



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2012



## October Services

SERVICES ARE ON SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.



### October 7

#### Connectivity – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

This service will be based on the poem "Turning to One Another" by Margaret Wheatley. The poem begins this way: "There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about." Come and be prepared to make discoveries.

*After the service, the Small Group Ministry facilitators will lead a practice Small Group session for those who are interested in learning about Small Group Ministry.*

### October 14

#### "If You Want Peace, Work for Justice:" Lessons from Justice GA – The "GA 8" and Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Eight UUCSC members who attended the UUA General Assembly in June will talk about actions that will bring the lessons home.

*After the service, learn about the healing work of the Wellness Team, trained by Peggy Huddleston. This is an informational meeting with a question-and-answer session.*

### October 21

#### Homelessness: A Journey – Carlton Freese

Homelessness can happen to anyone, at any time, at any stage of life. With our help, homelessness does not have to be a final destination but can become part of life's journey.

*Once an entertainer on cruise ships, Carl became homeless after a medical crisis cost him his job and his health insurance. Now he serves on the board of House of Hope Community Development Corporation of Warwick and volunteers with the R.I. Coalition for the Homeless.*

### October 28

#### The Day of the Dead – Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Our departed loved ones remain a palpable presence in our lives. In this service, we will recall and honor those who have gone before us. All are invited (and encouraged) to bring a photo or memento of a close person or pet who has died. These mementos will be placed on the Altar of Memory. (They will be returned to you.) Together we will create a stirring service of remembrance.

### November 4

#### Beauty, Gentility and Tranquility in Community – Marie Younkin-Waldman

Marie will talk about these topics that are important to her, using some examples from her public access television show "Tea with Marie."

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS – SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!**



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

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## 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***

**Pam Santos**, 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-Marenghi***

**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

*(open)* Adult Religious Education Chair

*Susan Moreland*, Music Committee Chair

*Judi Marcy*, Caring Connection Chair

*Linda Whyte Burrell*, Social Events Committee Chair

*David Floyd*, Music at Lily Pads Coordinator

*Vikki LePree, Gabrielle Torphy & Melissa Hughes*,

Hospitality Committee Chairs

*Helene Gersuny*, Worship Committee Chair

*Roni Meyer*, Flower Committee Chair

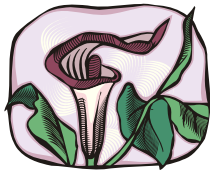
### **Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer**

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)

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.



# *The Minister's Message*

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

## Just Go

Allow me to re-introduce the "GA 8." They are:

- Charlie Donnelly • Iris Falck Donnelly • Val Follett • John Glasheen
- Carolyn Hurdis • Larry Kelland • Nancy Rose • Susan Strakosch

These eight congregants traveled to Phoenix, Arizona in June to attend the Unitarian Universalist Association's first Justice General Assembly. They made a decision to Just Go. They didn't enter the debating society. They were not deterred by the sweltering summer heat in Phoenix. They were not deterred by long and expensive travel days, nor the uncertainty of what opposition they might encounter during vigil and public witness. No, they were not deterred, they decided to Just Go.

Decision is a key word here. When we set an intention and make a decision, the head games can stop and we Just Go. On Sunday, September 16, the "GA 8" led worship, each sharing his or her moving and powerful experience. Clearly they were glad they had followed their hearts, their commitment to justice, and their passion, and decided to Just Go to Justice GA.

Some of my most powerful and transformative experiences have occurred when, against advice, against the odds, when the cons seemed to outweigh the pros, I decided to Just Go . . . and I went! I believe we are not transformed staying at home and playing it safe. In 1968, my husband, an Army doctor, was stationed at a M\*A\*S\*H unit near the demilitarized zone in Korea. No dependents (wives) were permitted to go. There were thousands of soldiers on that base, but no wives. I was a student at NYU. My family and friends advised me to Just Stay Home, continue my education, and wait. I did not follow their safe advice. I decided to Just Go. I boarded a plane for Seoul, found lodging there, two hours from my husband's base, and embarked on a great Korean adventure. There we adopted our oldest son Michael (one light of my life). That year in Korea was transformative, life changing, enlightening. I had that experience because against all odds, I decided to Just Go.

