



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 7

JULY-AUGUST 2012

## Summer Services

**July 22**

**Francis of Assisi – *Hank O'Reilly***

Taking Francis out of the birdbath and placing him where he really is: At the heart of human and divine experience for Christians and non-Christians all over the world, encouraging us to be a channel of peace.

**July 29**

**Some "Revelations" About the Apocalypse – *Helene Gersuny***

In her new book *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation*, Elaine Pagels, author of *The Gnostic Gospels*, explains how the very controversial (and very weird) text became part of the Holy Scriptures.

**August 5**

**The Sacred Center Within – *Nathan Jon DeSisto***

In each moment of every day, we have the opportunity to go within ourselves to find our inner serenity. This service will give us a chance to look within and embrace what we find through both meditation and musical reflection.

*Nathan is a member of Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich.*

**August 12**

**The Golden Rule and the Seventh Principle – *Larry Kelland***

After hearing Karen Armstrong at the 2011 UUA General Assembly, Larry has come to believe that the Golden Rule should guide us toward more humane treatment of animals. He will also discuss how we can make our Seventh Principle more explicit.

**August 19**

**My Journey is Your Journey – *Ron Hayden***

Ron shares his spiritual journey as he brings us his voices of truth and light in a sometimes funny but deeply soulful way. So open your mind and your heart and get to know more about Ron . . . and yourself.

**August 26**

**Who am I? How Shall I Live? – *Paulette Chamberas***

UUs pride themselves on 'living the questions.' Using material from Andrew Cohen's book of the above title, her personal experience, and her training and experience as a therapist, Paulette will explore how we might live these important questions.

**September 9**

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

This intergenerational service celebrates our fall ingathering by sharing water from the many wells of 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.

***Remember to gather your water!***

***THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 2***

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](http://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](mailto: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.***

#### ***Staff Members***

(vacant) Religious Education Director

**Michael Galib**, Music Director

**Kathleen Carland**, Administrator

#### ***Board of Directors***

Nancy Rose, President

Steve Harrison, Vice President

Will Bender, Treasurer • Susan Corkran, Clerk

Gail Burchard • Lisa McHenry • Barbara Pagh

Essjay Foulkrod

Charles Donnelly, Past President

***Myrina Cardella-Marengi***

**Publicity Coordinator**

#### ***Committee Chairs***

*Val Follett*, Membership Committee Chair

*John Glasheen*, Social Action Committee

*Suzanne Paton*, Religious Education Committee Chair

*Carolyn Hurdis*, Personnel Committee Chair

*Linda Whyte Burrell, Paulette Chamberas & Lindsey*

*Crowninshield*, Committee on Ministry

*Marcia Boyd*, Finance Committee Chair

*Ed Burrell*, Facilities Committee Chair

*Peter Himmel*, Adult Religious Education Chair

*Susan Moreland*, Music Committee Chair

*Judi Marcy*, Caring Connection Chair

*David Floyd*, Social Events Committee Chair

*Vikki LePree & Gabrielle Torphy*,

Hospitality Committee Chairs

*Helene Gersuny*, Worship Committee Chair

### **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.

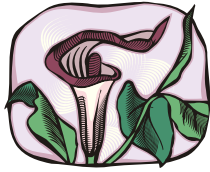
E-mail (very effective) – [bkornitzer@aol.com](mailto:bkornitzer@aol.com)

Please be sure to call before dropping by the church during office hours. Sometimes Betty is  
called away on business away from her office, even during “office hours.”

#### **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

June 1 – 17 and June 25 – 30: Regular schedule. July 1 – 23: Vacation.

July 24 – Aug. 19: Ministerial Study leave. Aug. 20-31: Regular schedule.



# *The Minister's Message*

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

## Justice General Assembly, Phoenix: *Why We Witness*

These words were spoken by Rev. Craig Roshaven, Witness Ministries Director, and Rev. Fred Hammond, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tuscaloosa, as the Chalice was lighted for Saturday evening worship at Justice General Assembly, before public witness at the Tent City jail.

