

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 7

JULY-AUGUST 2011



Summer Services



July 24

Etiquette Today – *Marie Younkin-Waldman*

Do we need it? Is it spiritual? How do we align it with technology in our lives? The “Tea With Marie” host will share her ideas.

July 31

Before I Go, You Should Know – *Susan Graefe*

We prepare for births, and educate ourselves for a job or career, marriage, and retirement years, but few of us prepare ourselves and our families for the inevitable.

Susan Graefe is recent past president of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island.

August 7

Children and Spirituality: Nurturing the Flame – *Elizabeth Carter*

Elizabeth will share spiritual lessons she has learned from her experiences as a counselor, teacher, and parent.

August 14

Are We Alone? The Search for ET – *Dave Hurdis*

For centuries, humans have speculated about the existence of other worlds populated by intelligent beings. Recent discoveries have transformed this subject from fantasy to an area of serious scientific inquiry. If ET were actually found, what could it mean for us humans?

Dave teaches astronomy at Providence College.

August 21

Nature and Unity: The Spiritual Foundation for Environmentalism,

Drawn from Transcendentalist Writings – *Abel Collins*

Abel is the Program Manager for the Sierra Club of Rhode Island

August 28

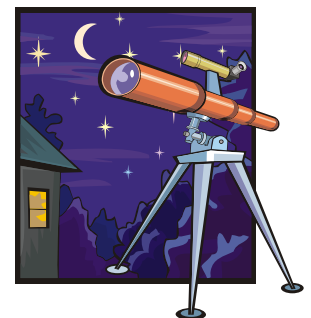
Change Your Mind, Change Your Experience – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

A closer look at how the nature of our thoughts impacts our life experience.

No Service on September 4.

September 11

Our Annual Water Communion Sunday



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



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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

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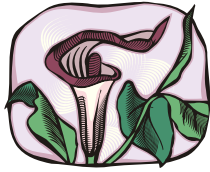
Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer

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 and Tuesday.

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

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

*A note about office hours: I am usually in my study during the posted office hours, but 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.*



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

"R U A UU?"

I do not text, but I am guessing that the meaning of "R U A UU" is clear to us all. It may even be correct in texting lingo. I pose this question here because it is central to the theme that I plan to focus on at UUCSC in 2011-2012.

As I reflect upon the life and culture of our congregation, I recognize that our Unitarian Universalist identity could use some reinforcement. At General Assembly in June, more than 4,000 Unitarian Universalists celebrated the 50th anniversary of our merged association, the UUA. UU identity, history and present mission were emphasized in dozens of venues every day. It was inspiring and rewarding. I am excited to envision the renewed energy and enthusiasm that can grow out of a deeper sense of our UU identity.

I plan to use much of my Ministerial Study Leave to plan programming that will ask the question: "R U A UU?" This will offer us opportunities to reflect upon what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist today.

My summer reading suggestion for us all is to do a careful reading of the Summer 2011 issue of UU World, the UUA's magazine. UUCSC members receive a subscription to this journal, which can also be accessed online at: <http://www.uuworld.org/currentissue.shtml>. I have it packed in my "reading bag" for my trip to the Cape. John Glasheen started a UU World discussion group this year. I hope that group will continue with increased participation.

By this time next year, I anticipate that we'll all be feeling a renewed sense of UU identity. We will benefit both as individuals and as a congregation. I look forward to this shared exploration and discovery.

Blessings, Peace and Love,

Betty

Summer Notes

Here's my summer schedule:

July: I will be on vacation July 1 - July 21

I will be on Ministerial Study Leave July 22 - 26.

I will work July 26 - 31.

August: I will be on Ministerial Study Leave August 1 - 18

I will be on my regular work schedule August 18 and after.

Contact Information – 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). I can be reached on my cell phone, in case of emergencies, at (401) 932-1515 during working weeks. Work week days off will remain Monday and Tuesday.

Pastoral Care – Judi Marcy, chair of the Caring Connection and Cindy Berry, Pastoral Associates Coordinator, are available to hear about pastoral needs and to coordinate assistance.

General Assembly 2011 was a great experience

From June 22 through June 26, about four thousand Unitarian Universalists descended on Charlotte, North Carolina for the 50th anniversary UUA General Assembly. About 2,000 of those UUs were delegates—and I was one of them.

The opening ceremony was moving, with music and a parade of banners from each congregation.

It was difficult to decide which events to go to. Every one I went to meant several I could not attend.

The events fell into some major categories: programs, including speeches by important figures; workshops; worship services; evening programs, often films; and plenary sessions, which are business meetings with voting on major issues.

Rev. William Schulz's presentation, "Changing the World: What Works and What Doesn't," drew a large crowd. He is the current president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a past UUA president, and past executive director of Amnesty International. He listed four reasons protest movements succeed: They have an identifiable adversary, a simple clear cut message or slogan, they operate on more than one level, and they recognize the true nature of power and how to approach it. Without one or more of these, a movement can fail.