Our UUCSC "GA 8" decided to Just Go. We have heard how their lives have been changed, how the UUA's vision and mission has been changed. On October 14, they will again join me in leading worship. The service is called "If You Want Peace, Work for Justice." Lessons from Justice GA. We will explore ways to bring Justice GA home, to take local action and to make a difference here and now. We can change the world now— *carpe diem*.

May we seize the day.

May we resign from the debating society and

May we Just Go. Just Go. Just Go now.

Blessings, Peace and Love,

*Betty*

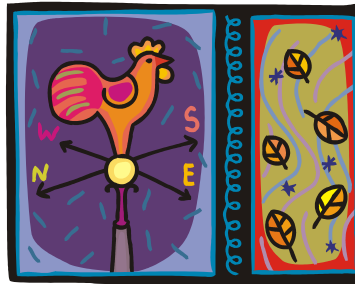
# The President's Letter

October: the month for watching the leaves fall, adjusting thermostats, bringing out of comforters, lighting that first fire in the fireplace, and settling in. It's in our DNA to start the slowing down process and hunker down, and so it is with UUCSC. Our children and young people are into the RE curriculum, our Worship committee has planned our services for the year, our choir has incorporated new voices and the Board is up and running.

The board had an intense day of retreating and looking at the governance of this amazing congregation. The board is turning much of the work of the congregation over to the committee folks who do the work. The committees will have more autonomy and be empowered to do the tasks they are willing to take on without checking every step with the board. We hope this will result in fewer conversations about the "shoulds, oughts, and musts" and more conversations about who we are and what we want for ourselves as a congregation and our role in the

wider community.

Speaking of committees, Linda Whyte Burrell has stepped up to the plate and is chairing our revived Social Events Committee. If you would like to be involved with making fun things happen around here, this is a place for you. We are currently in need of a chairperson for the Adult RE Committee, and the Facilities Committee could also use some new members.



Committees are where you get to share your passion and skills with all of us. We will be updating our guide to the various committees at UUCSC and we hope you'll all find your "special place."

The Board meets once a month, and Board members do a lot of work

in between meetings to assure the successful operation of this congregation. We welcome feedback about what's working and what needs tweaking and, like all folks, respond better when spoken to with grace and courtesy.

Ever mindful of making our congregation accessible to everyone, we will be installing an additional speaker in the sanctuary so that those who need a little extra amplification can hear what's going on with greater clarity. Thanks to Myron Waldman and Nick Smith for helping to make this happen. Reverend Betty and Kathy Carland have rearranged the chairs in the sanctuary to allow easier movement in case we need to evacuate the building, and Pam Santos, our RE Director, is working on an evacuation plan for downstairs. Expect a detailed description and drill for the congregation soon—your safety is important to us.

So as the raking season begins, take some time to join us on Sundays. We really are a "happening place."  
— Nancy Rose

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## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee names UUCSC a "Creating Justice Banner Society" for support of UUSC human rights and social justice programs

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has recognized UUCSC for its "significant support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's mission to advance human rights and social justice around the world" during the past year. We have been designated as a Creating Justice Banner Society, a designation for congregations in which 25 to 49 percent of the membership also belong to the UUSC. We are the only UU congregation in Rhode Island to receive a Banner Society membership award from the UUSC this year.



The reason for our excellent performance is last year's Guests At Your Table program, which raised \$1,778.76 for the UUSC, thanks to the generosity of our members and the leadership of Gerre Alderwick. Over a four-year period, our contributions have gone up 50% and the number of UUCSC members who are also members of the UUSC has increased from 20 to 38. We should all take pride in our growth in generosity and hope that this trend will continue this year. When we prepare for this year's Guests at Your Table program, we want to be aware of how we may increase our efforts and expand our generosity. This is one clear action we can take to support our values. When we read about the impact of UU Service Committee programs, we can take pride in knowing that we contributed to that success. Particular cheers must go to Gerre, whose leadership has been outstanding!

— John Glasheen



## The Music Corner

by Mike Galib, Music Director

We're starting a children's choir here at UUCSC!

