



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

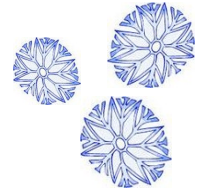
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011



January Services



January 2

Re-discovering T.S. Eliot – *Rev. Jan Knost*

He's a very famous poet, playwright and philosopher. He started out as a Unitarian. Suddenly, he changed, choosing the Anglican faith instead. Why? Is there any way we can forgive him?
Rev. Knost, a retired Universalist minister, lives in Charlestown.

January 9

Sing Your Heart Out – *Jeannie Gagné*

Singing is one of the best things we can do for healing, for catharsis, for releasing endorphins, and just the fun of it. In this musical service we will "raise a joyful noise."

Singer-songwriter Jeannie Gagné teaches at Berklee College of Music in Boston and is a UU Musician-at-Large.

January 16

Dreaming Out Loud – *Peter Bowden, UUA Consultant*

"I have a dream" is a powerful phrase! As Unitarian Universalists, we gather around shared values, but gathering does not guarantee our dreams will come true. On this Sunday Peter Bowden will offer a fun, no-nonsense guide to creating the lives, community and world we long for.

January 23

The Idea of Hell – *Rev. Jan Knost*

Many Unitarian Universalists either come out of an orthodox tradition that emphasizes punishment in some afterlife, or they have people close to them who worry about them because they've rejected orthodox teachings. This study emphasizes the fact that the concept of endless punishment after death simply is not mentioned in either the Old or New Testaments. And it goes on from there. Tempting?

January 30

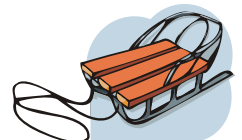
Unitarian Universalist Mysticism – *Kathy Swink*

Mysticism is the direct experience of the Divine or other Spiritual Forces; and yes, even UUs may have such experiences! Kathy will share some examples from her research as well as her own life.

February 6

The 4th 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.



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

27 North Rd., Peace Dale, R.I. 02879 • (401) 783 -4170

Rev. Betty Kornitzer, Minister

Bkornitzer@aol.com • Minister's Study 284-3321 • Urgent calls: 932-1515

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

Debby Hedison, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

Board of Directors

Charles Donnelly, President • Linda Whyte Burrell, Vice President

Will Bender, Treasurer • Ron Creamer, Clerk

Rich Evans • Joan Youngken • Ali Buffum • David Hamel – Trustees

Tracy Hart, Past President



Val Follett & Barbara Pagh, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

John Glasheen, Social Justice Action Council Coordinator • Kathy Swink, Worship Committee Chair

Pam Santos, Religious Education Committee Chair • Carolyn Hurdis, Personnel Committee Chair

Jean Burke, Linda Whyte Burrell & Lindsey Crowninshield, Committee on Ministry

Aline Couture, Finance Committee Chair • Alice Buckley, Facilities Committee Chair



Peter Himmel, Adult Religious Education Committee Chair • Susan Moreland, Music Committee Chair

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

Lisa McHenry & Vikki LePree, Hospitality Committee Co-Chairs



Myron Waldman, Publicity Coordinator



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

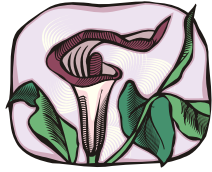
(401) 783-4170 • e-mail address: uucscri@yahoo.com

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

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



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



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Now is the Time

For this woman from Massachusetts, it's beginning to feel like déjà vu all over again. Change is in the air and I feel a great sense of anticipation. In just a few weeks, the Marriage Equality bill will again be introduced in the Rhode Island General Assembly— but this year is different. We have a Governor-elect who supports civil marriage rights, and many new (and returning) equality legislators in the General Assembly. Now is the time. Rhode Island is poised to make history by passing this critical piece of legislation.

I am reminded of that time in 2004 when I officiated at my first legal same-sex marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. My friends, I can tell you, the earth really did shift beneath my feet. Now I am filled with excitement, looking forward to performing my first legal same sex marriage in Rhode Island.

On Sunday, February 13, UUCSC will hold our second “Re-Inventing Valentine's Day/ Standing on the Side of Love” Rally. We hope to march with other local faith communities in support of Equal Marriage in Rhode Island.

