinner with Monsanto’

The UU World Discussion Group met to review the Winter edition on January 11 in the library at Lily Pads. It was an interesting and provocative meeting. After a quick review of the magazine's structure and main elements, the group focused on a few articles. The lead article was on “Heroes and Mentors” but we had very little interest. Much of the time was focused on articles on immigration, referencing that the number of local congregations working with immigrants has increased from 20 to 300 during the past four years.



The bulk of the discussion was on “Dinner with

Monsanto.” The First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia has started working on its response to the UUA Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating and Environmental Justice. Its minister gave a sermon called “Sovereign Seeds: an Open Letter to the CEO of Monsanto.” The outcome was an invitation from Monsanto to visit their headquarters and engage in discussion. Our conversation was as stimulating as was their experience. All are invited to read the article on the following link: <http://nate-walker.podbean.com/2009/11/09/minister-asks-monsanto-ceo-seven-moral-questions/>.

The next UU World discussion will be on Tuesday, March 8th. — John Glasheen

*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 chemo-therapy, radiation, and the challenges of acute and long-term health issues. Many congregants have used this program with success. Current Members of the Wellness Team are Sarah Bell, Paulette Chamberas, Lindsey Crowninshield, Iris Donnelly, Val Follett, Julie Hopkins-DeSantis, Mary Morrissey, Lynda Wells and Rev. Betty Kornitzer.*



## The Music Corner

by Mike Galib, Music Director

Time sure flies when you're having fun.

My first service ever at UUCSC was late in January 2010, and since then time has advanced by a dozen or so pages. The pictures in my calendar still look the same around this time of year— snow-covered Vermont mountains and adventurous winter wanderers traversing white fields— but I feel time has been altered by my experiences here these past twelve months.

Before interviewing with UUCSC, I had never stepped foot in a Unitarian Universalist church. I didn't much know what went on in them, having only known the Catholic and Anglican traditions from earlier in my life. The word "peace" in a myriad of languages hanging on the back sanctuary wall was a good first sign.

Then there was the powerful and palpable energy during the first service. Just the fact that the church was jam-packed with people, and that everyone was actually enjoying their presence there was a sharp change from my past church experiences.

Then came calls for and the carrying out of social

justice activities. Congregants genuinely cared about others and were willing to step out of line to show solidarity with minority groups that had been pushed to the sidelines.

Then there were the interactions with members and my two co-workers: warm, welcoming, wonderful.

Then there would be the things that you hear during the service, the lines that kept you coming back. Reverend Betty presented me with a journal at the Christmas Eve service, and I put it to great use a couple days later, jotting down a great quote from her sermon: "Beauty is not a thing out there, it is a way of seeing things."

And then there was the choir: the choir that sings so beautifully, and somehow balances their desire to create music with the tolerance needed to put up with my pedantic breath markings and cutoffs. For you, the members of the choir, I have two words: Rehearsal's Thursday.

Oh, and I have another couple: Thank you.

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## D4\$ has been a huge success!

As a fundraiser for UUCSC, our Dining for Dollars silent auctions have been a huge success! we'll do it again in October.

We received bids of \$13,010 for our first two series and the feedback from hosts and guests has been wonderful.

Speaking as one who attended as a guest, I can attest to the wonderful time, friendship, great meal and fun that was had. As a host, I can share that the fun in having guests at our table was worth every bit of the effort.

For those of you who did not get a chance to either attend or host an event, take note that our next D4\$ auction will happen in April for events taking place in Spring, Summer and early Fall and then



And, from now on, we're going to offer a special incentive for folks to participate. On each day of the bidding, we will sell raffle tickets for a nominal amount that will entitle the raffle winner to claim two spots at the event of his or her choice!

Many of you have spoken to me about your willingness to host an

event for this next auction cycle, so please know that the call for events is now open!

Although I will be in Mexico for six weeks, because of the magic of the internet, I will be able to put together all the events long-distance.

I am grateful to all those whose efforts have made this such a successful way to not only raise funds but build community as well. To the hosts, thanks for your amazing offerings, your generosity, creativity and hospitality and to all of the guest who purchased places at these tables, thanks for trusting the process and for making the events so much fun for so many folks.

— Nancy Rose

*Wednesday, February 9th is our day to provide the evening meal at Welcome House. We prepare a salad, main dish, and dessert to feed twenty people. Can you help? Please contact Gerre Alderwick.*



## MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

Two items of interest this month . . . one is a joy and one is a concern.