*We are here to Witness for Justice for the People of Arizona.*

*We are here to Witness for Justice for the People of every State in these United States.*

*We are here to SHINE a light on the Inhumanity of Tent City.*

*We are here to Expose the cruel and racist practices of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department.*

*We are here to ACCOMPANY those who are most affected as they challenge the inhumane policies and practices of the state of Arizona.*

*We are here to CHALLENGE the morality of a law that results in racial profiling, harassment, fear, and the tearing apart of families.*

*We are here to Call for an end to the federal government's so called Secure Communities program of mass detention and deportation.*

*We are here to FACE injustice with witness and compassion.*

*We are here to Grieve for all the children who have lost a parent.*

*We are here to Pierce the fog of denial and disbelief.*

*We are here to NAME all those who have died or been abused in detention.*

*We are here to Demand that No More Deaths take place at the border.*

*The abuses that have occurred and are occurring in Arizona are happening across our country. Copycat anti-immigrant legislation has been passed in several states. The Department of Homeland Security's misnamed secure-communities program is making us less secure. It has made every state an Arizona.*

*If the people across this land were to see what is happening here their hearts would be broken.*

*Justice would prevail. What has occurred and is occurring would stop.*

*Our task is to make what is invisible, visible.*

*Our task is to make what is deniable, undeniable.*

*Our task is to make what is unseen, seen.*

*Let us stand in solidarity with all people. Let us stand on the side of love as we witness for the humanity of all.*

*So we pray, so we promise, so we pray.*

*We light this chalice to celebrate our chosen faith,*

*A faith in justice,*

*A faith of peace*

*A faith of love.*

*Come, let us worship together.*

*continued on page 4*

# The President's Letter

Ah, those lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer; dog days of summer; hot, humid and hazy; however you think of this time of year, summer is here.

For me, the best beginning of this summer started in Phoenix Arizona— where temperatures ranged from 103 degrees to 111 degrees— attending the UUA General Assembly with six other members of our congregation. It was an awesome experience, and you will be hearing more about it at services in the near future. Two years from now, UUA General Assembly will take place in Providence, and I urge you all to

consider attending. It is truly a life altering event.

While many UU congregations close down for the summer



months, and while some things at UUCSC have certainly slowed down a bit, let me assure you, Sunday services are going strong. The members of the worship committee

have outdone themselves in arranging inspiring and meaningful worship opportunities for July and August.

Our first service featured Joan Youngken, whose sermon on the Key Ingredients of Joy reinforced the joy I feel in attending summer services. Suzanne Paton's talk on the Interconnected Web of All Existence provided insight and meaning to our seventh principle.

So do join us for a service this summer, and in case you're worried about beating the heat, we will make sure the AC keeps us comfortable.

— Nancy Rose

---

## The Summer Schedule

### Rev. Betty Kornitzer's summer schedule

July 1-July 23 - Vacation. July 24-August 19 - Ministerial Study Leave. August 20 - Regular work schedule resumes. If you would like to see her after August 19, please leave a message at the study number (284-3321) or e-mail (BKornitzer@aol.com). In case of emergencies, cell phone is (401) 932-1515 after August 19.

**Religious Education:** RE program for all ages will resume September 9. Parents may use the nursery space for breaks, if needed. Please leave the area as you found it.

**Office Administrator:** The Office Administrator's regular schedule resumes on August 28. The office is closed until then. E-mail Mary Pinch. Please write UUCSC Calendar in subject line. Nancy Rose will check office e-mail periodically. If you wish to send an e-mail to the congregation, Nancy can assist you. Myrina Cardella- Marengi will check office telephone messages periodically. For keys, see Cindy Berry.

**Pastoral Functions:** *Pastoral Care:* The Lay Pastoral Care Team provides compassionate listening in times of challenge or transition. Randi Marten is the coordinator. *The Caring Connection:* The Caring Connection helps provide meals or transportation in times of difficulty. Judi Marcy is chair. *Wellness Program:* For referrals to this program contact Lynda Wells.

---

## Justice General Assembly, Phoenix: *Why We Witness*

*continued from page 3*

My friends, these words reflect the historic Unitarian Universalist commitment to civil rights and social justice. The life of faith and the spirit of our principles are not theory, they call us to action. Justice General Assembly embodied such an action.

The seven delegates from UUCSC who attended Justice General Assembly will report to us in the fall. May we harken the call to action, as we discern who we are as Unitarian Universalists and why we are here.

Blessings, Peace & Love,

*Betty*

# In My Own Words

*A continuing series of self-portraits of UUCSC members*

This June I turned 67 years old, which seems to me unbelievable. To condense all those years into a profile is difficult, especially because my life has been very full indeed.

I was born and raised in Lansing, Michigan, and graduated from Michigan State University with a nursing degree. I joined the Army while I was in college. The Army paid for my tuition and housing, which helped to relieve my Dad from the monetary burden of providing me with a college education.

I served nearly thirteen years in the military, acquiring a Master's degree in nursing and nurse-midwifery at the University of Kentucky and becoming one of the first two military-trained nurse-midwives. I left the Army Nurse Corps with the rank of Major and with many, many meaningful experiences.