As Unitarian Universalists we have a long and extensive history of support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) rights. It is important that we all become familiar with that history—we can be proud of it, and be inspired to continue to act on our UU principles, to act for equality.

Here's a bit of UU History:

1970 - General Assembly general resolution to end discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals, calling on congregations to develop sex education programs that promote healthy attitude toward all forms of sexuality.

1974 - General Assembly business resolution to fund the Office of Gay Concerns.

1984 - General Assembly business resolution affirming the practice of UUA clergy performing services of union for same-gender couples, and requesting that the Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services develop and distribute supporting materials.

1989 - General Assembly resolution to adopt the Welcoming Congregation program to combat homophobia in UU congregations and to educate individual UUs.

1993 - General Assembly Resolution of Immediate Witness supporting the acceptance of openly lesbian, gay and bisexual persons in the United States military.

2004 - UUA President the Reverend William G. Sinkford legally marries Hillary and Julie Goodridge, lead plaintiffs in *Goodridge v. Massachusetts Department of Public Health* in Eliot Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Association.

2010 - 650 UUA congregations in the United States are Welcoming Congregations.

For more than forty years, UUs have supported GLBT rights. May we wear our heritage with honor and pride and support equal marriage in Rhode Island. Now is the time, and we are the people to make heard.

Blessings, Peace and Love,

Betty

The President's Letter

Beginning on the first Sunday in January, and on the first Sunday of each month thereafter, we will be "sharing the plate." That means the money collected during the service that is not designated as a 2010-2011 pledge will be turned over to a predetermined charity. The Board at its recent meeting designated the Johnnycake Center as the charity for January and Welcome House as the charity for February. The Social Action Committee is tasked with coming up with a procedure for handling suggestions from friends and members of the UUCSC and determining which charity will be chosen. Designating the two charities for January and February will give Social Action time to come

up with the procedures.

There are several changes on the board. At its December meeting, the Board accepted the resignations of Alice Buckley as Vice President and Sally Barney as Trustee. Alice is



now head of the Facilities Committee, which has the responsibility of keeping out church home in working order. She has a construction background and was very involved when renovations were made to our Lily Pads home.

Sally resigned for personal reasons. She is a youth group advisor and a member of the Facilities Committee, in addition to doing so much more for the UUCSC. Their wisdom, input and dedication will be missed. Stepping in are Linda Whyte Burrell as Vice President and Rich Evans as Trustee. Both are past congregation presidents (need I say more) and we welcome them to the Board. Recently Iris and I attended the "almost annual" UUCSC Holiday Potluck Lunch and Seasonal Sing-Along sponsored by the Social Events Committee. It was a lot of fun and we especially enjoyed the visit by Santa Claus.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a peaceful New Year.

— Charlie Donnelly



The President's December 12, 2010 "Chalice-Side Chat"

Dear members and friends, today I want to speak with you about governance: specifically governance of our beloved congregation. As many of you know, our minister Betty Kornitzer will be going on a well-deserved one month sabbatical next month and for four months next year. When Betty was called to be our minister seven years ago she became the UUCSC's first minister to live in South County and eventually she also became our first full-time staff person. As such Betty became a "catch all" for all issues affecting our congregation. Being the one person who had the "bird's eye" view of the congregation, she was the person everyone went to. If a light was out, or a there was a death, Betty was the person to talk to. Presidents and Boards come and go but Betty is a constant. The situation is even more pronounced because we don't have an office administrator.

The amazing job of fundraising and construction in a very short time took much of our time and attention. However, we are entering into our next phase in the life of our congregation— ownership of a building and all the joys and concerns associated with it. We need to free up Betty to do what she was called to do: be the spiritual leader of our congregation. She needs to concentrate on preparing Sunday services, providing pastoral care, running workshops (when she can) and doing other spiritually directed activities.

The Board, and I as the President, need to become more visible and accessible. I plan to give more Chalice-Side Chats. Photos of each Board member and their committees will soon be put up in the community room. One of my priorities this year is to make sure that there are strong Board liaisons to each committee. A Congregational Handbook is being worked on and the initial draft should be completed very shortly.

Thank you for your time and thank you to everyone who make this amazing place run.