First, the joy. We have entered into a loan modification agreement with our mortgage bank, BankNewport. Our interest rate has been cut from 6.69% to 5.75%. At year 2016 there will be a market rate adjustment. (The former terms adjusted at year 2018.) As much as we would like a fixed interest rate, commercial mortgages are all adjustable. The cost to us was a \$500 fee. Our plan is to continue monthly payments as if the rate had not been adjusted. This will lower our principle when the adjustment comes due in 2016. Particular thanks to our Board members for weighing in with thoughtful questions and support. It certainly was a team effort.

Second, the concern. We have yet to find a tenant for our rental space. We budgeted \$10,000 rental income and will certainly fall \$6,000 short because of the vacancy. The offices are cozy, bright places that overlook the pond. If any of you know of someone looking for space, we will negotiate in order to bring it to full usage. It would be perfect for a "back office operation." You can contact Myron Waldman, who is our liaison with our broker, or contact anyone on the Finance Committee. Let us all set the intention for wonderful tenant and set to work spreading the word!

Respectfully submitted,  
Aline Couture,  
Finance Committee Chair

### The Agape Fund

The Agape Fund allows the minister to confidentially assist members and friends of UUCSC with basic sustenance needs such as food and shelter. The fund has been collected from the congregation's generous contributions at the Christmas Eve service. It is available to those who could use a little help from their friends to meet their basic needs. Please call Betty at her study (284-3321) if you'd like to talk about receiving confidential assistance from the Agape Fund.

### Coping with Fear

**Using Harold S. Kushner's Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World as a point of reference and source of information, the Adult RE Committee will offer a bi-weekly five-session group meeting on April 5 and 19 and May 3, 20, and 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Each session will cover one or two fears that the group chooses to discuss. Purchasing the book is suggested but optional. Copies will be available at \$8.**

## 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. Rev. Betty will continue offering pastoral care; the lay team will supplement her work, thus affording a wider and deeper resource of attention to our growing community.

Pastoral Associates provide a caring presence. They listen and help nurture the spirit. Members of the Pastoral Care Team are Cindy Berry, 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.

The PAT is distinct from the Caring Connection, chaired by Judi Marcy. The Caring Connection will continue to be a caring resource, offering support and providing meals and rides to church, and helping those without transportation to get to the supermarket, bank, or medical appointment. Their caring outreach and is a mainstay of congregational life at UUCSC.

A PAT brochure and further explanation is available at church and on the UUCSC website.  
— Rev. Betty

### Our Prayer Circle

*Our prayer circle will take place on February 3rd and the first Thursday of every month from 6 to 6:40 p.m. in the Library. Many of us hold in our hearts a person, pet or a situation for which we have deep concern. This prayer circle will offer a safe and sacred space in which to join in healing prayer. We will share times of meditation, music, spoken (and unspoken) prayer, silence, and readings. All are welcome.* — Rev. Betty Kornitzer

### Many Guests!

This year was our finest effort yet for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. We DOUBLED our participation! Last year we collected 23 Guest at Your Table boxes, and this year we collected 46 boxes. Thus far we have a total of \$1,587. There may be one or two more boxes out there so with a little luck, we might just double our last year's contribution of \$905. Thank you, everyone.  
— Gerre Alderwick



# Sophia Lyon Fahs: Religious Education Pioneer

The life of Sophia Lyon Fahs was a remarkable journey from the heart of evangelical Christian orthodoxy to a leadership role in a revitalized religious liberalism.

Born in China on August 2, 1876 to Presbyterian missionaries, Sophia Lyon graduated from Wooster College in Ohio, dedicated to a career in the Student Volunteer Movement, whose goal was the “evangelization of the world in this generation.”

In 1901, she took a part-time job as a secretary at the University of Chicago, planning to take courses to prepare for the mission field. The progressive atmosphere lead Sophia to rethink the theology that underlay the Christian fundamentalism of which she had been so sure.

In June 1902, she married fellow student C. Harvey Fahs. They moved to New York City where Harvey accepted a position with the national board of missions of the Methodist Church. Sophia continued her studies at Columbia University's Teachers College and had five children.