Thanks to the imagination and generosity of some (Betsy Dalton donating her old upright piano comes to mind), the UUCSC Children's Choir is starting up this month. We will be rehearsing each Sunday after service from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Choir is open to children grades 3 through 8, and while kids already involved in music will be a great fit, all are welcome to join and learn to sing in a group set-

ting. The Choir will first perform for UUCSC's annual Christmas Eve service on the evening of Sunday, December 23, and regular rehearsal attendance is expected in order to learn the music. The cost per child is \$10 per month to offset expenses, and non-members' children are also welcome to join, so spread the word.

Please contact Michael Galib (soon!) to sign up.

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## Are You Curious about Unitarian Universalism?

Then you're in luck! Rev. Betty and the Membership Committee will soon offer our three one-hour Path to Membership classes, as we do each Spring and Fall, for people who want to learn more about UU theology, UU history and how this congregation functions. As an added bonus, you will meet others on the same path in class and at the fun pot luck dinner at Rev. Betty's lovely home before classes start. Child care is available if you let us know.

You can attend the classes even if you don't plan to become a member. But the classes are highly recommended for those who do wish to join our congregation. If you are interested, please cut out the box below and attach it to the front of your refrigerator.

Any questions? Please speak to a member of the Membership Committee (Linda Dupuis, Val Follett, Joan Ray or Jenny Watson) or to Rev. Betty.

### **Newcomer Pot Luck Dinner**

**Friday, October 19 at 6 p.m.**

Are you ready for a fun evening with some self-described newcomers to our congregation, Rev. Betty, and a few Membership Committee members? Then come on down to Rev. Betty's home in Narragansett on Friday, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. for an enjoyable evening getting to know some of those neat people you see on Sunday mornings. It's always a fun time. Just bring a dish you'd like to share. Beverages will be provided. Please sign the sign-up sheet on the Visitor's Table in the foyer. Be sure to let us know if you need child care.

### The UUCSC Path to Membership

Friday, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. – Pot luck dinner at Rev. Betty Kornitzer's home in Narragansett

Sunday, Oct. 28 at 11:30 – UU History

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 11:30 – UU theology

Sunday, Nov. 18 at 11:30 – How our congregation functions

Sunday, Dec. 2 – New Member Sunday, for those who wish to join the congregation in a ceremony during the church service.





## MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

Although the Finance Committee meets throughout the summer, September feels like a new beginning for us. Our Chairperson, Marcia Boyd, has deftly slipped into her new role and is moving us in the direction we need to go this year. Along with the regular tasks of this Committee, we will be addressing several critical new challenges, including planning for the financial implications of an Interim Minister search for 2013-2014, developing a financial plan for the Congregation for next five years, and transferring our entire record data system into one program, QuickBooks.

It is a wonderful committee to work on and one need not be a “math type” to add to the challenging and interesting discussions we puzzle out at our meetings. If you are gifted with thinking outside the box and use an imaginative, creative approach to problem solving, we urge you to consider joining us. We all benefit by having new eyes looking at the business items before us. You may be the person to bring those fresh alternatives, so DO take time to consider your place with us!! Many thanks!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Aline Couture*

## The Adult RE chair is empty . . .

The Adult Religious Education Committee is looking for a new chair. This is an opportunity for someone who wants to “enrich the congregation and greater community by developing activities which foster spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth” (the committee’s mission statement). The chair:

- Serves as a contact person for the committee.
- Coordinates meeting times and locations.
- Ensures that committee minutes are taken and sent to the board.
- Ensures that an annual report is sent to the board.
- Attends Program Council meetings (or makes sure another member attends).
- Coordinates committee activities and encourages follow-through for each task.

Please get in touch with Nancy Rose if you are interested.

– Charlie Donnelly



## Dining 4 Dollar\$

Our Fall Dining for Dollars fund-raising auction will take place on the last two Sundays in October, Oct. 21st and Oct. 28th. There is still time to offer an event but it is important that you get in touch with me with immediately. For those of you who might be new to our congregation, this is a major fundraising and “fun raising” event where folks offer to host a meal and members and friends can bid for a place at the table. We have raised over \$25,000 with these events! If you don’t think you can do something like this by yourself, consider combining efforts and co-hosting an event— after all, here at UUCSC we like working together. For suggestions, assistance or complaints, contact me.