January is sabbatical month

I am now enjoying my seventh year as your minister, and it's sabbatical time. Under the terms of my Letter of Agreement with UUCSC, I have accrued five months of sabbatical leave. Because of the many positive changes that have been happening in the life of our beloved community, the Board and I agreed that I will divide the sabbatical between 2011 and 2012. I am taking sabbatical leave this month, and I will take four months of sabbatical leave next year.

During January I will participate in a poetry workshop, a spiritual director training, and a two-week Buddhist retreat at Deer Park Monastery in California.

Sabbatical is a unique time of empowerment and growth for congregations. I expect it will be a productive and creative time for UUCSC. The Sabbatical Planning Committee has made arrangements for the management of all areas of congregational life in my absence, including Sunday services, pastoral care, and emergency pastoral coverage, articulates coverage and plans for this leave time.

From a very deep place in my heart, I thank this community for your generosity of spirit in providing sabbatical time for me.

If you have questions about the January sabbatical, please refer to the Sabbatical Handbook. Copies are available in the church office, and a copy is posted on the UUCSC website at http://www.uusouthcountyri.org/Docpublic/UUCSC_Sabbatical_Handbook_2011.pdf.

During January, most concerns should be directed to congregation president Charlie Donnelly. If he cannot help you he will know who can.

– Rev. Betty Kornitzer

My February Schedule

It will be good to be back with our community in February. I have several plans for the month that I want to tell you about. Some will take me out of town. I will (very happily) be leading worship regularly in February, and that I look forward to.

Last spring, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association announced that it would hold its first CENTER Institute for Excellence in Ministry from February 7 through 11 at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California. The Institute is intended to provide its members a chance to study with some of the brightest minds in Unitarian Universalism and the larger liberal religious world. Areas of study will include preaching, theology, social ethics and justice, multiculturalism, adaptive leadership, growth, history and building religious community. In addition to in-depth study, we'll reflect in our worship and in panel discussions on the question, 'What is required for Unitarian Universalism to live into its promise and become a transformative religion for our people and the world?'

This is an outstanding opportunity. I am excited to participate and I believe my ministry will be enhanced. I worked an extra week last summer to earn this study time.

In addition, one year ago I planned my 2011 winter vacation in St. John for mid-February. The plan accommodated the vacation time of my friend, a school teacher.

While all this time away is legitimate vacation and study time, the timing is unfortunate. I did not do ideal planning and for that I am sorry. I want to acknowledge this, apologize and pledge to be a more careful planner in the future. Thank you.



MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

During the past few months, the Finance Committee has been addressing some of the concerns you voiced at the Cottage Meetings that were held last year. We are using the *2010 Comprehensive Evaluation of Our Shared Ministry* as our guide. We have been focusing on "what things cost" and have taken you through Facilities and Staff expenses. This month the budget expense items we are looking at are Administration and Denominational Contributions.

Administration includes the following:

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Spent as of 11/30/10</i>
Computer Software	\$100	\$0
Copying/Printing	\$6,000	\$2,134 (35.5%)
Miscellaneous	\$150	\$76 (51%)
Office Supplies	\$400	\$0
Postage	\$700	\$60 (8.5%)
Professional Fees	\$1,500	\$200 (13%)
Tel/Internet	\$3,360	\$1,064 (32%)
Web Maintenance	\$100	\$0
TOTAL	\$12,310	\$3,535 (28.7% of budget)

As you see, these numbers are from the end of November. The December figures are not available at this printing.

Denominational Contributions include the following:

District Contribution	\$2,603	\$650 (25%)
UUA Contribution	\$7,672	\$1,918 (25%)

Most of you know that we are asked each year to donate a certain amount of money per congregation member. This is approximately \$73 per member this year. The UUCSC has given 100% of the Fair Share requested each year it has been in existence. Each of the UU churches are asked to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,
Aline Couture,
Finance Committee Chair

... a note from Will Bender, Treasurer...

Because we are working with a deficit budget this year, I propose that we all consider writing one extra check to UUCSC. This extra donation would greatly enhance the possibility of our closing the year with a balanced budget. That's my challenge . . . whatever you are able to give . . . just write in the memo line, "An extra donation."

Thank you!

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 was created 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. This month, during her absence, congregation president Charlie Donnelly is in charge of it.

If you need a little help, please get in touch with Charlie.