Sophia was deeply impressed by her studies with those at the forefront of the progressive education movement. But how translate what she was learning and observing into her chosen field of religious education? One of her teachers emphasized the primacy of experience in the education of children, and the importance of vivid, accurate detail in materials written for them. Sophia's Master's thesis, “Missionary Biography as Supplementary to Biblical Material,” marked her first step away from a Bible-centered religious education. As she hammered out her increasingly liberal theology and its implications for religious education, she found herself drawing more on the natural sciences, on the religion of primitive people, and on other world reli-

gions. Primitive people developed their religious ideas as they reacted to the natural world around them. What if today's children were allowed to express freely their reactions to the same primary phenomena— birth and death, sun and moon and stars, dreams, shadows, wind and rain? She suggested that children not be introduced to other peoples' idea of God until they had an opportunity to begin to develop their own.



Thwarted by the unreadiness of most ministers to embrace her ideas, in 1923 she enrolled as a divinity student at Union Theological Seminary, but her innovative ideas and practices soon brought her into direct conflict with seminary authorities. In 1930, Riverside Church was built across the street from the seminary to provide a pulpit for Harry Emerson Fosdick, the champion of Modernism. She was invited to try out some of her ideas at the Sunday School there. The courses she developed would become the core of the curriculum she would develop for the Unitarian denomination between 1937 and 1965.

Unitarian churches had long been wrestling with many of the problems that perplexed Sophia Fahs. Most Unitarians continued the Sunday School practices of the mainline Protestant churches. Sophia met with committees in the early 1930s that were developing new Unitarian religious education materials. After the Unitarian Department of Religious Education hired her in 1937, titles in yet another curriculum be-

gan to appear. Not only was she the editor of these materials, she was in the majority of cases the author or co-author as well. They reflected her dream that as children become aware that people of all times and places had the same wonderings about elemental things they should be exposed to these wonderings. To help the children of Unitarian families understand something of the churches their friends might attend, *The Church Across the Street* was made available.

Many old line Unitarian churches ignored the new curriculum. But after World War II, many young parents embraced the new materials. Membership in the Unitarian churches, which had been shrinking for years, began to grow by leaps and bounds and new congregations sprang up all around the country. In February 1959, at the age of 82, Sophia Fahs accepted the invitation of one of these new churches, the Montgomery County Unitarian Church of Bethesda, Maryland, to be ordained into the Unitarian ministry. It was a booming church with the largest church school in the country.

Sophia Fahs used the occasion to press for more reforms. She was by no means satisfied with what she had so far accomplished. In her ordination sermon, she shared her dreams with the congregation— church schools with at least three hour sessions: time for dance, for art, for dramatics, and for meaningful spiritual growth, and ministers who had been educated not only in liberal theology, but also trained as progressive educators.

Sophia Lyon Fahs completed her remarkable life journey on April 14, 1978, at the age of 101.

*Adapted from a profile at “Notable Unitarian Americans” (<http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/unitarians/fahs.html>)*



## **‘Standing on the Side of Love’ March and Rally on Feb. 13**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 13th. Our second annual march and rally from Lily Pads to Dale Carlia Corner on behalf of the pending state marriage equality legislation will take place after the service. Hundreds of other UU congregations across the country will rallying that week to mark National *Standing on the Side of Love* Day on February 14. We are considering making the rally an interfaith effort; your assistance is required to get this to happen. Between now and February 13th, we will be working on the details of how to get our local legislators to sign on to the legislation and vote on it early in the session. Governor Chafee has indicated he intends to sign the bills into law. It is especially important to communicate our deep interest to new Rep. Spencer E. Dickinson, who has not taken a position on the House bill. Our emphasis must be on the spiritual expectation that marriage equality is a moral and civil right. All members of the congregation as asked to talk with their senator and representative about this issue and to march and rally on February 13th. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

– John Glasheen

***The Senate marriage equality bill is reproduced on pages 9 through 11.***

Not sure who your Senator and Representative are? You can find out at the Secretary of State’s on-line Voter Information Center at <https://sos.ri.gov/vic/>.

### **Sabbatical thoughts?**

The Board and Committee on Ministry Want Your Feedback  
You are invited to share your thoughts with the Board and the Committee on Ministry about our Congregation’s experience during Rev. Betty’s month of sabbatical in January. What did we learn about our strengths and weaknesses? What worked well and what would need improvement during Rev. Betty’s four-month sabbatical next year? Please join this discussion on Sunday, February 6 at 11:30 a.m. after the service. We will meet in one of the RE classrooms. Your input is critical.