David Bacon is an award-winning journalist and the author of *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants*. (I bought a copy). His talk, "Immigration as a Moral Issue," covered the human cost paid by migrants in Arizona, such as jail and family separations. He also covered the powerful influence of American corporations on the Mexican government and the harm they cause to the Mexican economy.

At each General Assembly, a distinguished guest is invited to deliver the Ware Lecture. The lectures began with one of the UUA's predecessor organizations, the American Unitarian Association, in 1922 as a result of a bequest from the Ware family of Milton, Mass. Ware Lecturers have included Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1966.

On Saturday evening, June 25, Karen Armstrong delivered the Ware lecture. She is a celebrated commentator on religious matters and is a best-selling author of several books. Her talk was about the subject of her latest book: "Twelve Steps to a More Compassionate Life." A few of the steps: learn about compassion, empathy, and mindfulness; have concern for everybody; and love your enemies. She pointed out that the Golden Rule, first formulated by Confucius around 500 B.C., has been central to all the major faiths. Her book was available for purchase and I bought a copy.

There is a lot of enthusiasm and excitement about the GA, and rightly so. It is a wonderful experience

because one meets so many great people and the programs provide one with so much food for thought about ethical issues and social problems.

– Larry Kelland



Our New Ministry Model

At the June UUCSC Annual Meeting, the congregation approved the following motion made by the Committee on Ministry:

While the By-Laws of the Congregation do not require a vote of the members for the Minister and Board of Directors to enter into a contract providing that the Minister reduce her time to 75% and be paid 75% of her full-time salary, the Committee on Ministry believes that it would be in the best interest of the Congregation to ask for a vote on the proposal for Reverend Betty Kornitzer to reduce her time. Therefore, I make a motion that the Congregation accept the proposal that Reverend Betty Kornitzer's contract commencing July 1, 2011 provide that she will serve the Congregation at 75% of full-time at 75% of her full-time salary. If the motion does not pass, Rev. Betty will continue to serve the Congregation on a full-time basis.

The 25% reduction in the minister's salary releases funds to hire UUCSC's first office administrator. (Hooray!). A search committee has been formed and hopes to hire an administrator to begin work by the last week in August. – Betty Kornitzer

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Monday, July 25, to discuss the first eight chapters of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard, available at local libraries. We will complete the book at the August 22 meeting. All are welcome. – Helene Gersuny

Justice GA: The 2012 Phoenix General Assembly



Next year's UUA General Assembly will be held in Phoenix. The site was chosen long before Arizona legislators enacted a law that empowers police officers to check the citizenship status of anyone they stop. Many people believe that law will encourage police to stop people based on their appearance instead of on whether they are suspected of committing a crime, and that the risk of unjust deportations will increase. Many people advocated boycotting Arizona, and the UUA Board of Trustees called for the UUA to boycott Arizona as well. Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, however, passed a resolution dedicating the 2012 GA to "witnessing on immigration, racial, and economic justice," and limiting business items to the minimum required by the bylaws so that delegates could spend their time discussing and acting on those issues.

– The Editor

To Our Congregation:

I sent this letter to the UUA General Assembly Planning Committee. The focus of next year's GA will be the treatment of immigrants in Arizona. UU members have protested in Arizona already, and plan a much larger demonstration next year, I believe. What sparked me to write this letter was a remark by someone on stage at this year's GA that was

unnecessarily confrontational, I believe. The speaker considered the police to be an adversary. I had just been exposed to discussions of fundamental moral principles common to the major religions, including UU. I decided we ought to apply those principles and seek to talk with the police, hence the letter. It may make us a bit safer out there.

– Larry Kelland

Dear Members of the Planning Committee:

I think we should invite the Phoenix Police to give a presentation at our convention, so we hear their side, OR have them as part of a panel discussion.

I think it would actually make us safer at the GA, because we are reaching out to them, instead of considering them to be an enemy (which is not the UU way).

We also need to somehow get across the fact that it is large U.S. corporations who are in essence PUSHING the immigrants north by undercutting their livelihood. Then we ask for a more humane treatment of the immigrants.

I have heard the attitude expressed, at our conference: "You think you had a demo! Just wait until you see the next one!" That is too aggressive. I am not saying don't demonstrate. We need to reason together with the police if they are willing to talk to us. Of course, they may reject the offer, but at least we made an offer and reached out.

"All I am saying, is give peace a chance." (John Lennon).

