



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2013



February Services

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES ARE AT 10 A.M.



February 3

Sustainable Living as a Spiritual Practice – Rich Evans & the Green Sanctuary Task Force

Living in a sustainable fashion is more than a set of rules or guidelines. Sustainable living is a spiritual value, a belief in harmonic coexistence within the interdependent web of life. In other words, sustainable living comes from within.

February 10

Eve's Side of the Story – The Rev. Amy Bowden Freedman

Finally Eve will offer her side of the story! What happened in the Garden of Eden? Are there any lessons to be learned? If she had it to live over, would she bite the apple? You will not want to miss this dramatic retelling that speaks directly to women and men today. Reverend Freedman formerly was minister at Channing Memorial Church in Newport.

February 17

Who Are We, and Where Should We Be Going? – Steve Harrison

The departure of our minister will present us with one of the biggest tasks a congregation can face—calling a new minister. It also offers us the opportunity to examine and embrace our core beliefs. We are a vibrant community with an organizational framework, compassion, and energy. Our success will depend on how well we focus and direct these gifts as we move into our next age of existence.

February 24

Mark Twain, A Modern Prophet – The Rev. Jan V. Knost

We will visit with a person whose depth can be matched by few figures in American history . . . and when it comes to literature that makes us feel humor, anger, pride and joy, few authors in American history can hold a candle to Samuel Langhorne Clemens. Reverend Knost is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister who lives in Charlestown.

March 3

Truth – Deanna Camputaro

Does truth exist? Or is it in the heart of the beholder? Accompanied by select members of her Human Creativity traveling performance troupe, Deanna will bring us a lively service that ponders these questions and relates them to our daily lives.



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



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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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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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

REV. BETTY KORNITZER IS ON SABBATICAL LEAVE THIS MONTH AND NEXT MONTH



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Movement

It has been said that Unitarian Universalism is a movement . . . ever progressing. We do not rest on our laurels or carve creeds in stone for all to follow forever. Such was the view expressed by James Luther Adams, perhaps the most influential liberal theologian of the 20th century.

Adams's work *Five Smooth Stones* outlines his Unitarian theology. The first smooth stone is that "religious liberalism depends on the principle that 'revelation' is continuous. Meaning has not been finally captured. Nothing is complete, and thus nothing is exempt from criticism." And nothing is static. Movement, evolution, progress are part of our faith.

At UUCSC, movement happens, we have good outcomes, and sometimes the process is messy. Sometimes the process has to be messy. It is the nature of growth, it is the nature of risk taking, it is the nature of evolution.

On February 1st, I began a two month sabbatical away from the congregation. This is a time of change, a time of movement. I say, Good Friends, take courage, know your own beauty and see your amazing gifts. Above all, move forward, take risks and evolve. It may be messy. Movement is awkward, but this Beloved Community has what it takes to evolve.

Evolution

by Eliza Griswold

*Was it dissatisfaction or hope
that beckoned some of the monkeys
down from the trees and onto the damp
forbidden musk of the forest floor?*

*Which one tested his thumbs
against the twig
and awkwardly dug a grub
from the soil?*

*What did the tribe above think
as it leaned on the slender branches
watching the others
frustrated, embarrassed,
but pinching grubs
with leathery fingers
into their mouths?*

*The moral is movement
is awkward. The lesson is fumble.*

Good Friends, the lesson is this: do not be afraid to risk, do not be afraid the fumble. Evolve. Revelation is not sealed; there is so much to learn.

When I return in April, it will be a gift to discover the fruits of your sometimes exquisite, sometimes awkward movement.

Blessings, Peace and Love to you,

Betty

The President's Letter

It's February, the month of my favorite day, Valentine's Day. Hearts were the first thing I learned to cut out. I remember it seemed like magic that I could take a piece of paper, fold it in half, cut, and when I unfolded the cut-out shape, there was a heart. I cut thousands of hearts— they were everywhere, made out of any kind of paper I found. I still love hearts, the color red and I love Valentine's Day.

This year, February will be a time of transition for us at UUCSC. Betty begins her two month, much deserved sabbatical and we will discover how self-reliant and competent we are as a beloved community. It will also be a time when our interim search committee begins the work of finding an interim minister to lead us into the search for our new settled minister.

The board has been very busy as we move into governance and utilize our committees and task forces to do the management of congregational business. We have finished the task of reviewing and updating job descriptions for all committees and personnel.



