

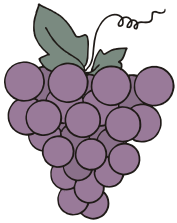


THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2010



September Services



September 5

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 this holiday.

September 12

“Water, Water Everywhere” (well, not really . . .) – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer & the UUCSC Community*

Our Annual Water Communion Sunday

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 ocean of our community. The homily will focus on water as a liquid treasure not to be taken for granted.

Remember to bring water to the Service!

September 19

The Days of Awe: The Jewish Practice of Forgiveness and Repentance – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*
‘Tikkun: to heal, repair and transform the world.’ This goal is the heart of the Days of Awe. You don't have to be Jewish to use these practices; they are useful for the deeply spiritual, agnostics and skeptics of all sorts.

September 26

Person to Person – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

At this Service, we will focus our attention on human connection as a powerful tool
in all aspects of human experience.

*After the Service, our UUCSC Small Group Ministry facilitators will lead
a practice Small Group session for those who are interested in learning about Small Group Ministry.
You will be able to sign up for a Small Group.*

October 3

Inherent Worth and Dignity: Standing on the Side of Love – *Rev. Betty Kornitzer*

We will explore the meaning of our First Principle and our faith's amazing history
of standing in solidarity with the marginalized peoples of the world.

*After the service, our Growth and Transitions Consultant, Peter Bowden, will offer a congregation-wide
program on working with the transitions we're facing. All are encouraged to attend.
Refreshments will be served and child care will be available.*



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

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Debby Hedison, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

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

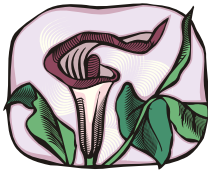
(401) 783-4170 • e-mail address: uucscri@yahoo.com

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

Symbols and Signs

It was a perfect summer day. The sky was clear and the breeze refreshing. On this day, my longtime friend Phyllis and I set out on a very long walk along the beach from North Truro to Provincetown. The walk took hours; it was great exercise and a wonderful time to catch up with a dear friend. As we walked, I notice a rainbow flag flying over the low dunes in the distance. This is not an unusual sight in Provincetown. As I approached the flag I noticed something special—across the length of the rainbow, in big white letters, the word PEACE was written. I loved it.

UUCSC is a Welcoming Congregation, and Provincetown is a Welcoming Town—the peace-rainbow flag said it all. I began thinking about all the other flags, banners and symbols that, in an instant, speak volumes. I remembered learning about the peace-heart, in which the peace symbol is placed within a heart. This is the symbol of compassionate care for those with mental health challenges. My own heart said a resounding “yes” to this symbol.

I remembered the “Solidarity” banner carried through the streets of Warsaw by members of that country’s first non-communist trade union. That banner had a compelling impact on the people of Poland. It was a great source of strength and an agent of change.

At General Assembly in June, and in Arizona on July 2, the UUA’s “Standing on the Side of Love” banners made a bold statement of our faith’s commitment to standing in solidarity with all marginalized people.

Symbols, signs and slogans clearly catch our attention and ideally move us to action. But the greatest banners we have are our own faces and our own lives. Our facial expressions and our actions give quick clear messages to those around us. Like the peace-rainbow flag and the peace heart symbol, may our lives become symbols of Peace, Love and Compassion for All.

I have given a gift to UUCSC of a rainbow-peace flag, and soon we will also have a “Standing on the Side of Love” banner, reminding all in an instant of “who we are, and why we are here.”

Blessings, Peace and Love,

Betty

Working with the Transitions We're Facing

Many of you know that I received a Westwood Grant for “entrepreneurial ministry” through the UUA this year. I decided that hiring an experienced congregational consultant would be a great use of these funds. My vision was to get professional guidance in creating systems and structures that will help UUCSC operate smoothly in this time of wonderful growth. The UUCSC Board agreed with my idea. Over the next year, at no cost to the congregation, we will be working with Peter Bowden, a seasoned and effective congregational consultant. Peter has already met with our Board, the Program Council and the Task Force on Managing Our Growth. We hope that most of the congregation will attend a program on Sunday, October 3rd called “Working with the Transitions We're Facing.” Peter wants to hear from you!

Peter is the Ballou Channing District’s growth consultant. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Peter has been a congregation lay leader for more than twenty years and has served as a UUA staff member, district consultant, and independent consultant to UU congregations on emerging ministries. Our district recruited him as a part time consultant and to offer freelance services such as retreat facilitation, training, and direct consultations. I know our beloved community will benefit from our work with Peter.

