



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2012



February Services



February 5

A Spiritual Journey Through Mary Oliver's Poem
"The Journey" – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

February 12

Walking the Walk: A Spiritual Practice

– Pam Santos, Val Follett (reading for Penny Hall) & John Glasheen

This Journey Toward Wholeness service features three members of Common Ground, our congregation's social justice group that concentrates its efforts on ending discrimination. They will relate their personal efforts to "walk the walk" and to practice our Covenant, "Service is Our Prayer."

February 19

A Unitarian Theology of Emotional Struggle – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

We will explore the life and ministry of William Ellery Channing (1780-1842)

All are invited to join Rev. Betty for coffee in the Sanctuary after the service.

February 26

Healing into Life and Death – Jerry Tisser

How can we come to terms with recent or imminent death?

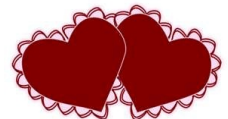
Our speaker discusses death, a topic that is one of our greatest taboos.

Jerry Tisser is a member of our parent church, Westminster Unitarian in East Greenwich

March 4

Accepting the End: Death as Part of Life – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

This service is the second in a three-part series on death and dying. We'll focus on Mitch Albom's inspirational book *Tuesdays with Morrie*, a story of living into dying.



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



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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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.***

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Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Administrator

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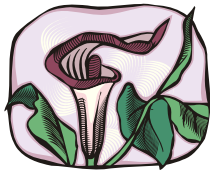
Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer

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.”



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

The Flaming Chalice

When I lead Sunday worship, I light our chalice and say these words:

I light this chalice. It is the symbol of our chosen faith. Each week we gather around its flame to be reminded of who we are, as individuals and as Unitarian Universalists, and why we are here.

The flaming chalice is the recognized symbol of our denomination. Here's a bit of history (taken from uua.org) about how that came to be.

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the image.

Deutsch designed the chalice as an official symbol for the Unitarian Service Committee's documents. It was intended to make the documents appear official and authoritative. These papers were used to assist those trying to escape Nazi persecution.

It is my hope that many of you will use the chalice as an opportunity to explore your faith. What does the flame stand for? When I read our principles, I see many words that remind me of the chalice and its noble heritage. These words are worth pondering in that regard: worth, dignity, justice, equity, compassion, democratic, acceptance, truth, meaning, peace, liberty, interdependent web.

As Unitarian Universalists we are not told what to believe, nor are we told what the chalice should symbolize to each of us. I invite each of us to take a bit of time to ponder its meaning in our lives. You might even discuss it with your family or in your Small Groups. In this way, the chalice may take on a personal meaning and enrich our faith experience. I welcome hearing from any of you who have insights in your thinking about the chalice, the symbol of our chosen faith.

Blessings, Peace & Love

Betty

Coffee with Rev. Betty on February 19th

All are invited to join Rev. Betty for coffee and conversation after the worship service on Sunday, February 19. Please pick up some refreshments in the community room and join us. We will gather in a circle in the front of the sanctuary. This is an especially good opportunity for newcomers to UUCSC to get to know some of our members.

"What Moves Us?"

Rev. Betty will offer two segments of the UUA's "What Moves Us?" course, created by UU theologian Thandeka. The class explores the more spiritual aspects of our faith by examining major figures from our history whose spirituality can help to deepen our journey. The class offers readings and exercises to help us experience similar moments of wonder and transcendence.

Saturday, February 18 – 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Hosea Ballou – A Theology of Happiness

Saturday, March 3 – 10:30 a.m. to Noon
William Schulz – Unitarian Universalism in a New Key

The President's Message

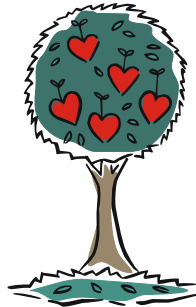
Greetings,

Although we have just started the New Year we are about half way through the church year. As President, I feel time always goes too fast because of all that needs to be done.

A combined Finance Committee and Board task force has been meeting weekly to work on putting our congregation on a sound financial footing. A consultant, Dan Hotchkiss, who helped us with our Capital Campaign, is working with us again.

