

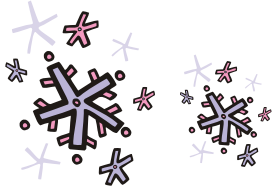


THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2013



January Services

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES ARE AT 10 A.M.



January 6

New Beginnings – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

The New Year offers far more than a time for resolutions. It is a time for reflection, repair, and centering. What needs repair in our lives and how can we return to center?

Please bring a bell for our beautiful Bell Ceremony, and bring extra bells if you have them. The more bells we have, the more beautiful the ceremony!

January 13

Riding the Waves of Change Fearlessly – *Joanne Friday*

Our guest will discuss Buddhist practices for transforming ourselves and our world while maintaining our balance and joy.

Joanne Friday is a Dharma teacher in the Tiep Hien Order of Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Zen master who has been her teacher for 20 years. She is co-founder of the sangha (meditation group) that meets at UUCSC on the first Sunday of each month.

January 20

Thirty Days of Love: Civil Rights and Equality

– *Rev. Betty Kornitzer with Sen. Susan Sosnowski*

Unitarian Universalists Stand on the Side of Love by acting on the side of justice. Rhode Island is an island in more than name— it is the only state in New England that does not allow same-sex marriage. Now is the time to bring marriage equality to Rhode Island and fulfill the dream.

After the service, Sen. Susan Sosnowski (D-South Kingstown) will give a 20-minute presentation on how we can effectively Act on the Side of Justice for equal marriage in Rhode Island.

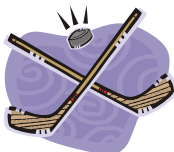
A pot luck social gathering will follow.

January 27

Sabbatical: Empowerment and Learning for All of Us – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

In February and March, Rev. Betty will take sabbatical leave. This service will explore the rationale for ministerial sabbatical, and how it can benefit and empower all of us.

At 11:30 a.m., the congregation is invited to join in a question-and-answer session with Rev. Betty and the Committee on Ministry. Come find out how things will work while the minister is away.



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



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

PUBLISHED ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR

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

DEADLINE: THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

www.uusouthcountyri.org

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

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

Rev. Betty Kornitzer, Minister

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

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

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Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Administrator

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Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer

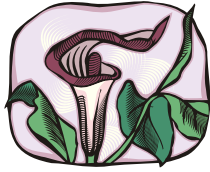
Regular Office Hours – Wednesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays: 9 a.m. to Noon,
and other times, *all by appointment*. Days off are Monday, Tuesday & Friday afternoon.

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

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

Office Hours: For the most part I will be in my study during these posted office hours, though other scheduled activities sometimes call me away. If you'd like to stop by, it's a good idea to call the minister's study phone, (284-3321) to confirm that I am in. I am also available at many other times by appointment.

BETTY WILL BE ON SABBATICAL LEAVE DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2013



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Thirty Days of Love

Don't leave your broken heart at the door:

Bring it to the altar of life.

Don't leave your anger behind

It has high standards

And the world needs vision.

Bring them with you,

And your joy

and your passion.

Bring your loving

and your courage

And your conviction.

Bring your need for healing

And your powers to heal

There is work to do, and all

That we need to do it is here.

Let us join together

Let us Stand on the Side of Love.

– Angela Herraera

On Friday, December 14, our hearts were collectively broken. A singular act of violence stole the innocence and the breath from twenty young and tender children and six of their beloved teachers. We have been brought us to our knees in grief. The tears burn the backs of our eyes and there is hollowness in our bellies. The sweet faces of these “babies,” the small white coffins are too much to bear. On our knees with broken hearts is where we have been. And then . . . to honor those lost, it is time to rise from our knees. It is time to respond to terror and violence. It is time to act, and the first act is to love. Every act of love matters, every act of love counts. From the depth of grief we are called to raise our eyes, to arise and to love.

Tonight on the news, I heard about the nationwide Twitter movement of people pledging to perform 26 acts of kindness. The love is spreading— we are responding to violence by rising from our knees and doing acts of kindness.