The President's Letter

This summer Iris and I took a road trip to the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. We had a general idea of where we wanted to go, but it was not written in “concrete.” Along the way we found things that surprised us. We found a store in Great Barrington, Mass. that is the largest Asian artifact store in the nation. Walking into it was like walking into a museum. The Clarke Institute in Williamstown, Mass. had a fascinating Degas-Picasso show. Paintings of the two artists were juxtaposed showing the influence that Degas had on Picasso. On the wall was a quote from Picasso, considered by many to be one of the greatest artists of all time: “Good artists borrow—great artists steal.” And then there was the magical walk that led to the magnificent Bash Bish Falls. (We got our exercise in by walking from New York to Massachusetts— about 20 minutes.)

Being a Unitarian Universalist, especially being a member of this congregation, is a lot like being on an adventurous road trip—you never what you will discover along the way. This brings me to the subject of the summer services. They were completely lay-led and showcased the depth that we have in our congregation. Where else but in a UU church can we learn that an

office building in Zimbabwe was built to resemble the tower-like home of termites by using bio-mimicry, find out from a human development researcher how children learn empathy, hear poetry written by a visitor to the summer services, and be educated about addiction in a very personal way? Congratulations to all who were involved in making the summer services a success. The ones I attended were enlightening, and all the feedback I heard from other people was extremely positive.



This summer the Managing Growth Committee has been meeting to plan two services and explore ways of alleviating space issues. See Steve Harrison's article on page 10 for an update on what has been happening. Thanks go to Steve and the committee for their hard work. Also, Myron Waldman has been working hard to improving sound issues.

I'd like to thank all those involved

in keeping our building and grounds functioning and looking great. The condo association, of which we are a member, hired a crew from Welcome House to weed the grounds, including the front of our building (Unit B).

Many members of our congregation work behind the scenes to keep things running, such as Jean Burke, who is our liaison to the condo association, Sally Barney, Chris DePaola, Tina Toomey, and Trish Moreau of the Facilities Committee, and Ed Burrell, who has been working very hard to make sure that our Religious Education space does not get flooded by using his construction skills to build a very effective drainage system.

It may sound like many people are involved but in reality our volunteers are stretched thin. You don't have to be a “Bob the Builder” to become a member of the Facilities Committee, and we need more people to take care of our “home.”

As I write this, the board retreat is scheduled for next Saturday. One of the areas we will be focusing on this year is increasing the visibility of the Board, not only to the congregation in general but also to the committees by strengthening our board liaisons. We have had three Board meetings this church year so far; we are fortunate to have such an able Board!

— Charlie Donnelly

Our appreciation goes to . . .

The Worship Committee wishes to thank all those volunteers from our church community who made our summer program possible. Much appreciation goes to program leaders Lisa Tener, Marie Younkin Waldman, Jaime Dice, Linda Hull, Steve Harrison, Helene Gersuny, Henry O'Reilly, Erin Goodman and Rich Evans, to worship leaders Tracy Hart, Susan Strakosch, and Kathy Swink, and to singers Jan Creamer, Sandra Ketrow, Susan Moreland, Mac Richardson, and Ann Seemann, and to Marion Anderson and Sharon Albert, recorders; Ali Buffum, mandolin; Nick Smith and Harry Buffum, guitars; Helene Gersuny, piano; Susan Moreland, fiddle; and Steve Robison, clarinet.

The RE Director's new schedule

My schedule is changing this year. I will be taking Tuesdays off and will not be checking my e-mail until Wednesday. On Thursdays, I will be in my office at Lily Pads from 9:30 a.m. to noon. If you need to meet with me, please e-mail or call ahead for an appointment!

— Debby Hedison



The Music Corner

by Mike Galib, Music Director

I have the privilege of working in a French language immersion environment during the summer. The days, while intense in their workload and frenetic in pacing, are often infused with a certain comedic punch, thanks to students who routinely manifest their inability to distinguish between the words that are coming out of their mouths and the words they mean to be saying (which are often off by a key vowel or two). And so it goes that students bumble around unwittingly demanding whose bedroom you're in (they just want to know what classroom you're working in), thanking professors for their lovely behinds (trying to say "thank you very much"), and complaining that their horses are getting too long (when all they really need is a haircut).