As many of you know, cash was stolen recently from the church office. This happened sometime between the afternoon of Sunday, January 1st and Monday, January 2nd. The South Kingstown Police were notified and they conducted a security audit shortly after the incident. Immediately after, certain measures were taken such as locking

the doors to the sanctuary during the week. At its meeting on January 19, the Board authorized Ed Burrell of the Facilities Committee to implement the suggestions made by the police. The board will continue



to review safety and security policies and procedures. One suggestion made that will be implemented is that on Sundays during announcements, fire safety instruction will be given. Please feel free to contact me or any board member with suggestions and ideas.

We are very grateful to everyone

for their generous gifts to the Agape Fund collected during the Christmas Eve Service, Share the Plate donations, and regular collections. The Board promises to work to insure that the money goes to where it is intended.

Ed Burrell and the Facilities Committee were able to have work on the roof and the foundation completed under budget, saving us thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, work on the boiler is needed.

We have received good news from the UUA about our Green Sanctuary application. It sounds like we are on the right track but need to do certain things before final approval. Thanks to David Floyd and others on the Green Sanctuary Task Force.

Lastly, please keep in mind that in the event of bad weather, cancellations will be broadcast on television and radio.

— Charlie Donnelly

Make plans for 2012 GA!

The 2012 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Phoenix, June 20 through 24, will be a unique and historic event. For the first time, a General Assembly will have one focus— justice and human rights. With the



workshops, presentations and public witness events, this GA has the potential to move us to a higher level of involvement in our communities and the world, not just this year, but into the future.

The Ballou Channing District 2012 Justice GA Task Force encourages all UUs in the BCD to start making plans to attend. Follow the GA web pages at www.uua.org/ga, and keep your eyes open for additional information from the Task Force that will be coming in the next several weeks. You can subscribe to the new BCD bi-weekly electronic Justice GA Bulletin for updates about GA and information about immigration justice by contacting the BCD office at BCDOffice@verizon.net.

When the weather is frightful . . . The safety of our congregants is our first priority. Please stay at home on Sunday mornings if travel is unsafe for you. UUCSC President Charlie Donnelly and Rev. Betty will determine if Sunday services should be cancelled due to bad weather. The decision will be made by early Sunday morning. Cancellation will be publicized in three ways: a message on the church e-mail list, a notice on the UUCSC website, and messages on TV channels 12 and 64 and on radio stations WHJJ (920 AM), WWBB (101FM), WHJY (94.1 FM) and WSNE (93.3FM).



If the service is cancelled, enjoy a "virtual worship service." Sunday morning worship is an important part of our experience of Beloved Community, even in the midst of storms. If Sunday morning worship is cancelled due to bad weather, Betty will send out a "virtual worship service" to those on the UUCSC e-mail list. At 10 a.m. on Sunday morning, all who wish may read the service and participate, knowing we all together in spirit. If you have Joys and Concerns to share, send them to Betty at bkornitzer@aol.com by 9 a.m. Sunday morning, and they will be included in the "virtual worship service."

Please welcome our newest Member!

The Membership Committee is delighted to welcome Essjay Foulkrod to our congregation as our 150th Member. As a seventh generation Unitarian Universalist, Essjay has wealth of knowledge to share and we look forward to learning a lot from her. She has also jumped right in and joined the Membership Committee.

Essjay presently lives in North Kingstown, but hopes to move to South Kingstown in the near future. We asked her to tell us why she decided to join our congregation, and she said:

I am a seventh generation Unitarian Universalist, and now, in my 86th year, I am looking forward to finding a safe and supportive place here, among like-minded, or more importantly, like-spirited people. I have been very active over the years in four other UU churches, but I now look forward to a more restful 'retirement' here at UUCSC.



We are honored to have you. Welcome, Essjay!

– Val Follett for the Membership Committee

Join the Green Task Force and attend Interfaith Power and Light's annual conference

The Green Task Force at UUCSC continues to work toward obtaining the official seal of approval from the UUA to become a green sanctuary. We aspire to help our congregation play an important role in taking care of our environment. Our membership in Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light (RIIPL) presents us with many opportunities as a green sanctuary. On Tuesday, February 28 from 4:30 to 9 p.m., Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light (RIIPL) will hold its 5th Annual Interfaith Conference on the Ethics of Climate Change. The Green Task Force is excited to be participating in RIIPL's conference by sponsoring an exhibit table to showcase our achievements and raise awareness about environmental issues.