Yours sincerely,

John Laurence Kelland

Member, UU Congregation of South County, Rhode Island

The Social Justice Council meets on August 16

The Social Justice Council will meet on Tuesday, August 16 at 7 p.m. Members will:

- Review, modify, accept the Strategic Plan for 2011-2015
- Review, modify, accept new Social Justice Brochure
- Review, modify, accept the calendar for 2011-2012

We will also be oriented to “Gathered Here,” the UUA plan for community organizing for the congregation and state. “Gathered Here” is a joint initiative of the UUA Board of Trustees and the UUA Administration. It is an invitation to all Unitarian Universalists to discover our common aspirations and unleash the power of our faith through one-on-one, small group, and larger group conversations that will take place over a 16-month period from July 2011 to October 2012. For more information, go to <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/-governance/vision/index.shtml>.



The dates for 2011-2012 Social Justice Council meetings are October 11, December 13, February 14, April 10, and June 12. Materials for the August 16 meeting will be sent to members by email on August 1; if you would like to receive them, please e-mail me.
– John Glasheen

Westminster Unitarian Church is seeking a part-time office administrator

The Westminster Unitarian Church, East Greenwich, RI is seeking a part-time Office Administrator to provide office support for the minister and congregational activities. The candidate must enjoy working with people, be a competent receptionist, be skilled with computer systems including data entry, be able to troubleshoot problems effectively, and be able to respond appropriately to general inquiries.

The successful candidate must have a minimum of a high school diploma and three years clerical

experience and experience with Microsoft-based applications, including but not limited to Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Candidate must be adept at navigating the internet and able to use Church database system. Ability to balance bank accounts and maintain database required. Direct experience dealing with the public is also required.

Letters of inquiry and resumes may be sent to Renee Bucklin.

Please just go away!

Have you planned your summer vacation—or want to start planning next year's? Check into UU camps and conference centers. Locally, we have Star Island off the coast of New Hampshire, Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine, and Rowe Camp in Rowe, Mass. But there are many more. Start your research at CU2C2.org and have a fun getaway with like-minded people! – Linda Hull



Ferry Beach is calling you! There is still time to sign up for camping or kayaking, beaching & swimming, or for lots of different workshops, retreats, conferences, and lots of good talks with UUs from all over New England. Plenty of Ferry Beach brochures are on the display table at Coffee Hour—just pick one up. Want more information? Look for Essjay, wearing a Ferry Beach button and willing to tell you that this place is my Spirit Home. I hope that it may become yours as well. See you there! – Essjay Foulkrod

UUCSC to hire Office Administrator

At the June 12th Congregational Meeting, the congregation voted to enter into contract with Betty for three-quarters time for the 2011-12 church year, freeing up funds for the church to hire an Office Administrator. Under the direction of the Personnel Committee, a search committee has formed and is in the process of advertising the position. The goal is to have an Office Administrator on board by late August. The position is part-time (19 hours per week) for 10 months.
– Dave Hurdis

The Welcome House Meal

On the second Wednesday of each month, UUCSC delivers the evening meal to Welcome House in Peace Dale. The upcoming dates are August 10 and September 14. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the sheet in the Community Room. Questions? Please feel free to contact Gerre Alderwick.

– Gerre Alderwick



Religious Education News and Events

By Debby Hedison, Director of Religious Education

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

Thanks to all who have signed up for next year in Religious Education. Below is the website where you can see what we will be teaching next year starting in session 2. Hope you all have a beautiful summer!

– Debby

A New Unitarian Universalist Online Lifespan Curriculum

“Tapestry of Faith” is a new series of programs and resources for all ages that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love. These resources are being developed out of a broad series of conversations that articulated a future direction for Unitarian Universalist religious growth and learning and denomination-wide focus groups that helped shape a program that would offer a variety of resources—downloadable, printed, viewable, interactive, and more—to create a religious growth and learning program for the twenty-first century.

Go to: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith>

Curricula

Early Elementary (K-2nd): Moral Tales

Upper Elementary (3rd-5th): Toolbox of Faith

Jr. Youth (6th-8th): Heeding the Call

Calendar

Sept. 18 – Ingathering of all teachers for the year to meet and covenant with the classes

SESSION 1

Sept. 25-Oct. 23 – Famous UU's (Special program created by the RE Committee)

Oct. 30 – Costume Intergenerational Service

SESSION 2

Nov. 6-Nov. 13 – Community Service Project

Nov. 20 – Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service

Nov. 27-Dec 11– Classes

Dec. 18 – Holiday Intergenerational Service

SESSION 3

Jan. 1-Feb 26 – Classes

March 4- April 29 – Classes

April 8 – Easter Intergenerational Service

SESSION 4

May 6- June 24 – Classes

June 17– Flower Communion Intergenerational Service

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CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY
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“The possession of arbitrary power has always,
the world over, tended irresistibly to destroy humane
sensibility, magnanimity, and truth.”

– *Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903)*

The founder of American landscape architecture and a Unitarian, Olmsted designed the landscaping for the U.S Capitol, the White House, and many American cities. With colleague Calvert Vaux, he designed and supervised the construction of New York’s Central Park. Olmsted died 107 years ago this August.