As Unitarian Universalists we are called to Stand on the Side of Love by acting on the side of justice. The African-American activist and scholar Cornel West wrote, “Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.” I believe there is no love without justice. We honor the fallen babies, we honor their innocence, their families and their memory by Standing on the Side of Love and Acting on the Side of Justice. This month begins the UUA’s 30 Days of Love, from Martin Luther King Jr. Day to Valentine’s Day. At UUCSC, we will work to make equal marriage a reality in Rhode Island.

Let us hope for healing in this time when healing seems unimaginable. Let us love one another with a deeper appreciation of the sacred worth of every child and every human being knowing that when we do so there is a power greater than ourselves that can renew, restore and sustain us.

Rev. Chris Buice of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville offered this prayer in response to the recent shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. A fatal shooting at the Knoxville congregation in 2008 inspired the creation of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign.

As Unitarian Universalists, with still-trembling hearts full of grief, we arise from our knees and we Stand on the Side of Love by Acting on the Side of Justice.

Blessings, Peace and Love,

Betty

Welcoming Our Newest Members

Sunday, December 2, 2012 was New Member Sunday at UUCSC. The Membership Committee asked our newest members to tell us why they chose Unitarian Universalism and our congregation.



Leah

"I'm looking forward to promoting the goals of this truly unique and special group of people. As a member, I'll continue to translate my "open mind," "loving heart," and "helping hands" into actions that positively impact our congregation, our community, and our world." – Leah Canin

"Becoming a member of this congregation reflects the evolution of my spirituality, of my deepening sense of belonging, and of my shifting "What ifs?" from "What if I have to move?" to "What if I can't give enough?" to "What if I'm me, here, now?"

– Nancy Klein



Nancy



Pam

Pam Brightman previously was a member for eleven years, and served as president of the congregation. *"Rejoining UUCSC after eight years away is a homecoming for me, and it's so good to finally come home." – Pam Brightman*

"I am a Unitarian Universalist because we are a democratic community, our voices are listened to as we speak what is important in our hearts, and we are not afraid to make changes in the world!" – Mary Frances Iacobbo



Mary Frances



Steve

"I am proud and honored to join the congregation of the UUCSC. I feel totally and completely accepted for who I am by the people I have met here, and I have never before found a group of people who are so true to themselves, true to their beliefs and accepting of each other." – Steve Andrus

"The open arms, hands and hearts at UUCSC welcomed me in almost three years ago in January and I have always felt a strong sense of community and kinship here. I recently figured out what I needed to do to create a sense of permanence and oneness, and it was really quite simple: listen to my heart! It is the time in my life to make the commitment and move forward and I am looking forward to becoming part of the UUCSC family." – Dienneke Andrus



Dienneke

The President's Letter

What a joy our annual Christmas Eve service was! Everything about it was magical; the music was fantastic, Mike and our choir outdid themselves yet again, and the readings and homily suited the occasion perfectly. Thank you, all who helped to make this happen.

As we enter a new year here at UUCSC, we begin preparations for new spiritual leadership. Betty is retiring and plans are underway to help us secure a new minister. On Jan 13, Rev. Bill Zelazny District executive from our Ballou Channing District, will come to speak with us after the service. He will explain the

process for getting an interim minister and a settled minister. After meeting with the congregation, he will meet with the Board. Please



plan to attend. This will be the perfect opportunity to have your voice heard and your questions answered.

The Board has been busy with tasks focused on our future. We now

have someone to handle Adult Enrichment— Gene Jolie has graciously volunteered to take this on. The Social Action Committee has a very impressive agenda of issues they will be working on during the coming year.

As we leave 2012 and the sadness that filled the last weeks of this year, let us look forward to what we can accomplish as individuals, a congregation and as a national, spiritual community, to help make this world more just, more equitable, more healthy, and more committed to the values we hold dear.