We should all pause a minute to note that these are the good students. Everyone else is just plain unintelligible.

You can imagine that there are plenty of awkward, uncomfortable moments for just about everyone involved, be they teachers or students (or the staff pianist, for that matter). The poor

beginners, or "débutants" as we call them, are probably the worst off of everyone, but also the most motivated. They have no choice but to learn as much as they can to regain their capacity to communicate with others, and preferably far enough before the end of the seven-week program so that they can develop some real interaction and camaraderie with the other students.

In the midst of all this, I get to act as a musical protagonist, which is a wonderful thing given that all the activities I get to be involved in are the only ones everyone—American and French and every other nationality—can understand. Piano performances, a cabaret, a choral concert—music has a habit of speaking to "tout le monde," all the world, everyone. The student from Chicago who produces one word every five seconds in French suddenly becomes a flute virtuoso for an evening. Another student in one of the lower levels of French study magically turns on the charm with his jazz saxophone. For once, no one has to ask the other to repeat, and we are all fluent in the same language.

The first choir rehearsal of the fall will take place on Thursday, September 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. New singers are welcome to come and see what the fuss is all about!

Please contact Mike Galib with any questions.

Are You a Friend?

UUCSC has a page on Facebook, but it's empty, and will remain empty until a knowledgeable member gets involved.



These are exciting times for our congregation, and we want to reach out to potential members and friends in as many ways as possible. The Publicity Committee is looking for someone who would like to express his or her creativity by acting as the administrator for our Facebook page. If you understand Facebook and would like to help the congregation increase its visibility, please contact Myron Waldman.

Time to get your hands dirty!

Please start thinking about our annual Autumn Plant Sale, to be held before and after the Service on September 19th.

Share what you don't want with someone who will love it. Garden clean-up time is ideal for dealing with excess in this very helpful way. With cold weather on the horizon, indoor plants are especially desirable. Take cuttings or divide now.



Questions about potting? Need pots? Have some pots to contribute? Call Helene Gersuny.



MONEY MATTERS

The monthly column from the Finance Committee

We have a new broker.

As some of you may know, we have changed our stockbroker from Edward Jones to Charles Schwab. This change will save us approximately \$100 per trade.

For those of you who plan to donate stock to UUCSC or pay your annual pledge with stock, please contact me and I will provide you with the information you will need to give your broker.

Buy a chance to win \$10,000!

Our UUCSC Lottery is in full swing. Tickets are \$100 each, and only 200 will be sold—so your chances of winning are substantial! Tickets are on sale after every service and may also be purchased from Aline Couture, Virginia Carter, Jeff and Cindy Berry, or Kathy Kaufman.

The drawing will be on Saturday, October 23 at noon. You don't need to be present to win.

Just to show their support for this great fund raising effort, every member of the Board is buying a lottery ticket. If any of them is lucky enough to hold the winning ticket, the winner will treat everyone else on the Board to a nice dinner—and the rest of the money will be donated to the congregation.

— Aline Couture, Finance Committee Chair

Those diverting sisters . . .

Our congregation's daytime book discussion group, the Lunch Bunch, was so turned on by *American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever—about the Transcendentalists (who all had Unitarian connections)—that the Lunch Bunch September selection is *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*, by Megan Marshall. Those fascinating siblings lived at the same time and in the same general area as Margaret Fuller, Louisa May Alcott, Emerson and Thoreau. One of the sisters, Sophia, was married to Nathaniel Hawthorne. Connections abound! Many copies of *The Peabody Sisters* are available at local libraries.

The Lunch Bunch meets at noon the second and fourth Monday of the month. All are welcome to join in the discussions, as well as the famous digressions! — Helene Gersuny

The Wellness Team is at your service

Last spring and summer, our congregation's "Wellness Ministers" took two full days of training in a hospital- tested mind-body-spirit technique that has been in use for more than twenty years to help people prepare for surgery, heal faster and use less pain medication, as well as for lessening the side effects of chemotherapy, radiation, and the challenges of acute and long-term health issues. The method we use is validated by substantial clinical research done in major hospitals including Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and Kaiser Permanente in California.

The Wellness Team served many congregation members during the past year, some with extremely beneficial results. We welcome the opportunity to serve you. The Caring Connection can



refer people to the Wellness Team, or you can request a session yourself by contacting the Wellness Team

Coordinator, Lynda Wells.