The conference will feature exhibits on renewable energy,

energy efficiency, and many others; a light fare of local organic foods will be a main part of the event. After a blessing and a meal, Professor Roger S. Gottlieb will give the keynote address at 6:30. Professor Gottlieb is a philosopher and author of many books, including *Engaging Voices: Tales of Morality and Meaning in an Age of Global Warming* and *A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future*.



After the keynote address, workshops will run simultaneously on climate impacts in Rhode Island – the science and Christian faith

perspectives; a Jewish understanding of creation care in light of climate science; “Climate Science 101” and Rhode Island’s Commission on Climate Change; climate impacts on international fair trade farmers and what we can do locally; and “COOL” congregations – jumpstart your congregation’s efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

Admission is \$15, with a low-income option for people who need it. The conference will take place at the Open Table of Christ Methodist Church, 1520 Broad Street in Providence. For more information or to register online, go to <http://www.riipl.org/Events.html>. Registration and more information can also be obtained by visiting www.riipl.org.

– Tom Mack, for the
UUCSC Green Task Force



MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

Sustainability . . . a word we will be hearing often during 2012. The Green Sanctuary Task Force is ready to submit the necessary documents to the UUA so we can be known as a member of this great effort toward sustainability of our planet. What it means for us in South County will be discussed as the year goes on, I am sure.

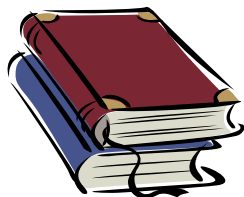
Sustainability . . . a word that the Finance Committee and the Board have studied with regard to our continued financial health. We are preparing now for 2014 when our Trust gift money will terminate and our Land & Building Fund is depleted (date depends on unanticipated building repairs). Over the summer and fall months, we came to the conclusion that a small task force should be created to strategize and work toward a financial health plan. The members are Charlie Donnelly, Nancy Rose, Will Bender, Rev. Betty and Aline Couture. Our beloved Joan Patterson was also part of this effort. We quickly decided to recommend hiring a consultant for two or three meetings. The Board approved this and we met with Dan Hotchkiss, of the Alban Institute, in early December. Our next meeting is scheduled for the end of January. Many of you will remember Dan's very helpful advice during our successful Capital Campaign.

We know that there is a powerful reason for UUCSC's existence in South County. Because of our church community, each one of us is sustained and nourished. We are committed to our goal of financial sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,
Aline Couture, Finance Chair

The Lunch Bunch meets on February 20th

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on February 20th, which is a holiday as well as the *third* Monday of the month. The book to be discussed is *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim* by Eboo Patel, a selection recommended by Common Ground, our church's anti-racism group. Copies can be found in the church library. All are welcome. Need more information? Call Helene Gersuny.



The Agape Fund

In the New Testament, "agape" refers to God's fatherly love for all humans, as well as their reciprocal love for God, a concept that necessarily extends to love for all of one's fellow humans. To early Christians, the word meant both a rite and a meal of fellowship to which the poor were invited. Some scholars believe agape referred to a fellowship meal held in imitation of gatherings attended by Jesus and his disciples.



The UUCSC's Agape Fund is a discretionary fund created in 2004 to provide confidential help to members and friends of the congregation who are having difficulty meeting the cost of basic needs such as food, shelter, and heat. The basis of the fund is the collection taken at the annual Christmas Eve service. Rev. Betty Kornitzer administers this fund. If you need a little help, please call Betty at her study (284-3321).



Guest at Your Table

We had hoped to be able to tell you the total amount collected in the Guest at Your Table boxes this past holiday season. However, the final count is still underway, as there are boxes that have not been returned. I confess I'm still dropping money into mine. The total so far is more than \$1,000, so we will exceed last year's effort. Thanks to all who participate in this most important UUA program.

– Gerre Alderwick

What is Common Ground all about?