We are in the process of establishing our Stewardship Committee, one of the most important as these are the folks who lead our annual pledge. Our nominating committee is complete and currently finding folks who have leadership skills and

vision, willing to serve on the board. In addition to attending our monthly board meetings, individual members work on committees, task forces, and special projects like updating and re-designing our web site.

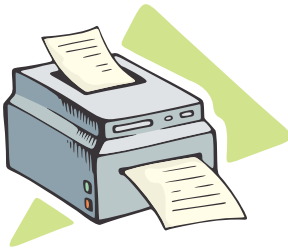
If at any time anyone has a question or concern, we ask that you contact any one of us on the board. If you grab me during coffee hour I might forget what we were talking about so it helps to give me a call or send me an e-mail, and I think this might be the case with other board members as well. So as we move forward, let us embrace the benefits that change brings, the opportunities to reflect, to acknowledge, to aspire, to grow and to celebrate where we've been and where we're going.

Blessed Be,
Nancy

News from the Administrator

Greetings to all! During Rev. Betty's sabbatical time in February and March, the office will be open two additional hours each week. Beginning on Feb. 1 and ending on March 30, office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Sabbatical Handbook and Lay Pastoral Program describe how the congregation will operate during Rev. Betty's absence. Both documents are available in hard copy or on the UUCSC website (www.uusouthcountyri.org).



The congregation is leasing a new copier, allowing us to do more in-house copying. That will mean considerable savings in printing costs. We will now be able to produce our own Order of Worship each week. The deadline remains the same for submissions to the Insert: Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Constant Contact E-Weekly Highlights remains a good weekly tool to keep the congregation apprised of current activities, as well as calendar updates. Send information by Thursday at 1 p.m. for Highlights, which is sent on Friday at 1 p.m.

The Program Council will meet again on Tuesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. Please bring a list of the members of each committee to the meeting for the office records. Many thanks !

– *Kathy Carland, Office Administrator*

THIS MONTH'S FLOWERS

February's floral arrangement by Roni Meyer and Patience Peck is entitled 'For Spiritual Love Will Reach Across All Time,' inspired by the lyrics of Jim Scott.



Senior Youth Group hosts its second successful district youth “con”

For the past several years, our church’s Senior Youth Group has been attending UU youth conferences, or “cons,” throughout the Ballou Channing District. At these highly-anticipated gatherings, youth from several different churches spend the weekend together and enjoy activities planned by the hosting youth group. Cons occur about once a month, and UUCSC had the privilege of hosting our second one on the weekend of January 4th and 5th.

By Hannah Santos
Photos by Eva Denelle



The planning for this Wild-West-themed event, called “Con on the Range,” started some months before the con actually happened. Although our youth group advisors, Sally Barney, Jeff Berry, and John Goodman, helped a great deal with the necessary preparation and coordination, one of the best things about cons is that they are mostly youth planned. The primary planners, or deans, of this specific con were Emma Bivona, Kayla Paton and Teal Migliaccio; however the entire group helped make decisions such as the meals to be cooked, rules to be formed, and of course



Kayla Paton, Allegra Migliaccio, and Emma Paton

games to be played. Several youth group meetings were devoted entirely to organizing the event, as well as some time during our Cedar Hill retreat in December, so we could ensure that when the special weekend rolled around we would be completely prepared.

On Friday evening when the first crowd of kids and advisors arrived, we were immediately certain that the weekend

was going to be as enjoyable as we expected. After about forty youth and ten advisors checked in, we started with the traditional get-to-know-you games, welcoming any new kids as well as getting to see old friends from past cons. Afterward, following our schedule, we separated into smaller assigned groups— each led by two youth from our own church— where we play a few more games. These “touch groups” allow a home base that the con attendees can return to with questions and emergencies if need be, creating a sense of safety for those in an unfamiliar place.

As the night continued, we allowed ample amounts of free time that people could spend playing Apples to Apples, strumming guitar, or simply catching up with friends. However, at twelve o’clock, everybody congregated in the sanctuary for the midnight worship. These worship services occur at every con, but the content is always individual and youth-planned. While there is no criterion for what must be included, these mini- services always focus on connecting the group as a whole, which greatly reflects what cons are truly about. As the weekend continues, it’s always a joy to participate in activities like yoga with incense, taking artsy photographs, cooking meals, and performing hysterical group



skits, but much more significant than the activity itself is the people beside you. These cons are knitting the Unitarian Universalist youth closely together, transforming strangers into friends within a single night. To host and attend these cons is a very meaningful thing to our youth group as well as the youth groups at the other participating churches. We value each night together and take pride in being part of a religion like Unitarian Universalism that is so supportive of these gatherings. We also thank our own congregation for providing such a perfect building to host such an event and sincerely hope that these cons can continue to occur throughout future years.