Current Members of the Wellness Team are Sarah Bell, Paulette Chamberas, Lindsey Crowninshield, Iris Donnelly, Val Follett, Julie Hopkins-DeSantis, Mary Morrissey, Lynda Wells and Rev. Betty Kornitzer.

We are so happy to be able to bring this simple and beneficial technique to our faith community. The process, which takes about one hour, teaches you how to help your body heal. It is empowering and effective. We envision a community that focuses on faith, health and spirituality and ministers to all these ways of being fully human.

— Betty Kornitzer



Religious Education News and Events

By Debby Hedison, Director of Religious Education

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

Hobbes: "Well, summer is almost over. It sure went quick, didn't it?"

Calvin: "Yep. There's never enough time to do all the nothing you want."

– "Calvin and Hobbes," by Bill Watterson

Greetings Everyone!

I'm sitting here feeling thankful for lots of things, including this beautiful summer and the power of taking the time to do Nothing. I hope you all had a chance for a bit of Nothing this summer.

Maybe the last thing on your mind is September and Religious Education programming, but we are in full swing planning and scheduling. The Curricula for the Sunday school year are:

"We Believe: Learning and Living our UU Principles" — K through 2nd & 3rd through 5th

This curriculum has wonderful lessons geared toward both classes. We will offer it to both classes to encourage continuity between the classrooms and so the children can share what they are learning and doing with one another. It features activities, stories, worship material, a game board and cards, and music.

On the first Sunday of each month the children will begin downstairs with Worship, and then go to their classes. On these Sundays the topic will be one of our principles; that principle also will be a part of the upstairs service. We hope this will foster conversation between the children and adults.

"Neighboring Faiths: Exploring World Religions" — 6th, 7th and 8th grade

This curriculum offers flexible sessions that explore the history and development of different faith traditions. Participants plan their own program by choosing which religious groups to learn about, visit and relate to their own growing faith. It includes historical resources and tips for hosting guests, visiting other faiths, and creating worship experiences.

Junior Youth Group — Grades 6 through 8

This year we will continue to offer social activities and community service projects to promote friendship and community. Past activities include building a 6-foot ice cream sundae, camping, swimming at URI, and a music night. Our Junior Youth advisors are Cindy West and Pam Santos.

Senior High Youth Group YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) — Grades 9 through 12

We provide a safe, supportive and confidential setting in which teens can share what's happening in their lives, become empowered by leadership opportunities, experience the fellowship of working together on social action projects, and just "hang out." Some activities in past years: visiting a corn maze, preparing Welcome House dinners, overnight retreats, movie nights, bowling, hiking, holiday parties, and attending district youth events. We meet every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. after a visit to coffee hour! Our team of adult advisors have received training with UU professionals.

Coming of Age — Grades 9 & 10

This fall we will offer a Coming of Age program in which the young people have the opportunity to look more directly at themselves, their beliefs and what it means to be part of the UU community. The program addresses UU traditions, social action, and spirituality. Participants also have an opportunity to connect with one adult in the congregation other than their parent. The program ends with a ceremony involving the whole congregation.

The Religious Education program begins on Sunday, September 19. All teachers in all sessions are asked to attend. Children and youth attend the beginning of the service in the sanctuary and then go downstairs for RE Ingathering. We will play games, get acquainted with one another and create classroom covenants. Classes begin on September 26.

This year, because of the wonderful growth in our congregation, we encourage children and youth to sit up front on the floor for the beginning of services. This will free up several seats for adults.

I wish for everyone a safe, healthy and fun rest of the summer!

– Debby

The Social Justice Action Council's priorities for the coming year

The Social Justice Action Council, made up of the subcommittee chairs, co-chairs and program leaders involved in the Social Action Committee's many efforts, met on August 11 to discuss how to concentrate members' efforts during the coming year.

We looked at the most recent data about the residence of members and friends of the congregation:

Town	members	friends
Narragansett	7	6
North Kingstown	12	6
South Kingstown	99	15
Exeter	1	1
Charlestown	7	5
Richmond	14	4
Westerly	8	1
Totals	148	38

We estimated that 37 members and an unknown number of friends — probably relatively few— participate in social action activities. That means 111 members do not. We also noted that there may be some, even many, who participate in social justice activities as individuals rather than as members of the UUCSC community. This practice both undercounts our participation and reduces our potential identity within the larger community.