– Nancy Rose

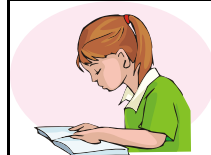


## The Welcome House Meal

We are one of the local congregations who prepare a monthly meal for Welcome House, the homeless shelter in Peace Dale.

For each meal, we provide a salad, an entree, and a dessert for twenty people. Members and friends sign up to take responsibility for all or part of a meal. UUCSC is responsible for the meal on the second Wednesday of each month. This month, the date is October 10. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the sheet in the Community Room. Should you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact me.

– Gerre Alderwick



## **Religious Education News and Events**

### **By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education**

*"Love is the spirit of this congregation  
And Service is our prayer . . ."*

In an effort to weave community service into the Religious Education curriculum we have begun Service Sunday on the first Sunday of each month.

The children will begin their mornings downstairs where we will share a children's worship service together. After worship and a time for sharing, we will briefly hear from a guest congregational member about a volunteer project he or she has been involved with and how it felt to be involved in community service.

Next, we will get busy with a community service project of our own. It is important for children to know that they have great gifts to contribute to their community and can be a very real and active part of a solution to a problem.

Our first community service project will be for the Animal Rescue League of Southern Rhode Island. We will make play toys and "snugglies" for the animals awaiting their forever homes. Connecting with animals empathetically is easy for children. Having the opportunity to make life a bit more enjoyable for a lonely pet demonstrates that even the smallest among us can make a difference.

If you would like to become involved with a Service Sunday project, here are some ways you could help.

- Suggest a service project for an organization you are familiar with.
- Volunteer in RE on a day we are working on a service project. This is a great way to see what is going on downstairs without making a larger time commitment.
- Be our guest speaker. Speak briefly (5 minutes) about a service project you have been involved in and how it felt to give back to your community.

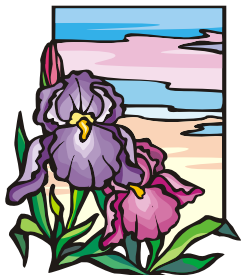
Please consider becoming involved in our Service Sundays. Contact me if you have any questions or if you would like to become involved.

*Respectfully,  
Pam Santos*

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## **Meet the Wellness Team after the service on Sunday, Oct. 14**

Our UUCSC 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. Current Members of the Wellness Team are Sarah Bell, Paulette Chamberas, Lindsey Crowninshield, Val Follett, Lynda Wells and Rev. Betty.



On Sunday, Oct. 14, from 11:30 to 12:30, you are invited to join members of the Wellness Team, who will explain how the Peggy Huddleston Wellness Program can alleviate health problems as well as anxieties. Come and bring your questions. The Wellness Team is eager to meet you!

## Is Small Group Ministry for you?

When people are asked why they come to church, the most common reasons given are: to be part of a religious community, for inspiration and intellectual stimulation, to meet people, and to find support for a spiritual journey. Small Group Ministry fills these needs and seeks to address the social isolation and superficiality so characteristic of modern life. It is a response to the deep hunger in our hearts for real connection with each other and for spiritual exploration and growth.

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*Test drive a Small Group after the service  
on Sunday, October 7*

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Small Group Ministry is a way for people to build connections within our growing congregation. The groups create an environment in which we can come together to talk about the significant events of our lives and about the ideas that engage us. The groups are inclusive, not exclusive. They are not therapy groups, affinity groups, or study groups.

How does Small Group Ministry work? Those who

are interested make up groups of six to ten people and covenant to meet regularly every two weeks for an hour and a half to two hours. Each meeting begins and ends with a reading. There is a brief check-in during which each participant can say a little about what's new or important in his or her life, and there's a feedback time at the end of the discussion. The main part of the meeting is a discussion of topics, selected by the group from a wide range of sources. Some recent topics include aging, approval, atheism, caring, change, democracy, forgiveness, friendship, living Simply, longing, and perfection.