During my military service, and later as a military officer's wife, I lived in New York State, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Kansas, and New Jersey. I also spent twelve and a half years in Europe, living in Italy, Germany, and Belgium. I lived among the citizens of these countries, not in military housing on a post. This allowed me to attempt to speak their language, learn their customs firsthand, and understand what being a "foreigner" is like by living it. My son

was born in Germany, and not at a military hospital— talk about a communication barrier!

**MARILYN MORRIS**



Returning to the States from Europe, I resumed my career as a nurse-midwife, working in New Jersey and Michigan with OB-GYN doctor groups. In 2001 I moved to Rhode Island, where my sister lives, leaving my 27-plus-year career as a nurse-midwife behind me. I began working, with better hours, as a staff nurse in obstetrics at South County Hospital, Westerly Hospital, and Women and Infants in Providence. I also became a clinical instructor for the nursing program at URI. Unfortunately I left Rhode Island in 2004. After time in Massa-

chusetts, Virginia and Florida, I returned to Rhode Island this past October.

I would like to say that I'm not moving again . . . but life can be very surprising!

During these many years, I have been married three times, and I have the most amazing son. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Harvard, and currently a research student in South Africa, working on his Ph.D. at UCLA. I don't think a mother could be prouder!

My religious life has been no less challenging. I was raised Southern Baptist (an uncle was a minister) and became a Roman Catholic during my second marriage. The answers I was seeking in my spiritual life I did not find in these religions. I have always been a searching soul, investigating different faiths, and had felt Unitarian Universalism was something I should explore. I passed by your building one day, then came back to find out more. I read the handouts, then came and listened, met several members . . . and realized that this is what I had been looking for. I'm still on this journey . . . but the UU message— love, tolerance, and social justice in the world— certainly speak to me. How wonderful is that?

---

## ***Virtual Joys and Sorrows***

*During July and August, Sunday service attendance is often smaller than during the regular church year. In order to share Joys and Sorrows with the larger UUCSC community, they will be sent to our UUCSC e-mail list. If you have a Joy or Sorrow to share and you are not attending worship, please send it to Nancy Rose and she will include it in the e-mail.*

### **The Lunch Bunch**

The Lunch Bunch will meet at noon Monday August 20 to discuss *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation* by Elaine Pagels, author of *The Gnostic Gospels*. All are welcome. Questions? Call Helene Gersuny.

### **Welcome House meals**

Welcome House meals are needed for August 8 and September 12. Can you help? Please sign the sign-up sheet in the Community Room or contact Gerre Alderwick.





## MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

### Share the Plate

As some of you have already read in a UUCSC e-mail, there was some confusion around our Share the Plate collection for July. Both July and August collections are to be given to Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island. Anyone wishing to donate to this worthy agency may write a check to UUCSC and note Planned Parenthood of RI in the memo line. All your specified donations by check will be sent to them, even those received after the first Sunday of July. An announcement will be made at the service on August 5 that the cash collection for that day, and checks with the notation "Planned Parenthood," will go to Planned Parenthood. Sorry for the confusion in July.

### Pledge payments during the summer

Some of us may be wondering how we can continue to pay our pledge over the summer months. Many of us can't make it to the wonderful summer services because of vacations or friends and family coming to enjoy Rhode Island with us. If that is the case for you, simply drop your check into the mail addressed to UUCSC, 27 North Rd., Peace Dale, RI 02879. This is greatly appreciated, since our expenses (such as mortgage, electricity, and cable) continue throughout the summer.

We are grateful for your generous financial support. We do this together.

Respectfully submitted,  
*The Finance Committee*

## Do you love flowers?

The Floral Committee is looking for volunteers to make floral arrangements for the two niches in the sanctuary with fresh, dried, or artificial flowers and other plant material.



Volunteers are responsible for maintaining the displays (checking the water level, for example) and changing the displays at least once a month. One or two committee members usually take responsibility for one or two months of floral arrangements. You provide the flowers; some vases and other containers are available for use.

If you're interested, please call Roni Meyer-Forcè-Medeiros.

## Please consider teaching an RE class this year!

The RE committee hopes you will take a moment to consider the possibility of teaching a session of classes this coming church year. Those who have already experienced the joy of committing some of their time to the youth and children of our congregation have found it an exciting, profound and humbling experience.

This year, in addition to strengthening their UU foundations, the children will be learning stories from our Christian and Hebrew roots with child-focused curriculum from the UUA. Teachers will be provided with training and everything needed to successfully guide children through the 40-minute class. Each week, children (and teachers) will enjoy storytelling, a craft, child-focused worship, song, and personal sharing.