– Nancy Rose

Saturday, January 12th

Tracy Grammar with special guest Ian Fitzgerald

Lily Pads is very pleased to host the acclaimed performer Tracy Grammar, touring in support of her most recent release, 'Little Blue Egg,' featuring the songs of her late partner and collaborator Dave Carter. In 2000, Carter and Grammar released two chart-topping albums of what they called "postmodern, mythic American folk music." The Boston Globe said, "If the voice of modern folk is changing, it is going to sound a lot like Dave Carter and Tracy Grammar." The flood of praise resulted in a full calendar of concert dates and an invitation to join folk icon Joan Baez on her spring 2002 East Coast tour as both featured artists and band members. Carter died suddenly in 2002, just before his 50th birthday, and his death left Tracy and the folk music community reeling.



Grammar continues to perform Carter's songs and has produced three solo and two duo albums since Carter's death, including the critically acclaimed tribute CD 'Flower of Avalon' with John Jennings as co-producer and Mary Chapin Carpenter contributing backing vocals and liner notes.

Grammar says, "I'll keep on singing, and I'll keep on telling my story, however that evolves. Working with Dave Carter was the first step on what I hope is going to be a long and fruitful road for me: the endless quest for authenticity through music."

Ian Fitzgerald prefers the term "folk singer," as it more accurately describes the tradition in which his music is rooted. From early Twentieth Century field recordings through Woody Guthrie, Hank Williams, Bob Dylan, Townes Van Zandt, Gillian Welch, and hundreds of artists in between, Ian has been influenced by one of the sturdiest strains of American music.

Don't miss what is sure to be a very special evening, our first show of the New Year. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the music begins at 7:30.

Tickets are \$15 advance 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

Coming Sunday, January 27 at 3 p.m. – A special afternoon concert with the Providence Mandolin Orchestra!

Visit www.musicatlilypads.org for info on these and other upcoming concerts.

A word from the Editor about the Publishers

To "publish" means to communicate, to issue, or to announce.

The Publishers of this newsletter, *The South County Unitarian Universalist*, are the people (not officially connected with the Membership Committee, but on friendly terms) who pick up the finished newsletters at the printer, fold them, seal them, put address labels on them, and bring them to the Wakefield Post Office.

They have taken care of the Publisher's duties for a long time, and they would like to find new Publishers who will get the newsletter into the mail each month. If you are willing to consider taking on the Publisher's duties, please speak to Val Follett or another member of the Membership Committee.

The Clear Heart Sangha

The Clear Heart Sangha, which usually meets at UUCSC on the first Sunday of each month, will not meet here on January 6. For information about the January 6 gathering, please visit <http://joanne-friday.com>. Meetings at UUCSC will resume in February. The Clear Heart Sangha follows the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Zen Master. No prior meditation practice is necessary.

The Membership Committee is always looking for a better (less tangled) way to present our nametags on Sunday mornings. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Here's the plan for winter weather emergencies . . .

Winter is almost upon us! 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 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 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).



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 winter storms. During December, if Sunday morning worship is cancelled due to bad weather, Betty will send 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.



Hungry for a good book?

In the early 2000s, the Atkins Diet changed the way many Americans ate. Gone from restaurants and our diet were carbohydrates, which became a "national poison." We could now eat high-protein, low-carb meals, maintain a balanced diet, and lose weight! So what's a person to do?

In *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollan follows three food chains that sustain us from ground to plate—the industrial, the organic and the hunter-gatherer. All of them take nutrition from the soil and energy from the sun. His themes include the idea that eating is our most viable bond with the earth, while at the same time the most paradoxical as it reveals the tension between what we eat and the industrial complex that creates it. If you would like to see how Pollan's menus illustrate his themes, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* is available in the UUCSC Library in the Green Task Force (GTF) section.

– Melissa Hughes, UUCSC Green Task Force

Our next Share the Plate collection will help stop gun violence

In light of the terrible tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, the Social Action Committee has chosen the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, the tax-exempt educational arm of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, as the recipient of our next Share the Plate collection on Sunday, January 6.