At UUCSC, new Small Groups form in October and in February. After the service on October 7, the Small Group Ministry facilitators will lead a practice Small Group session for those who are interested in learning about Small Group Ministry. You also will have an opportunity to sign up.

You can join a Small Group at any time by speaking with Rev. Betty, who will explain the program and assign you to a group. Call Rev. Betty at 284-3321 to make arrangements.

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## Coming in November: THE GRAND SHARE

This is how the idea began: I had to say goodbye to my wonderful, ancient Oreck vacuum cleaner and I replaced it with a different brand. But I had almost a full bag of pricey vacuum bags. What to do with them?



Someone might need them—maybe someone at UUCSC? Then I thought, “Maybe I can put them out on a table with a ‘free’ sign.” That germinated to “Maybe other folks have new or ‘in like-new condition’ things that they’d want to give away.” But as our church space is limited, having stuff lying around on a table in the community

room didn’t seem like the best idea. Hence a one-day sharing extravaganza!

On Saturday, November 17th (tentatively late morning through early afternoon), UUCSC members and friends can bring one or more items to share—and wander around and take home something they may

need or want. (Holidays are just around the corner...)

Your old Tupperware containers without lids probably can stay at your house. But if they have lids and they are still pristine and useful . . . Or you can bring clothing . . . who doesn’t get tired of their clothes? Or jewelry, home decorating items, clean appliances with lots of life left in them, furniture, anything pretty or useful that you’d like to send to a good home.

All items left over at the end of the Grand Share will be donated to the Jonnycake Center. Please contact me if you plan to participate in this joyful sustainability event! (I’ll need to know how much interest there is in this event and how many tables to set up.) Many thanks! — Tracy Hart

### The Agape Fund

The Agape Fund allows the minister to confidentially assist members and friends of UUCSC with basic needs such as food and shelter. The fund is made up of contributions from the congregation at our Christmas Eve service each year. Please call Betty at her study (284-3321) if you’d like to talk confidentially about receiving assistance.



## The Art of Allowing:

### A Series on the Law of Attraction for Manifesting the Fullness of Life

Christine Phoenix Green's sessions on unlocking the powerful creative source within you to manifest a life of your dreams will continue on Tuesday, October 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Change your thinking, change your life! Release your "old story" and start living your "new story!" If you plan to attend, please e-mail Christine at [anamcara131@hotmail.com](mailto:anamcara131@hotmail.com) so she can prepare for you to attend.



## Dreams and Dreamwork



Your nightly dreams are a doorway to the Soul and the source of your deepest inner Wisdom and guidance. Christine Phoenix-Green, who has been leading Dreams and Peer Mentoring circles and retreats for more than thirty years, will offer a short introductory series on Dreams and Dreamwork. Topics will include the basics of dreamwork, creating your dream notebook, archetypal themes and methods for working with your dreams. Especially during times of personal and cultural change and challenge, our dreams can offer us deep and powerful wisdom for healing and balance. The dates for this series will be announced shortly.

## "Walking the Word" with Colombia's Indigenous

On October 24, Witness for Peace New England will bring Ligna Pulido, a member of Colombia's Nasa indigenous group and a human rights leader, to our congregation to talk about the ways in which militarization, international trade, land rights, and environmental protection are connected. Her talk, on the Colombian Consolidation Plan and U.S. government policies, will give us a unique view through the eyes of Colombia's indigenous people, and the viewpoint of women in particular.

Ligna is active in the Cauca Regional Indigenous Council (CRIC), the Minga Popular, a national process of Mobilization and Conscience, and the Colombian National Indigenous Organization. The CRIC is has brought suit against the Consolidation Plan in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the OAS (Organization of American States) for violation of land and indigenous rights. Founded in 1971, CRIC is a highly organized and empowered hub for indigenous rights in the Andean Region of Cauca, a region besieged by military activity supported by the U.S. government. CRIC is dedicated to non-violent resistance and change and to the remaking of Colombia into a just and peaceful society.

Join us for a potluck meal at 5 p.m. Ligna's talk begins at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Susan Letendre at [wfpne@witnessforpeace.org](mailto:wfpne@witnessforpeace.org).