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry-Rhode Island meets on Sunday, February 10 to choose issues

At the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry-Rhode Island on Sunday, February 10, UU congregations from throughout the state gather in a coalition of advocacy and education to select key social justice issues. Each congregation is encouraged to send several representatives to hear presentations and select the essential issues that we address with legislators in our home districts. The meeting will take place from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich.

UUCSC has a special relationship with this initiative. John Glasheen, chair of UULM-RI and of our congregation's Social Action Committee, has developed UULM-RI as a model in community organizing that also deepens our spiritual connection to social justice and offers us a vehicle for demonstrating our commitment. We have the opportunity to support the issues we care most

about and to influence policy and advocacy with others in the state.



This year we will focus on gun control reform to express our grief and outrage over the tragedy in Newtown, Conn. and the dozens of children and adults who have lost their lives in our country. This may be the best year to realize marriage equality and remove the legal barriers to same

sex marriage. Gov. Chafee has expressed his support, and the House has passed the bill. The Senate needs to hear from us!

Other issues that will be examined at the annual meeting include immigration reform, ethics compliance by the state legislature, environmental and sustainability reform, a healthier Rhode Island, women's issues, and tax reform. Members who attend will have the opportunity to listen to presentations and ask questions to help determine their vote.

This is an opportunity for us to be better informed about state and national issues, and to become knowledgeable and more comfortable in speaking with our elected officials. It is an opportunity to live our principles and our liberal and progressive ideals.

Interested? E-mail Jean Bowen for carpool information.

— Jean Bowen

In winter weather emergencies

Winter is here! Here's the plan in case of snowstorms:

The safety of our congregants is our first priority. Please take good care of yourselves, and stay at home on Sunday mornings if travel is unsafe for you. UUCSC President Nancy Rose will decide if Sunday services should be cancelled due to bad weather. Cancellations will be publicized in three ways:

- A message will be sent out on the church e-mail list.
- A notice will be posted on the UUCSC web site.
- Announcements will be made on TV channels 12 and 64 and on radio stations WHJJ (920 AM), WWBB (101 FM), WHJY (94.1 FM), and WSNE (93.3 FM).

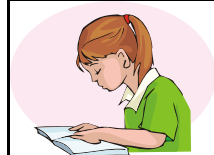


The Sabbatical Handbook

Rev. Betty will be on sabbatical during February and March. Our comprehensive Sabbatical Handbook will answer your questions about who to contact during sabbatical. All areas of congregational life have been well planned for. Worship services, pastoral care and emergency pastoral coverage are all covered in the handbook.

During sabbatical, Betty will not be reading or responding to UUCSC emails. Please remove her from all e-mail lists during that time. Nancy Rose, congregation president, and Steve Harrison, vice president, are authorized to contact Betty in emergencies at their discretion.

Handbooks are available at church on Sundays, at the office, and on our website.



Religious Education News and Events **By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education**

A lesson for us all

One of the many important lessons the children and youth experience in religious education classes concerns the third and fourth UU Principles, “Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations” and “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

During our weekly activities, the children explore a variety of faith traditions with curiosity, understanding, and respect. Recently the kindergarten through second grade classrooms celebrated Hanukkah, the third through fifth grade class recreated the story of Moses and the bulrushes, and the sixth through eighth grade class pondered “What would Jesus do?”

It was this middle school group that recently polled congregation members on their beliefs about God. The kids worked hard on this project and received plenty of feedback. Each participant was given three stickers to mark the statements that most reflected his or her own thoughts about God. Here are the results of their survey:

There are probably as many ideas about God as there are people. – 20 • God cares for us and listens to our prayers. – 4 • God and the universe are the same; God is in everything and everyone. – 20 • There’s no way we can know whether or not there is a God. – 11 • God is my conscience calling me to make the world a better place. – 6 • God created the universe and then left it to run itself. – 3 • God is present in the relationships among people. – 18 • Creation is on-going and we are co-creators with God. – 7 • There’s a spark of divinity in each of us. – 27 • We can use science and reason to understand our universe. – 16 • I find God in nature. – 36 • God is like a loving mother who sustains us and all life. – 2 • My beliefs about Jesus makes me feel closer to God. – 2

So what have the kids learned from this survey? Yes, they were able to tally the numbers for a better understanding of the diverse opinions of God. Yet, possibly the biggest lesson learned is that we as Unitarian Universalist feel comfortable in respectful dialog with others about spirituality, faith, and religion— a lesson for all of us to learn from.

