

# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 7

JULY-AUGUST 2010



## Summer Services



**July 25**

*Empathy: Its Roots and Fruits – Jaime Dice*

Empathy is unique to humans. It allows us to connect with one another's feelings and thoughts. In this sermon, a developmental psychologist will discuss how empathy develops. We will fill our peace-waging toolbox with ideas about how to promote empathy and how to use its power in peace-making.

**August 1**

*CU2C2 – Linda Hull*

Planning next summer's vacation? Did you know there are many UU camps and conferences ("CU2C2") across the country? Linda will talk about some of these special places, including two in New England— Star Island and Ferry Beach. If you have traveled to other CU2C2s and will share a few words, please contact Linda.

**August 8**

*Words and Music: the Environment in Poetry and Hymns – Steve Harrison and Helene Gersuny*

The Gulf disaster has caused us to think even more strongly about the environment. In this informal service, we'll share the repertoire of words and music that touch on our Seventh Principle. Please contact Steve if there's a poem you would like to read, and please let Helene know which selection from either hymnal you would like to hear.

**August 15**

*Pain and Shame – Henry O'Reilly*

Let us consider our hurting hearts as we travel through life on the emotional roller coaster.

**August 22**

*It's Never Too Late – Erin Barrette Goodman*

Erin lived most of her life believing she couldn't carry a tune and had no rhythm—until recently, when she began singing and dancing in public and loving every minute of it! Words, songs and photographs will illustrate her story of entering the magical world of music-making as an adult.

*The morris dancing team to which Erin belongs, "The Ladies of the Rolling Pin," will make a special appearance after the service, fresh from their summer tour of England. The fun will include all-ages interactive dancing. Don't miss it!*

**August 29**

*The Long Trek To Dignity: A Celebration of Our Labor Heritage – Rich Evans*

At this Labor Day service, we'll honor the Unitarian Universalist values that underpin the true meaning of the holiday.

*No Service on September 5th*

**September 12**

*Our Annual Water Communion Sunday – Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

In this intergenerational service, we celebrate our fall ingathering by sharing water from our diverse summer adventures. All are invited to bring a bit of water and a few words, so that we may unite and form the stream of our community.

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



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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DEADLINE: THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

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

### 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

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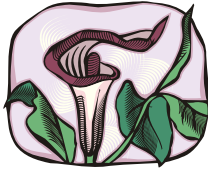
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WEBSITE: <http://www.uusouthcountyri.org/> • Webmaster: David Crockett

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

### Our Common Humanity

Increasingly, I am aware of the importance of focus. Life seems to have become very complex. Modern technology and the media explosion expose us to countless messages and multiple streams of information. In many ways, this is a very good thing. Instant telecommunication is great, and surfing the web can be a great adventure. These conveniences can also be distracting. In the midst of the information whirlwind, focus reminds me of my priorities, and that, too, is a very good thing.

At the UU General Assembly (GA) there are hundreds of workshops, many plenary sessions, worship services and meetings. In every way, it is a very full week. A moment of focus came for me at GA in a workshop on the Virtue of Compassion. The program stressed the importance of acknowledging our common humanity. The very words "our common humanity" felt like a deep long breath of peace and oneness. Amidst the clamor of GA, I could focus on the basic truth of our common humanity and rest in that powerful thought. The focus became intentional and I began to view much of General Assembly through the lens of our common humanity. Workshops on topics as diverse as Universalist History, Shared Ministry and Multigenerational Worship were all connected when viewed through that singular lens.

That is how the theme of Oneness and Compassion became an overarching focus for me at GA. This led me to explore the Charter for Compassion, which calls all people to restore compassion to the center of their lives through their beliefs and their actions. These ideas lie at the heart of our faith tradition. We are in alignment with the Charter for Compassion, which ends with these words:

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

May it be so, my friends. May we act to make it so.

Blessings, Peace and Love,

*Betty*

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#### **Betty's Summer Schedule**

##### **July**

I will be on vacation for the remainder of July except for:  
July 18 - 25: I will be on my regular work schedule

##### **August**

August 1 - 20: I will be on Ministerial Study Leave, a time is devoted to planning

for the coming year, studying and writing.

August 20: I will resume my regular work schedule.

Contact Information: Work week days off will remain Monday and Tuesday. If you would like to see me during my working weeks this summer, please let me know by leaving a message at my study number (284-3321) or by e-mail (BKornitzer@aol.com). In emergencies, I can be reached on my cell phone: (401) 932-1515.