## What Moves Us

"What Moves Us" explores the life experiences of historic and contemporary Unitarian Universalist theologians. These workshops offer participants a chance to engage with and bring their personal experiences to bear on the very questions explored by each theologian in turn.

This month and next, Rev. Betty will offer two segments of the program, which was created by Rev. Dr. Thandeka, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and theologian.

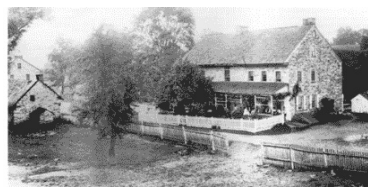
### Margaret Fuller (1810-1850)

*Saturday, October 27, 10:30 to Noon*

This workshop introduces Margaret Fuller's Liberal Theology of the Human Heart. Fuller, an international advocate for human rights, was instrumental in guiding Americans to think, feel and act with non-dogmatic, life-affirming spiritual integrity.

### George de Benneville (1703-1793)

*Saturday, November 10, 10:30 to Noon*



The de Benneville homestead in Berks County, Pennsylvania was the first formally established Universalist place of worship in the United States.

This workshop introduces de Benneville's Liberal Theology of Boundless Universal Love. Today, de Benneville is recognized as one of the spiritual forebears of the Universalist Church of America. He preached the restoration of all human beings "without exception" and built religious communities united by fellowship and action rather than by church doctrine and creed.

# Ballou Channing District Fall Conference

Saturday, October 20th • 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First Parish Unitarian Universalist, Canton, Mass.

Join Rev. Betty and UUCSC President Nancy Rose at this inspirational gathering on Saturday, October 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Canton, Mass.

This year's theme is "Getting Things Done." Nine workshops will cover several important aspects of church life:

- Addressing congregational anxiety that develops around problems, including:
- How to improve visitor welcome and outreach.
- Planning for canvass and stewardship.
- Learning strategies for engaging in discussions on "hot topics."
- Using the Appreciative Inquiry technique as a planning tool.
- Seeing how religious education ministry can respond to societal changes.
- Establishing a legacy giving (planned giving) program.
- Discovering the transformative power of a congregational-based justice ministry.



Conference information and registration material are available at the church office or at [www.bcduuu.org](http://www.bcduuu.org). The advance registration fee is \$30 for adults and \$10 for youth, including breakfast. Registration at the door is \$40 for adults. You can register on line at <http://fall2012bcd.eventbrite.com/> with a credit card.

The Ballou Channing District is made up of 45 congregations in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. The annual conference is a fantastic way to meet fellow Unitarian Universalists in our area.

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## How to line them up . . .



The new chair configuration in the Sanctuary is permanent and designed for the essential safety, evacuation, and accessibility of all persons. Everyone who uses the Sanctuary space must return the chairs to their original positions. Here is how the chairs should be arranged:

- Line up each chair (on the far left of each section) with the gold circle under the front left leg.
- Line up each chair (on the far right of each section) with the gold circle under the front right leg.
- Line up chairs evenly with the rug in the middle aisle.
- All chairs should be hooked together (except arm chairs).

The total number of chairs should be 165. Before you leave, please do a final assessment of chair placement. Thank you!

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### THIS MONTH'S FLOWERS

The design team of Roni Meyer and Patience Peck created the floral designs at the front of the church. They are entitled 'Days of Awe in Autumn.'

I love the earth

And all the gifts of her so lavish hand:

Sunshine and flowers, rivers and rushing winds . .

— from "Summer," by Amy Lowell

Do you love flowers? Come help the Floral Committee create floral designs that celebrate the heart of our congregation. We are a flexible bunch and work solo or in teams to design arrangements for the niches in the front of the church. We try to create designs that last a month. Please contact me if you're interested!

— Roni Meyer



# In My Own Words

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

This month, "In My Own Words" features self-portraits of four members of the Board of Directors.