Our Prayer Circle

Our prayer circle will take place on January 6th and the first Thursday of every month from 6 to 6:40 p.m. in the Library. In January, Joan Youngken will facilitate this group, which is usually led by Rev. Betty.

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.



Religious Education News and Events

By Debby Hedison, Director of Religious Education

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

*"And what happened then? Well, in Whoville they say
that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day."*

– from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*,
by Dr. Seuss (Theodor S. Geisel)

My yoga teacher loves to remind us how so many of our yoga poses are for opening our hearts. I love that. I intend to continue that practice even when I'm off my yoga mat. I am honored to work in such a community where I feel others opening their hearts all the time. And with an open heart I wish everyone great love and light in the New Year.

Namaste,
Debby

Religious Education Schedule for Session 3

January 2	Start downstairs for Children's Chapel (Deb leads for K through 5th grade) and then to classes
January 9	Start upstairs, then down to classes
January 16	Start upstairs, then down to classes
January 23	Start upstairs, then down to classes
January 30	Start upstairs, then down to classes
February 6	Start downstairs for Children's Chapel (Deb leads for K through 5th grade) and then to classes
February 13	Start upstairs, then down to classes
February 20	Start upstairs, then down to classes
February 27	Start upstairs, then down to classes

Junior Youth Group

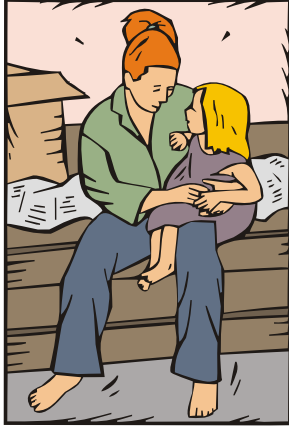
January 7	URI swim with Debby Hedison & Chris DePaola
February 4	Movie Night at the home of the Maynard-Dean Family. (We will need another helper.)
March 9	Welcome House dinner preparation with Ann Marie Denelle. (We will need two more helpers.)
April 1	Help for the animal shelter with the Bell Family
May 6	Overnight retreat with Pam Santos. (We will need at least two more helpers.)
June 3	Camping. (We need a planner and a couple of helpers.)

Would you like to join the fun and help out with Junior Youth Group activities? Please contact Debby or Pam Santos.

No room at the inn . . . but we can help

This issue was presented to the congregation at the Christmas Eve service, but it continues to demand attention.

According to a recent census on homelessness, Rhode Island is about 200 beds short of the number needed to accommodate the homeless population. It has gotten to the point that current shelters must turn people away at night. It is COLD outside and it will only get worse in the weeks ahead. And did you know that according to a recent report published by the R.I. Coalition for the Homeless, more than half of those living in shelters—53 percent—are new to homelessness? Forty percent are families and 27 percent are children.



The Roman Catholic diocese has given the Coalition use of a vacant building that can accommodate 40 beds. However, money is needed to pay for staff and other expenses. Approximately \$200,000 will be needed to open and operate five planned emergency shelters.

While emergency and short-term shelters are not the answer to the state's homeless problem, it is a needed fix for the cold winter months. We are asking the state's faith communities to help raise the needed funds to keep people out of the cold during our winter nights.

The UUCSC Social Justice Council has voted to allocate \$300 (of its available \$400) to this cause and to ask individuals in the congregation to make a personal donation. Donations can be left in the special collection box after Sunday services, or made directly to the Coalition for the Homeless's Winter Shelter Fund at <http://www.rihomeless.org/> or 1070 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860. (Write "Winter Shelter Fund" on the memo line of your check.) There is much more that needs to be done.

– John Glasheen

What if it snows on Sunday?

Winter is upon us, and so, in case of snow storms, here's the plan:

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.

Charlie Donnelly and Rev. Betty will determine 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 email list.
- A notice will be posted on the UUCSC web site (uusouthcountryri.org).
- A message will be broadcast on Eyewitness News Pinpoint Network, TV Channels 12 and 64.
- Radio Announcements will be made on AM station WHJJ (920) and FM stations WWBB (B101), WHJY (94.1) and WSNE (93.3).



Second Annual

"Books & Bagels"

Saturday, January 15, 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we share our favorite books read in 2010 while enjoying bagels and cream cheese, muffins, fruit, tea and coffee.