### **The Lunch Bunch**

The Lunch Bunch will now be meeting once a month, on the fourth Monday, at noon. The selection for February 28th is *Compass Rose* by John Casey, a sequel to his novel *Spartina*. *Compass Rose* is available at local libraries. Bring lunch and feel welcome to digress and talk about the Matunuck described in the novel, as well as the one you know. All are welcome. For further information call Helene Gersuny.

### ***Our Statement of Conscience on ethical eating***

*At the January Board meeting, the Board acted positively on a request to the UUA, developed by a subcommittee of our Green Task force, to include a Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating and Environmental Justice for 2011-12. If 25% of all UUA congregations do the same, the SOC will be debated and acted upon at next year’s General Assembly.*

*The Board also passed a revision of the existing SOC developed by that same subcommittee, seeking to provide more detailed analysis of industrial corporations that are increasingly dominating our food choices and have increasingly negative impact on our environment.*

*We hope that all of the congregation will visit our website to read the Statement of Conscience as submitted. The Green Task Force will shortly begin a series of learning programs on ethical eating and environmental justice to inform and engage the congregation more fully in these ideas. We are not just interested in these ideas, but seek to initiate action on our own behavioral choices on eating and environmental use.*

– John Glasheen

### **Sociable Singing on Sundays!**



UUCSC Sociable Singers gather in the sanctuary after coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month to sing and play folk songs and popular music of all types, strictly for the fun of it. You are invited to bring your musical instruments and song suggestions and join in the fun. We follow a loose format, taking turns suggesting songs. If you have a song to share, please bring several copies of the lyrics to pass around. These sessions generally go from noon until 1 p.m. The next scheduled session is on February 6. – Harry Buffum

**Clear Heart Sangha** takes place on Sunday, March 6th from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. 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.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY

Introduced By: Senators Perry, Sosnowski, Miller, Pichardo, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: January 11, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 15-1-1, 15-1-2, 15-1-3 and 15-1-4 of the General Laws in Chapter  
2 15-1 entitled "Persons Eligible to Marry" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **15-1-1. Men forbidden to marry kindred. -- Equal access to marriage. --** ~~No man~~  
4 ~~shall marry his mother, grandmother, daughter, son's daughter, daughter's daughter, stepmother,~~  
5 ~~grandfather's wife, son's wife, son's son's wife, daughter's son's wife, wife's mother, wife's~~  
6 ~~grandmother, wife's daughter, wife's son's daughter, wife's daughter's daughter, sister, brother's~~  
7 ~~daughter, sister's daughter, father's sister, or mother's sister.~~ Any person who otherwise meets the  
8 eligibility requirements of chapters 15-1 and 15-2 may marry any other eligible person regardless  
9 of gender.

10          **15-1-2. Women forbidden to marry kindred. -- Marrying kindred forbidden. --** ~~No~~  
11 ~~woman shall marry her father, grandfather, son, son's son, daughter's son, stepfather,~~  
12 ~~grandmother's husband, daughter's husband, son's daughter's husband, daughter's daughter's~~  
13 ~~husband, husband's father, husband's grandfather, husband's son, husband's son's son, husband's~~  
14 ~~daughter's son, brother, brother's son, sister's son, father's brother, or mother's brother.~~ No person  
15 shall marry his or her parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, stepparent, grandparent's spouse,  
16 child's spouse, grandchild's spouse, spouse's parent, spouse's grandparent, spouse's child, spouse's  
17 grandchild, sibling, sibling's child or parent's sibling.

18          **15-1-3. Incestuous marriages void. --** If any ~~man or woman~~ person intermarries within  
19 the degrees stated in ~~section 15-1-1 or~~ section 15-1-2, the marriage shall be null and void.

1           **15-1-4. Marriages of kindred allowed by Jewish religion.** -- The provisions of sections  
2   ~~15-1-1 — 15-1-3~~ 15-1-2 and 15-1-3 shall not extend to, or in any way affect, any marriage which  
3   shall be solemnized among the Jewish people, within the degrees of affinity or consanguinity  
4   allowed by their religion.

5           SECTION 2. Section 15-2-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 15-2 entitled "Marriage  
6   Licenses" is hereby amended to read as follows:

7           **15-2-1. License required — Proof of divorce.** -- **Civil marriage – License required –**  
8   **Proof of Divorce.** -- (a) Civil marriage is a legal institution recognized by the state in order to  
9   promote stable relationships and to protect individuals who are in those relationships. The  
10   institution of marriage also provides important protections for those who are married and their  
11   families, including not only any children or other dependents they may have, but also members of  
12   their extended families.