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence seeks to stop gun violence "through research, strategic engagement and effective policy advocacy." Its 48 member organizations include the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Children's Defense Fund, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the UUA. Among other things, the group is working to ban assault weapons and counter the insurrectionist ideology used to justify their sale, close the "gun show loophole" that allows criminals to purchase guns without a background check, make ammunition traceable through microstamping, and expose the dangers of laws that permit carrying of a concealed weapon.

Nothing can bring back the twenty children who were shot down in their classrooms, but there are things we can do to help stop the next tragedy. One of them is enacting stronger gun control laws. Please give generously to help prevent the next Newtown.

– Lisa Petrie

Sabbatical can be a time for growth

Sabbatical is a unique time of empowerment and growth for congregations. I fully expect my sabbatical leave during February and March to be a productive and creative time for UUCSC. Committees are now making plans to cover all areas of congregational life during my absence. Information on worship services, pastoral care, and emergency pastoral coverage will be included in a booklet available this month.

From a very deep place in my heart, I thank this community for your generosity of spirit in providing sabbatical time for me. After worship on January 27, you will have an opportunity to discuss the sabbatical period with me and to ask questions. – Rev. Betty Kornitzer



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

Some thoughts on consistency

The Senior Youth Group here at the UUCSC consists of twenty-three interesting, energetic, and dedicated high school teens who meet every week. Already this year they have participated in a team building course, organized and enjoyed a weekend retreat, and are now in the process of planning for a youth conference, their "CON," inviting other UU youth groups from the area to join them here at our church. How is it that we have such a strong group of teens who are proud of their church home and enjoy hanging out with their UU friends?

Often I hear from a parent about his or her child who is hesitant to attending church, or who resists attending church. We are free thinkers who value a meandering path to faith development, so UU parents often allow their children to make that Sunday morning decision. As a UU and parent of five (sometimes resistant) children, I completely understand that decision. And yet, I hope to encourage consistency among the children who participate in our RE classes.

When a child attends RE classes consistently he or she is more likely to . . .

- Feel comfortable in the classroom.
- Make friends with the other children.
- Learn about church routines and rituals.
- Become involved in additional activities (such as music during service).
- Understand the lessons.
- Become involved in Youth Group or Junior Youth Group.
- Simply share a sense of belonging.

When these things are happening for a child on Sunday morning, church becomes a familiar, anticipated, and fun routine. As the children spend time in each of the classrooms, they gain a solid UU religious education. Curriculums cover our Seven Principles, social action and community service, Jewish and Christian roots, personal faith discovery, and knowledge of and respect for a variety of faith traditions.

It is no small wonder that our high school student enjoy hanging out with each other at a time when many teens prefer to sleep in on a Sunday morning. They are comfortable with each other, they feel safe, and they benefit from a deep understanding of themselves and respect for others.

This week, when your child suggests that you stay in your jammies on Sunday morning, try gentle encouragement, and come to church together. You will be helping your child build a sense of herself and the world that will support and nurture her into her teenage years and beyond. What a gift for a young person!

The Agape Fund



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. If you would like to talk about receiving some assistance from the fund, call Rev. Betty Kornitzer during January. During her sabbatical in February and March, please call Ron Marcy, a long-time UUCSC member who is a retired minister and will keep your conversation confidential.

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CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY
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“Here is the difference between Dante, Milton, and me. They wrote about hell and never saw the place. I wrote about Chicago after looking the town over for years and years.”

– *Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)*

The son of Swedish immigrants, Sandberg held a number of blue-collar jobs before becoming a reporter for the Chicago Daily News. He earned a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for *The Complete Poems of Carl Sandburg*, and a Pulitzer Prize for History for *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*. He also received a Grammy Award in 1959 for his recording of Aaron Copland's “Lincoln Portrait” with the New York Philharmonic. Sandberg, a Universalist, was born in Galesburg, Illinois 135 years ago this month.