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#### **Our New "Calendar Keeper"**

Mary Pinch has graciously agreed to be the official "Keeper of the Calendar" for the congregation. She does have one request: Because of the volume of e-mail she receives, she is asking everyone who submits a calendar event to write "UUCSC CALENDAR" in the subject line of the e-mail. Please send calendar items to Mary at [mlp77@cox.net](mailto:mlp77@cox.net). Nancy Rose will handle outside rentals.

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# The President's Message

Happy Summer!

Our "official" church year has ended, but that doesn't mean that everything stops. Besides the lay-led services that will be held throughout the summer, as the new president I will have several opportunities to be in the presence of people I really like and admire.

The Board has two meetings (July and August) and a retreat in August. The Board retreat is a daylong event that helps new board members become acquainted with the existing board and it also lets the board spend some time thinking about the upcoming year. There is also ongoing committee work and some of the ad hoc committees, such as the one on managing growth, will be meeting.

I would like to acknowledge and thank outgoing board members Tom Magliocchetti, Ed Burrell, Carole Diver, and Aline Couture. Their thoughtful input and dedication have made it a pleasure to serve with them. Carole Driver, our outgoing Clerk, has done a tremendous job of keeping the Board minutes and

maintaining records, including annual reports and by-laws. Aline Couture, the Finance Committee chair, is leaving the board because of a by-law change but she will have her work cut out for her. And last but not least is Tracy Hart, our outgoing President. Tracy has worked very hard and deserves our



deep gratitude. She will be able to stay on the board as Past President and because of the recently approved by-law change will actually get to vote. I would like to welcome to the board Trustees Sally Barney and Joan Youngken, Vice President Alice Buckley, and Clerk Ron Creamer. I look forward to working with them.

When I first moved to Narragansett from Fall River about fourteen years ago, I really didn't

know anyone in South County except my wife (who was the reason I moved here). Because I had been a member of the Unitarian Society in Fall River, I sought out the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County, which at the time was meeting at St. Augustine's in Kingston at 4 p.m. We "dipped our toes in the water" for awhile, but eventually Iris and I became members and the rest, they say, is history.

Over the years the UUCSC has become my family in South County. Each June when the church year would end, I felt a little melancholy because we would all go in separate directions and wouldn't come back together until after Labor Day. This summer, lay-led worship services will continue through the rest of the summer except for July 4 and September 5 (Labor Day weekend). Regular services begin on September 12, but you don't have to wait until September to experience the warmth and fellowship of our congregation—just show up to a service. — *Charlie Donnelly*

## Will you help celebrate human dignity?

I would like to share an idea I am hoping to make happen this fall at church. I would like to combine the incredible artistic talent we have within our congregation with the power of our first UU principle—the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

During the next year, Rev. Betty will be speaking about the seven UU Principles, starting with the first principle in October. What a great opportunity to share with our community the talent within our congregation as well as lifting up the very powerful message of human dignity in our first principle. Here are some ideas I have been tossing around in my head.

- Invite members of our congregation to share two or three pieces of artwork with the theme of human dignity.
- Also invite members of marginalized populations to contribute art to this show. I am thinking of individuals in nursing homes, developmentally challenged folks, incarcerated people, native people, children in foster care, folks dealing with mental illness, individuals living with gender issues, and refugees. (Any other ideas?)
- On the evening of the show (I am shooting for October 1st), also schedule a speaker or movie with the theme of human dignity. (Any ideas?)

The show itself could be very moving—and what an inspiring way to share one of our core beliefs with the South County community. Please let me know what you think of this idea, and whether you would be willing to contribute or help out in some way. I am willing to organizing this event. Would anyone be interested in helping? I look forward to your feedback. — *Pam Santos*



## Standing on the Side of Love: Todas Somos Arizona ("We are all Arizona")

In February, our congregation participated in the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love campaign with a march from Lily Pads to Dale Carlia Corner in Wakefield and a rally to proclaim our commitment to those disenfranchised in our communities.

In early May, Standing on the Side of Love called for a National Day of Brotherhood with a march and rally in Phoenix to protest the recently-enacted Arizona statute widely considered a discriminatory and unconstitutional attempt by the state to enforce federal immigration law. The law takes effect on July 29.