– Pam

Our congregation’s Religious Education program needs our support and our help to remain strong. Right now, the Religious Education Committee is seeking new members. You don’t need to be the parent of a school-aged child to be a member of the committee. All you need is concern about our RE program and a willingness to help. Suzanne Paton is the chair of the Religious Education Committee. She would like you to call or e-mail her if you are interested in joining the committee, if you have any suggestions for the program, or if you have any questions about religious education at UUCSC.

In April, *The South County Unitarian Universalist* will arrive in your inbox instead of your mailbox



As you may know, this newsletter, *The South County Unitarian Universalist*, is posted on the UUCSC website (www.uusouthcountyri.org) each month. Many members of the congregation have said they also would like to receive their own copy of the newsletter each month by e-mail instead of by mail. This is how most Unitarian Universalist congregations distribute their newsletters— it saves trees and it saves printing and mailing costs at the same time.

In December, the Board of Directors decided that we will send the newsletter to each person on the mailing list by e-mail beginning with the April 2013 issue. However, you will still be able to receive the paper version of the newsletter by mail if you prefer.

If you would rather receive the newsletter each month the old-fashioned way, printed on paper and delivered by the mail carrier, please get in touch with Kathy Carland, the office administrator, by March 15th. You can reach Kathy at 783-4170 or at uucscri@yahoo.com.

The counting continues . . .

The counting continues! The members of our Senior Youth Group are counting the contents of the Guest At Your Table boxes that have been turned in so far. I am told that the amount could well exceed the 2011 contribution that our congregation made to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Thanks to everyone who participated this year, and special thanks go to the Senior Youth Group and their advisors Sally Barney and Jeff Berry. Once all the boxes have been counted, the grand total will be announced. — Gerre Alderwick



Can you help update the UUCSC website?

In preparation for our search for an interim minister and our search for a settled minister, the Board of Directors plans to update the UUCSC website. Long-time webmaster Dave Crockett created the website, and he will continue to serve as webmaster, but other individuals will also be able to add content to the site.

We know of several individuals who could help us convert the site to Wordpress or a similar content management template. Are there any members of the congregation with website design experience who would like to participate in this process?

If you are able to help, please contact Barbara Pagh or Will Bender as soon as possible.

Have you signed up yet?

Circle Pot Lucks are gaining in popularity. Forty-seven folks have signed up, although not all attend each one. Schedules conflict; still everyone is invited to attend when it's possible. Please call Linda or email her to join in on the fun.

The Pot Luck Lunch at the church on January 20th was well attended. Another will occur in February. Watch the Friday Highlights for the date.



— Linda Whyte Burrell

We'll be at the climate rally in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 17

"We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity. We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations." – President Barack Obama, Jan. 21, 2013

Last year was the hottest year on record in the U.S. Droughts, wildfires, floods of Biblical proportion, melting ice-caps, Superstorm Sandy— Mother Nature has been sounding the alarm on climate change. If we wish to preserve a livable planet for our children and grandchildren, the time to act is now.

And if President Obama approves the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, "the fuse to the second biggest carbon bomb in the world," climate safety may be out of reach. One of America's leading climate scientists, Dr. James Hansen, has warned that the pipeline would mean "essentially game over" for the climate. The pipeline would carry enormous quantities of highly toxic, corrosive crude oil from the Tar Sands in Alberta, Canada through the American heartland to the Gulf Coast for export. In Canada, the Tar Sands operation is leveling huge swaths of the boreal forest, poisoning indigenous communities, and creating lakes of toxic waste so large



that they can be seen from space. In the U.S., toxic spills could poison the water supply and destroy the livelihood of thousands of people.

Last year, after two protests at the White House, President Obama delayed a decision on the pipeline for further study— but then the government fast-tracked approval of the pipeline's southern leg. Now the new deadline for a decision on the critical northern section is fast approaching.

That's why 350.org, the Sierra Club, and the Hip Hop Caucus are organizing a massive rally in Washington, D.C. calling on President Obama to reject the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all and take strong action on climate change. Several members of the Green Task Force and Social Action Committee are planning to attend. We invite you to join us for this historic, peaceful and lawful demonstration on Sunday, February 17 (President's Day weekend) from noon to 4 pm. The rally begins on the National Mall and includes a march to the White House. For more information, contact Lisa Petrie.