Common Ground is a subcommittee of the Social Action Committee that works against discrimination and racism as we support the rich diversity of our world. We are a welcoming group who invite newcomers to our meetings and encourage participation in our projects.

Each year Common Ground plans and presents the Journey Toward Wholeness service. This year's service, "Walking the Walk," on February 12, will explore the spiritual call to action taken by three of our members as they seek to confront discrimination. We hope that members of our congregation feel inspired by these stories and empowered to continue their own walk against discrimination.

Community outreach continues to be one of our goals. One of our ongoing projects is the collection of lightly used household goods for refugee families in cooperation with the International Institute of Rhode Island, which helps refugees find housing and jobs and provides lan-

guage and other transitional education. Our collected goods go directly to an apartment for new refugee families. We continue to seek donations and encourage folks to call the International Institute directly to donate larger items such as couches and tables. (Please see Pam Santos or John Glasheen if you need more information about donating.) The Institute could also match our congregation with a refugee family we could sponsor, allowing us to help in a very personal and meaningful way. For this we would need an individual willing and able to organize the process.

Common Ground also continues to combat the discrimination encountered by our Muslim brothers and sisters. We want to share a trusting and comfortable relationship with our Muslim neighbors as we engage in conversation with many of them over meals. We hope to encourage our entire congregation to participate with other UU congregations in the Unitarian Universalist

"Common Read." We will read *Acts of Faith: The story of an American Muslim* by Eboo Patel, an American Muslim from India. The book describes his struggle to define himself, his race, and his faith, leading to an understanding of the ties connecting us all. Copies are available in our UUCSC library. We will sponsor and lead a discussion about the book on March 25. For more information about the UU Common Read, please visit the UUA website at www.uua.org.

Common Ground offers the opportunity for you to become involved in projects in our congregation and in the community at large. If you feel you have energy, enthusiasm, and ideas to share with us, or simply want to know more, please join us at our next monthly meeting after the service on Sunday, February 19. In the meantime enjoy our Journey to Wholeness service on February 12. If you have any questions you can always call me.

— Pam Santos

From the Administrator

Even on the coldest winter day, I feel the warmth and care this community offers. Above all, I want the church office to reflect that same spirit back to everyone who enters this special corner of our planet, especially now that recent events have caused us to adopt stricter security and lock the lobby door leading to the Sanctuary, offices and library. Now to gain access it is necessary to ring the doorbell on the green wall so staff can open the door. Exceptions to this arrangement can be adapted if needed. The Board will determine which security practices will be retained and which new ones need to be implemented.

Feedback on our e-Weekly Highlights with Constant Contact has been very positive. It is just one more tool to streamline communications. Many events can be promoted through this service. It can display documents and photos for both church-related activities and relevant community events. If you wish to promote an activity, the deadline for inclusion is Thursday noon. It is sent out to everyone on our e-mail list Fridays by 1 p.m.

— Kathy Carland



The Welcome House meal

Our congregation provides one evening meal every month for the residents of Welcome House in Peace Dale. This month, we will provide the meal on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Renee Van Couyghen has signed up to make the salad. Thank you Renee! We still need someone to provide the entree and the dessert this month. If you can help, please contact Gerre Alderwick.

Renee has also signed up to do the entree and dessert in March and April. Would anyone like to sign up to help out during those months? Thanks to everyone who contributes to this most important aspect of living our Covenant, "and service is its prayer."

— Gerre Alderwick

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“No amount of debate can make the School Prayer other than a prayer, and a Christian one at that . . . While all agree that some traditions should be honored, others must be put to rest as our national values and notions of tolerance and diversity evolve.”

*– Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux in his January 11, 2012 decision in *Ahlquist v. City of Cranston*. Judge Lagueux found that a prayer mural on the wall of the Cranston High School West auditorium violates the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause and ordered city official to remove it.*

“What an evil little thing. The poor thing . . . and it’s not her fault. She’s being trained to be like that. I think she’s being coerced by evil people.”

– Rep. Peter G. Palumbo of Cranston (D-District 16), speaking on the John DePetro Show on WPRO radio on January 12 about the plaintiff, Cranston West student Jessica Ahlquist.

“I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

– Mohandas Gandhi