– Photo by Rev. Sam Trumbore, First Unitarian Society of Albany

Our Social Action Committee sent me to represent our congregation at the May 29 march and rally in Phoenix. Supported by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, with strong backup from other UU churches in the area, more than 500 UUs from across the country, led by UUA President Rev. Peter Morales, rallied with our Latino brothers and sisters.

My host in Phoenix was a member of the Phoenix congregation. After a Friday night potluck dinner, visitors were introduced and local UUs gave a presentation on the issue. A young UU couple who had grown up in the church described the pain their family suffered when the husband's undocumented mother was taken from their home and sent back to Mexico.

Wearing a sign that identified me as a Rhode Islander, I

was accompanied on the march by "buddies" from the Phoenix congregation. We watched out for one another in the 95-degree heat during the five-mile march to the State Capitol. During the march and rally, hundreds of brown brothers and sisters thanked me personally for being in Phoenix with them.

The Sunday service at the Phoenix church was a masterpiece. Rev. Morales delivered the sermon. Some excerpts:

I have never felt as proud of being a Unitarian Universalist as I did in Phoenix on May 29. I joined nearly 500 UUs, more than fifty of them ministers, in a long hot march to protest Arizona's SB1070. This law is clearly anti-immigrant and aimed at Latinos. I have attended many public witness events. What made this special was that the overwhelming number of participants were Latinos. No other faith group had the presence that UUs did.

But Phoenix isn't about Phoenix. In fact, the entire issue of immigration is ultimately not about immigration. We are in a struggle for the future direction of American society. How we treat immigrants, especially those from Mexico and Central America, is today's equivalent of the Civil Rights movement. This is a struggle for America's soul.

Living in this new America is an enormous challenge for our UU movement. Our American roots are in New England. Our movement has always struggled . . . The issue of immigration, especially Latino immigration, involves people who are racially, culturally, linguistically, and socioeconomically different from most UUs. The question is whether we can embrace the changes that are coming, whether we can thrive in this new America.

Todas Somos Arizona— we are all Arizona.

– John Glasheen

### Past President Tracy Hart to write on Unitarian Universalist issues and events.

Tracy has signed on to Examiner.com as the "Providence Unitarian Universalist Examiner." She'll write brief reports on various local UU activities, people, and issues. If you have ideas for articles or would like to promote upcoming events at any Rhode Island UU congregation, please e-mail her at [editingwithhart@gmail.com](mailto:editingwithhart@gmail.com). Go to [examiner.com](http://examiner.com), choose "Providence," click "Life" on the subject tool bar, and then click on "Religion and Spirituality." Weekly blurbs can keep you up to date on congregational happenings.





## MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

First, the good news: We have ended the fiscal year in the black and have pulled out of the anticipated \$17,000 deficit, and we have been able to do this with less coming from the Land and Building Fund than we had projected. There are several reasons for this good news.

- We have all taken seriously the challenge to close the budget gap.
- Our membership and new friends continue to grow.
- We have received unexpected donations during this fiscal year.
- Our spring fundraiser was a huge success.
- We have been able to keep expenses down thanks to marvelous volunteers.

The other good news is that we can do it again in the next fiscal year.

*A request:* Because we are straddling the fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, we are not always certain what your check is for. Please remember to write on the memo line what your intention is. If you can't remember if you have completed this year's pledge, please call or email me.

*A reminder:* We will begin selling tickets for our \$10,000 Raffle beginning August 1. Kathy Kaufman and I are chairing this new fundraising effort. (Thank you Kathy!) The tickets are printed and will be in our hands by the time you read this.

Together, we have done some pretty amazing (and some would say impossible) things this year. The Raffle is our next exciting challenge!

*A Committee news item:* Our Finance Committee will be preparing a five-year fiscal plan in the next few weeks that we will be submitting to the Strategic Plan Committee. Our goals will be 1) balancing budgets, 2) increasing reserves, 3) lowering the annual fundraising goal, 4) periodically donating Sunday collections, and 5) increasing paid staff, among other things to be considered.

*A gratitude:* For all of the things YOU do for the rest of us, whether we know what that is or not, Thank You!

For being the caring, generous person YOU are, Thank You!

Every gift given, even the smallest, is gratefully received. Thank You!

– Aline Couture, Finance Committee Chair

Wednesday, August 11th is our day to provide a meal for the 20 residents and staff of Welcome House. Please contact Gerre Alderwick if you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information.