Please bring up to three books and tell us why you chose them. If you would like, you may also read a short selection from each book. Registration is helpful but not required. Our facilitator will be Linda Whyte Burrell.

This event is sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee. For more information, call Iris Donnelly.



Music at Lily Pads presents

(((The Repercussions)))

featuring UUCSC's own Nick Smith on lead guitar



Saturday, January 22

7 to 10 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring your friends and neighbors! Great dancing music!

Suggested donation \$7 • Coffee, cold drinks, snacks and desserts will be available.

No child care provided—parents must watch their own.

Visit the Repucussions on MySpace at: <http://www.myspace.com/therepercussionsri>

Please note: The show on Saturday, Jan. 6 featuring The Low Anthem is SOLD OUT!!!

Social Justice Council reshapes its strategic plan

The Social Justice Council met on December 8 to reshape its strategic plan. The mission was revised as follows:

The Social Action mission is to be strong voice for social justice for South County and Rhode Island and to be recognized by the community for our efforts. We strive to educate and promote community and public discourse about moral values and civic virtues, to witness and advocate for social and economic justice, to touch peoples' lives in an uplifting manner, to minister to the earth, and to move persons to choose to take action. The Social Justice Council will serve as a catalyst for individuals and families to participate in these value-driven, pro-social behaviors. We seek to follow the best practices of UU history and present UUA reality and direction. We seek to follow the dictum of St. Francis: "Preach the gospel; if necessary, use words." To increase involvement, we will publicize potential opportunities, facilitate individual and family participation, and honor noteworthy contributions to our immediate and

broader community.

The strategic plan will shortly be submitted to the Board for incorporation.

We also discussed Standing on the Side of Love, with an intention to organize for full participation locally and state-wide on same sex marriage and pro-immigration efforts, the latter in concert with Common Ground. With a new Governor who supports same-sex marriage, there is strong hope to pass legislation this year. A major effort will be organized to rally following the February 13th service. It is particularly important for straight couples to write letters in support of marriage equality to District 35 Representative-elect Spencer Dickinson (422B South Road, Wakefield 02879). All are encouraged to contact John Glasheen to participate.

The Council also reviewed, discussed and unanimously passed a resolution to the Board to modify our budget calculations and reporting. As noted in John's sermon on December 12, the congregation appears to have little interest in providing financial support to worthy causes in the community.

However, the Council noted that for 2009-2010, there was an additional \$12,320 spent by the congregation to support our Social Action efforts, a much more credible effort towards the community. We will be sending to the Board a "friendly amendment to the way we think about our annual budget" to encourage a broader reference to actual congregational expenditure.

— John Glasheen

UUWorld Discussion

Continuing the series begun earlier, there will be a *UU World* Discussion group meeting on Tuesday, January 11 at 7 p.m. in the Library.

Persons are asked to read *UUWorld* as extensively as they wish and come to discuss any of the articles of interest. It is expected that we may discuss four to seven articles in the priority decided by the group. John Glasheen will facilitate.

— John Glasheen

Respecting our Sacred Space

❖ Please be considerate.

❖ Please tidy up the space around you at the end of worship:

- Put the hymnals back on the seat after the closing hymn.
- Take the order of worship and announcement with you as you join in the closing circle or return to your seat and pick them up. There is a box for recycling by the door in the lobby.
- If you take refreshments into the sanctuary at coffee hour, please take the trash with you when you are finished.
- Take the initiative if you see something that was forgotten; sometime someone may do the same for you. We all forget sometimes.

This is our spiritual home and each of us are stewards of this space. We do not have paid staff to clean and pick up after us; we must each take that responsibility ourselves.

Thank you all for your help in keeping our sacred space clean and tidy.

– Steve Harrison for the Worship Committee

Guest At Your Table

Thanks to all who brought in their Guest at Your Table boxes on December 19th, and to Miss Debby and the youth group for their creation of our "Sweet Heart Person." Please look for our "boxman" in the Sanctuary.

Drum roll, please! The count from the 35 boxes returned on December 19th is \$863.09. A donor who wishes to remain anonymous has donated \$300 more, to bring the total to \$1,163.09, surpassing last year's total of \$905.