Our RE program has always depended on the strength of volunteers. Each class needs to have a teacher and an aide. This year teen helpers will also be available to assist. Some folks enjoy teaching with a friend as a team. Although sessions run for nine weeks, there is flexibility built in to this schedule. The following sessions are currently in need of volunteers:

Kindergarten through Grade 2 –  
Session 4, April 14 - June 9 (teacher and aide needed).

Grades 3 through 5 – Session 2, Nov. 25 - Jan. 27 (aide needed); Session 3, Feb 3 - April 7 (teacher and aide needed); Session 4, April 14 - June 9 (teacher and aide needed).

Grades 6 through 8 – Session 2, Nov. 25 - Jan. 27 (teacher and aide needed); Session 4, April 14 - June 9 (teacher and aide needed).

Can we count on you to share some of your time with the children this year? Please contact the RE Committee chair, Suzanne Paton if you are available to fill one of these classroom slots. We look forward to working with you!

– the Religious Education Committee

# My True Spiritual Home

By Carol J. Craig

I came to the UUCSC in 1999 after I overheard two women talking about an interesting service that was going to be happening there. I was at All That Matters, the holistic health center on Main Street in Wakefield, and one of the women was Cindy Berry. As many of you know, I am not shy, and I interrupted them to find out what service they were discussing and whether I could attend.

That small interaction changed my life. The service, led by Cynthia Burke, was about the seven major faith traditions and it was rich with information, song and dance. By the end of it, I knew I had found my spiritual home.

I started attending the UUCSC regularly and have made many good friends and acquaintances here. This congregation has some of the most wonderful human beings in South County. They are also the most interesting and most educated folks of any of the groups to which I have belonged.

It wasn't long after arriving here that I was introduced to Joanne Friday, the Dharma (teacher) of the Clear Heart Sangha. Many members and friends of the congregation also belong to that group as well. I have found a true complete spiritual life between these two fantastic gatherings. There are many of us who are involved in

both groups and enjoy each others' company in both venues. In the sangha we meditate together, share during dharma discussions, practice mindfulness, and spend time honoring each others' spirits in many ways.

The UUCSC has given me an opportunity to engage in social activism with like-minded people as well. We have gathered at Dale Carlia Corner to protest and to advocate for different causes, and we have shown our support for the GLBT community by marching in the Gay Pride parade in Providence for many years. A devoted



group of us even flew to Washington, D.C. to preach peace and denounce the Iraqi war one day several years back. We have provided a dinner each month for the local homeless shelter and we have walked in many walkathons to support various causes. Let's not forget bowling for Habitat for

Humanity either. Over the years we have raised funds for many worthy organizations, including the East African Center in Kenya where I volunteered for four summers. We are a dynamic entity that has done so much for others and we continue to make our presence known throughout New England. I am proud to be a part of this congregation.

Five years ago, I found myself living overseas and teaching secondary school science. But I have never felt isolated by my absence from Rhode Island, as I receive the newsletters, the congregation e-mails and even a lot of Facebook messages from members of this beloved community. Whenever I find myself back in Rhode Island, I am greeted as if I had never left and I feel as much a part of the congregation as ever. There are always new faces here to meet and it is wonderful to watch how we have grown over the years. We even have a home of our own now, a big step up from our days in the American Legion hall down the road.

I will always love my UUCSC and I know I can count on you to make me feel like I am still a part of you whether I am in Trinidad with my husband, in Egypt, or as I am preparing to move to Kenya. Thank you all for your open, inviting and loving gifts that you generously pass to everyone who enters the halls of the UUCSC.

*Carol Craig spent the past year in Trinidad writing a memoir about how she and her husband met and fell in love. In mid-August, she leaves Trinidad for a job in Kenya teaching middle-school science at the Aga Khan Academy in Nairobi, which uses the International Baccalaureate program, a curriculum that teaches life skills, incorporates community service, and focuses on the process of learning.*

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

---

“To obtain a man's opinion of you, make him mad.”

– *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. (1809-1894) was an American physician, professor, lecturer, and author.

A professor of anatomy at Harvard Medical School and an important medical reformer, Holmes also was regarded by his peers as one of the best writers of the 19th century.

Holmes's father was minister of First Parish in Cambridge until the Unitarian controversy arose. His son, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., served on the U.S. Supreme Court. Holmes's memorial service, held at King's Chapel in Boston, was overseen by Edward Everett Hale.

Oliver Wendell Holmes was born 203 years ago this August.