13           ~~(a)~~ (b) Persons intending to be joined together in civil marriage in this state must first  
14   obtain a license from the clerk of the town or city in which;

15           (1) ~~The female~~ Either party to the proposed marriage resides; or in the city or town in  
16   which

17           ~~(2) The male party resides, if the female party is a nonresident of this state; or in the city~~  
18   ~~or town in which~~

19           ~~(a)~~ (2) The proposed marriage is to be performed, if both parties are nonresidents of this  
20   state.

21           ~~(b)~~ (c) Before any license shall be issued to any person who, having been previously  
22   married, has been divorced, the person shall present to the town or city clerk an authenticated  
23   copy of the decree granting the divorce.

24           SECTION 3. Chapter 15-3 of the General Laws entitled "Solemnization of Marriages" is  
25   hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

26           **15-3-5.1. Protection of freedom of religion in marriage.** – (a) Consistent with the  
27   guarantees of freedom of religion set forth by both the First Amendment to the United States  
28   Constitution and Article I, Section 3 of the Rhode Island Constitution, each religious institution  
29   has exclusive control over its own religious doctrine, policy, and teachings regarding who may  
30   marry within their faith, and on what terms. No court or other state or local governmental body,  
31   entity, agency or commission shall compel, prevent, or interfere in any way with any religious  
32   institution's decisions about marriage eligibility within that particular faith's tradition.

33           (b) Consistent with the guarantees of freedom of religion set forth by both the First  
34   Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 3 of the Rhode Island

- 1 [Constitution, ordained clergy, ministers or elders as described and authorized in sections 15-3-5](#)
- 2 [and 15-3-6 of the general laws to officiate at a civil marriage shall not be obligated or otherwise](#)
- 3 [required by law to officiate at any particular civil marriage or religious rite of marriage.](#)

4 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC00117  
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## An idea whose time has come!

UUCSC is now a member of the Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light (RI-IPL). RI-IPL is a non-profit organization providing a broad-based, spiritual response to our common interest in taking significant steps to combat climate change. RI-IPL is an independent state affiliation of the national organization Interfaith Power and Light that represent congregations from all major faiths. There is no fee to join RI-IPL.



Some of the benefits of membership in RI-IPL are discounted CFL light bulbs and other energy-efficiency products through ShopIPL.org; a free membership in the EnergyStar Congregations Network; assistance with an energy audit and follow-up educational workshops. Cool Congregation/Carbon Diet Workshops train congregations members and faith leaders in the nuts and bolts for reducing the collective carbon footprint. Sign up for the Interfaith Power & Light monthly e-newsletter and learn about federal and state policy advocacy, citizen lobbying, and major issues that create barriers to combat climate change.

More information can be found on the RI-IPL website at <http://www.riipl.org/>.

Come to our next Green Task Force meeting to learn about the many ways you can become involved in furthering the green mission.

— Tom Mack, for the Green Task Force

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### Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Library. One of the items on the agenda is development of a policy to recommend to the Board of Directors for implementing the monthly Share-the-Plate program.

The Social Justice Council is the overarching body that coordinates the activities of the Green Task Force, Common Ground, and Standing on the Side of Love to help us to be more fully consistent to our spiritual values as outlined in our Seven Principles. This meeting is open to everyone. We encourage newer members of the congregation to attend and participate. For questions, call or e-mail John Glasheen.

### Thanks, fans!

If you've already become a fan of "UU South County" and "Music at Lily Pads" on Facebook, thanks! We need a few more Fans before we can request our own Facebook websites. If you would like to help, go on Facebook, search for "UU South County" and "Music at Lily Pads," and click to become a fan of each page. — Myron Waldman

### *Spiritual Deepening: A Continuing Series for Unfolding a Soulful Life . . .*

is facilitated by Christine Phoenix-Green and Rev. Betty Kornitzer and meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This year we will explore the following forms of spiritual practice: Feb. 16 – Holy Listening; March 16 – Lectio Divina; April 20 – Creating Altars; May 18 – Self Reflection.



*Our 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.*

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CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY  
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**“Character consists of what you do  
on the third and fourth tries.”**

*– James A Michener (1907–1997),  
American writer and Unitarian*

James A. Michener was an American author of more than forty books, most of them sweeping sagas covering the lives of many generations in particular geographic locales. Michener was known for the meticulous research behind his work. His major books include *Tales of the South Pacific*, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1948.

Michener was born 104 years ago this month.