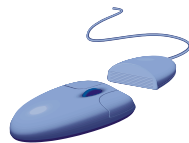
This is fabulous, but I know we can exceed that total with the boxes that have not yet been returned. The final total will be announced later this month.

Thanks, everyone—we could not do this without you.

– Gerre Alderwick

Please "fan" us!

Our congregation is launching two new pages on Facebook called "UU South County" and "Music at Lily Pads," but the names of the pages won't be ours until 25 Facebook users become fans of each one. Please go on Facebook, search for "UU South County" and "Music at Lily Pads," and click to become a fan of each page. – Myron Waldman



Sociable Singing with a Special Guest

On Sunday, January 9, all members and friends of the congregation are invited to join in a special Song Circle



and Vocal Workshop with Jeannie Gagné, a singer, songwriter, educator, and "UUA

Musician-at-Large." Jeannie will lead the morning's worship service. After the service, she will lead us in singing

some familiar and maybe some less familiar songs.

This special Sociable Singing session will run from noon to 1 p.m. at the front of the Sanctuary. All ages and singing abilities are welcome. Cash donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of this workshop.

– Harry Buffum

FIRST TUESDAY POTLUCK

First Tuesday Potluck will begin on February 1st at 6 p.m. at UUCSC. It's open to all ages, members and friends. Please bring something to share, and let's have a warm, friendly evening together. No business, just fun!

– Linda Whyte Burrell



Our 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 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.

The Lay Pastoral Associates Team

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. By supplementing Rev. Betty's pastoral care, the lay team provides a wider and deeper resource 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.

Cindy Berry will coordinate care during Rev. Betty's sabbatical.

Welcome, new members!

The UUCSC was very happy to welcome six new members during our Sunday service on December 5th. They are Susan Farrell, of North Kingstown; Laura Geoghegan Kellner, of Westerly; Tracy McGrath, of Wakefield; Mac Richardson, of Charlestown; Nancy Rose, of Kingston; and Gabrielle Torphy, of West Kingston.

We asked the new members to tell us why they are joining



Gabrielle Torphy

our congregation. Gabrielle said, "I am grateful for this welcoming community and a place that allows me to seek the truth in my own way. Many thanks!"



Mac Richardson

Nancy said, "This is the place I feel welcomed, accepted, nourished, cared for; this is where I feel peace and purpose, this is the place I feel is 'home'."

Susan said "It is very important to me to have a safe sacred space to explore and practice my spiritual life, as well as provide a place where my children can do

the same. I have found my spiritual home here at UUCSC and am grateful for the love and support I find every time I walk in the door of this beautiful sacred space."



Tracy and Indarra McGrath

Mac said, "I throw my hat into the ring of this welcoming congregation that accepts people for who they are, does not impose a belief system, and supports each of us in our life's journey." Tracy said she is becoming a member "for my daughter and I to be a part of a spiritual community."

Laura said, "I come from a tradition where Nature is our church, as is the classroom, the soup kitchen, the peaceful protest, the library and the still, quiet place of veneration within every living soul. In The Unitarian Chalice, I see the vessel of the Great Mother, in the Flame lives Breed, the bright arrow, the Goddess my heart turns to. What other church could I join to celebrate and support a beautiful community, rejoice in the ever present divine and keep my own beliefs in respectful partnership with those of others?"

Welcome all. May you find here the spiritual home you are

seeking.

If you are considering becoming a member, we hold Path to Membership classes twice a year, in the fall and spring. The topics are UU history and theology, with the third class describing the workings of our congregation. They are open to anyone who just wants to learn more about our faith, and are strongly recommended for anyone planning to become a member. If



Susan Farrell

you are already a UU, you need only attend the last one.

Our next set of classes will be held after the Sunday service on



Nancy Rose

April 3, 10 and 17, 2011, with a newcomer potluck at Rev. Betty's home on Friday, April 1—yes, April Fool's Day, no joke! We hope to see you there.

— Val Follett, for
the Membership Committee

Photos by Al Dussault

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY
27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wakefield, RI
Permit No. 21

“Listen or thy tongue will keep thee deaf.”

– *Elizabeth Palmer Peabody (1804-1894)*

A member of the Transcendentalist inner circle, a prolific writer, and a leading educator, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody is best known today for promoting the kindergarten movement in the United States. She died 117 years ago this month.