## **Nancy Rose, President**

Although baptized and raised in the Lutheran faith, I became a Unitarian in the mid-60s, attending the Unitarian Church of Palo Alto, California. I was drawn to Unitarianism as I witnessed the violence and hatred on the nightly news during the struggle for civil rights. I saw the buses filled with folks willing to join the struggle from Unitarian churches in the north and knew this was a group who were willing to stand up and witness social justice. I started to explore the tenets of Unitarianism and they spoke to me. I was thrilled that I had a place where I could explore, question, discuss and develop my own spiritual understanding. I viewed these principles not as a religion for me, but a spiritual practice.

UUCSC furthers that exploration, questioning, discussion and development, and the members and friends of this congregation have become my spiritual community.

## **Steve Harrison, Vice President**

Linda and I had not been affiliated with any formal religious entity since high school, but we felt a growing need to find a spiritual home. After much discussion, our first stop was going to be at the UUCSC on February 12, 2006. However, there was a blizzard that weekend and the service was cancelled. I took this as some sort of sign from the cosmos. The following week we did finally attend a service, and reading the seven principles on the order of worship made me feel that I was among like minded souls. We joined later that spring. The storms of controversy will always ebb and flow within any group, but using respect and compassion to find mutually agreeable solutions is one of our most valuable assets. Love is the spirit of this congregation, and it keeps me coming back each week.

The majority of my professional life has been spent in the food business, as a cook, chef, small business owner and food service administrator. This combination of business experience, creativity, and ability to multitask will be good preparation for handling the duties and responsibilities of vice president of the congregation. We are about to embark once again on

an exciting and challenging year as we grow and mature as a congregation. I am honored to be able to help guide us in the coming adventure.

## **Charlie Donnelly, Past President**

Past President is an official position, and one of my main responsibilities is to run the Program Council. The Program Council is made up of committee chairs or their representatives and its job is to "plan and coordinate the program activities of the congregation." The next Program Council meeting will be scheduled for this month.

I have been a member of the UUCSC for about twelve years. I have been chair of the Membership, Worship, and Adult RE committees. I have also been a Trustee, Vice President, and President as well as a senior youth advisor. In my work life I am Librarian at Tolman High School in Pawtucket. I am married to Iris and have two step children: Emmanuel, who is a union organizer for the Service Employees International Union (SIEU) in Providence, and Maya, who teaches in New York City. Maya has a beautiful baby girl named Sabine. We also have two cats named Joy and Tubby.

## **Essjay Foulkrod, Trustee**

I am a seventh generation Unitarian Universalist, and now, in my 86th year, I am looking forward to finding a safe and supportive place here, among like-minded, or more importantly, like-spirited people. I have been very active over the years in four other UU churches, but I now look forward to a more restful 'retirement' here at UUCSC.

I was raised in the Greater Boston area and received my degree in Veterinary Medicine in Massachusetts, then married and moved to New Hampshire. Moving back to Massachusetts with three teenagers, I worked in the Biological Science Center at Boston University. I also served as Science Acquisitions Librarian at the Mugar Library at BU.

Later, after the kids were out on their own, it seemed time to try something new, so I left BU and started my Hare & Tortoise Bookstore and New Age Gift Shop in Fairhaven, Mass. Finally, in retirement, I moved to Rhode Island, settling cheerfully into the Peace Dale House on Saugatucket Road with my Pug dog, Lucy.

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CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY  
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"We can imagine no holier place than that in which he lies, among his brave and devoted followers, nor wish for him better company – what a body-guard he has!"

*– Francis George Shaw, whose son, Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, commander of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, was buried in a common grave with his troops.*

In early 1863, when he was 26, Robert Gould Shaw, the son of wealthy Unitarian abolitionists, was recruited to raise and command one of the first regiments of African American troops in the Union army, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry. On July 18, 1863, the 54th led the Union assault on Fort Wagner in Charleston, S.C. Colonel Shaw was shot through the heart while leading his troops forward under fierce Confederate fire.

Confederate Gen. Johnson Hagood refused to return Shaw's body to the Union army. Instead, to show contempt for the officer who led black troops, Hagood had Shaw's body buried in a common trench with his men. Rather than considering this a dishonor, Francis Shaw refused to have his son's body moved.

Robert Gould Shaw was born in Boston 175 years ago this month.