## Are you a people person?

Do you like to greet old friends, meet new people, and make everyone feel welcomed? Then the Membership Committee would like to invite you to join us—full-time, part-time or any time in between. Our mission statement says: “The Membership Committee will warmly welcome people who come through our doors searching for spiritual and personal growth. We will provide information for visitors, guide newcomers on the path to membership and facilitate the integration of new members into the life of the congregation.”

If this speaks to you and you would like to learn more, please speak to co-chairs Barbara Pagh or Val Follett or any other member of our committee. They're the happy people wearing purple nametags on Sunday mornings. We would love to have you join us.

– Val Follett, for the Committee



## Girls Rule!

The South Kingstown High School girls' lacrosse team, featuring Adrienne Bender and Chloe Cullen, won the R.I. Inter-scholastic League Division III championship on June 5 at RIC. The team beat East Providence 15-10 to take the title. Chloe scored three goals, including the final goal during the last minutes of the game to seal the win. Adrienne, as starting goalkeeper, made a total of seven saves.

You go girls!

## Spiritual Deepening: A Series for Unfolding a Soulful Life

Spiritual Deepening will resume on the third Wednesday in October. This series, co-facilitated by Rev. Betty Kornitzer and Christine Phoenix-Green, will focus on varieties of spiritual practice from diverse traditions. Read about the new season's topics in the next *South County U.U.*



## Religious Education News and Events

By Debby Hedison, Director of Religious Education

*“...go with Wisdom, go with Wonder...”*

*Summer Blessings!*

*The Religious Education Committee and I have established the summer schedule for Sunday school and youth programming.*

*There will be no scheduled religious education programming during July. In August, we will offer an all-ages program called “Caring for Our World.” A seasoned teacher will lead each Sunday lesson. Each member of the RE Committee has volunteered to take a Sunday to lead and I (as a member, not as DRE) will take a Sunday as well. Each lead teacher is responsible for obtaining an assistant—watch out, one of us might be calling you to help! The nursery will be open and attended by the parents or guardians using it.*

*There will be no formal youth programs. However, the Junior Youth Group is planning one social gathering to stay connected and have fun. The Senior Youth Group will have an end of the summer in-gathering to welcome new youth and their families.*

***An important request:** Friends, if any of you are at a summer service and see a new or visiting family, please consider yourself an ambassador for RE and guide them to the membership table, which will have lots of information, including a calendar of summer religious education, and a packet to take home, and photos of our kids showing some of the great things happening in RE. Don't be shy . . . if you want to give them a tour of our classrooms, go for it!*

*Thanks for helping. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.*

*Have a beautiful summer!*

– Debby

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### Social Action Council forms to coordinate social justice efforts

The subcommittee chairs, co-chairs and program leaders involved in the Social Action Committee’s many efforts have formed a Social Justice Council to share information and increase the effectiveness of all of the congregation’s social action efforts.

The Council met for the first time on June 9 to make plans for the coming year. The Council will meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (August 11, October 13, December 8, February 9, April 13, June 8). John Glasheen will chair the August meeting. All of the Council’s meetings are open to all members and friends of the congregation.

The Social Action Committee’s three main program areas are:

- The Green Task Force (Maureen Grove and David Floyd, co-chairs), including the green coffee hour and the Green Sanctuary (Rich Evans). We encourage congregation members active in “green” activities to join us so we can expand the skill and leadership of our volunteer base.
- Common Ground, the UUCSC’s anti-racism group (Penny Hall and an open co-chair), which organizes the Journey Towards Wholeness Sunday, projects with the International Institute, and discussion programs.
- Standing on the Side of Love (Gail Matthews and John Glasheen, co-chairs) works on immigration reform and GLBT issues and includes Guest at Your Table (Gerre Alderwick), Amnesty International (Carole Driver), the Welcome House meal and March for Shelter (Gerre Alderwick), assistance to the Jonnycake Center’s food program, and sale of fair trade coffee (Lisa McHenry).

Those participating in each program area seek to bring their passions, concerns, and insights to the whole congregation. We want the congregation to be more fully involved in these and other social justice issues and act within our community to mirror the UU Principles, so that our example will invite more people from the larger community to join us because they identify our congregation with these issues and believe our congregation might meet their own spiritual needs.

The Social Justice Committee also discussed a summary of UU author Michael Durall’s *The Almost Church Revitalized* prepared by John Glasheen. The committee will continue to discuss the book and modify the summary with the aim of sharing the book’s message with the whole congregation.

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**“A great many people think they are thinking  
when they are merely rearranging  
their prejudices.”**

**– William James**