We're Sharing the Plate with 350.org

On February 3, our Share-the-Plate donations will go to 350.org, the climate action group co-founded by Bill McKibben in 2007. Their mission is "building a global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis." The group, which has thousands of volunteer organizers in 188 countries, is named for the world's most urgent number— 350 parts per million, the maximum level of atmospheric carbon dioxide that scientists tell us is safe for our climate.

In October of 2009, 350.org organized the first-ever global day of action on climate change, with 5,200 simultaneous demonstrations in 181 countries. CNN called it "the most widespread day of political action in the planet's history." More recently, 350.org has been a leader in opposing the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, helping to organize two historic protests at the White House in 2011 and helping to organize the climate rally in Washington, D.C. on February 17.

Last year, *Rolling Stone* published a seminal article by McKibben called "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math" It explained how the world's known fossil fuel reserves contain five times as much carbon as our atmosphere can safely absorb. During his "Do the Math Tour," McKibben spoke to packed stadiums around the country (including a talk at Brown University that four of us attended) to sound the alarm and mobilize people for his campaign to pressure universities and other institutions to divest from the fossil fuels industry, just as they divested from South Africa in the 1980s.

Please give generously on February 3 to help 350.org keep fighting for our children's and grandchildren's future.

– Lisa Petrie, for the Social Action Committee

MUSIC AT LILY PADS

Saturday, February 23rd

Brittany Haas and Lauren Rioux Ari & Mia

Our acoustic music adventures continue with the latest Lily Pads double bill. These two fine string-based groups with deep roots in various musical styles complement each other perfectly.

Brittany Haas and Lauren Rioux

Two fiddlers from widely respected bands (Brittany Haas of Crooked Still, and Lauren Rioux from Darol Anger's Republic of Strings) have joined forces. As a duo, the women bring their extensive knowledge of Appalachian music and experience of being at the forefront of the contemporary string band scene, as well as the strength and depth of seasoned performers. Their music is steeped in groove, emotion-filled and harmonically progressive. The joy they share on stage as they weave and dance through duets on their instruments and vocals is palpable.



Saturday, February 23, 2013

"So here is a real roots musician in the most modern sense— Brittany Haas fiddles from a very deep and personal place, the way she feels it, the way she wants to hear it, with seemingly infinite facility, and a spirit that's simply uplifting." -- Bruce Molsky

"A major fiddling talent has emerged." -- Mark O'Connor

Ari & Mia

Ari & Mia, Boston's Americana sister act, is a soulful and spirited acoustic accompanied duo exploring the traditions of Southern Appalachia, Northeastern fiddle music, and the realm where their own compositions cross paths with older traditions. Their hearts also lie with early American swing and jazz music. Combine this with their bold approach to song and tune-writing and their interpretations of traditional music and the result will open hearts and dance floors. Ari & Mia's "intricate arrangements, soaring harmonies, infectious grooves and intuitive improvisations combine an old-time sensibility with a truly adventurous spirit," says Hankus Netsky of New England Conservatory. Their new album, "Unruly Heart," ranked high on the national folk radio charts for 2011.

"Ari and Mia Friedman ROCK! Totally funky, driving, and full of feeling. They are the creators of some of my favorite new tunes and wicked hip arrangements." – Hanneke Cassel, National Scottish Fiddle Champion.

Come on out for what is sure to be a spectacular night. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the music begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$18 advance, \$20 at the door, and are on sale at Sweet Cakes Bakery in Peace Dale, the Alternative Food Co-op and Looney Tunes II in Wakefield, and online at BrownPaperTickets.com

For more information, visit Music at Lily Pads on Facebook, or our website at www.musicatlilypads.org



Together in Love

by Steven M. Harrison

We need to cherish and treasure
this time of transition
for our congregation
ourselves
each other.

Do not rush the process.
Rather, process the change
as a time to grieve
or say farewell.
To adjust, adapt
plan the new phase.

As we listen and speak
argue and discuss
remember the positive
the goal always consensus.

Let's strive to succeed
thought sometimes we'll fail.
Together in Love
we'll learn
we'll heal.

Be generous with time
to search our collective soul.
Imagine together
what marvelous places we will go.



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“The best way to have a good idea
is to have lots of ideas. ”

– Linus Pauling

Linus Carl Pauling (1901–1994), an American chemist, biochemist, peace activist, author, and educator, was one of the most influential chemists in history and ranks among the most important scientists of the 20th century. He won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1954 and in 1963 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for his work toward nuclear disarmament.

Pauling and his wife, Ava, were members of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles. Linus Pauling was born in Portland, Oregon 112 years ago this month.