We also asked ourselves if we can have an impact on the community or the community culture. The answer: The culture of the congregation is unformed, or a "limited community," or "up-for-grabs." Educational programming on social justice projects, themes and theology is imperative.

The Social Justice Council will focus its efforts on:

- Articulating and elaborating program operations for effectiveness and impact.
- Developing an education program, including sermons, on elements of our social justice program and its theological basis, both within the congregation and in the community
- Helping the congregation to become spiritually mature—to have the courage to act on our principles as the actions of a faith community rather than as individuals.
- Promoting actions to follow from programs, education, and development activities
- Increasing awareness of the UUA as a denomination.

Social Justice Council meetings will include feedback on recent activities and programs, review of leadership and operations, possible changes to programs within teams, and proposed sermons and education programs.

To increase our focus on UUA actions and activities, we will inaugurate a potluck dinner and discussion series based on the content of UUA World magazine. The meetings will follow publication by about five weeks. We will prioritize the issues raised and discuss the top three or more issues. The tentative dates for these potluck discussions: Monday, Oct. 18, Tuesday, Dec. 14, Tuesday, March 15, Tuesday, June 13.

We also encourage everyone to attend URI's Honors Colloquium on Race, taking place throughout the fall semester. The session on Tuesday, Sept. 14, "Green the Ghetto and How Much It Won't Cost Us," features speaker Majora Carter, a 2006 McArthur Genius Fellow and president of the green-collar economic consulting company.

It's at Edwards Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., free, and open to the public.

— John Glasheen

Welcome House Meals

Our congregation has a special relationship with Welcome House. We are neighbors; the house is diagonally across the street from our Sanctuary. Welcome House is South County's sanctuary for people in need of shelter.

Our congregation supports Welcome House in several ways. We volunteer our time at the house, we participate in the annual "Walk for Shelter" that takes place on Good Friday, and we join together to provide a meal that will feed 20 people. We bring in a salad, an entrée and a dessert on the second Wednesday of each month to Welcome House by 5 p.m. In lieu of the dish, you may bring in the fixings for your part of the meal, and the chef de jour will take it from there.

Creating a dish can be a wonderful experience to share with children as you work together to prepare food that others will eat. Friends also could join together and share in the preparation of a dish. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Community Room or speak with Gerre Alderwick.



The Music at Lily Pads September concert: *Brown Bird and Fly Around*

Our “Music at Lily Pads” series kicks off the fall season with a great acoustic music double bill: ‘Brown Bird’ from Warren, Rhode Island and South County’s own ‘Fly Around,’ featuring local favorites Sandol Astrausky and

creating a sound described as both familiar and stunningly original.

Since the release of *The Devil Dancing*, Brown Bird has toured the East Coast and joined The Low Anthem for a European tour in

musical and cultural events to our UUCSC home at Lily Pads. The sanctuary’s acoustics are excellent, and cultural events are a great way to reach out to the community. The Social Events Committee hopes that we can



Brown Bird in concert.

Rory McLeod.

David Lamb has been playing music under the name Brown Bird since 2003. Originally from Seattle, he now lives in Rhode Island. Brown Bird has released four albums. The most recent, *The Devil Dancing*, features Brown Bird’s current lineup: Lamb (vocals, guitar, banjo, percussion), his partner MorganEve Swain (vocals, fiddle, cello, upright bass), and friend Mike Samos (dobro). The trio draws influences from outlaw country, early American folk, blues, roots rock, and Eastern European and Gypsy music,

2009. Currently the group is working on a fifth album and touring extensively in the Northeast.

Sandol Astrausky and Rory McLeod have been keeping old time music alive in southern Rhode Island for years. Their latest project is “Fly Around,” an old time music band featuring traditional instruments and vocals. Expect superb musicianship and a lighthearted treatment of a bunch of classic melodies from rural America.

This concert is part of a continuing effort to bring quality

create an ongoing series of happenings—music, dance, theater, poetry slams. There are many possibilities. We hope you will support this effort and come out to the show on Sept. 11. Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$11 at the door. A children's discount will be announced. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the music begins at 7:30 p.m.

Don’t miss this very special chance to see two of Rhode Island’s finest bands. For more information, contact David Floyd, Harry Buffum or Eileen DeMaio.

– *The Social Events Committee*

A progress report from the Task Force on Managing Our Growth

Many folks came to the congregational meeting in May and gave their thoughts on how to manage our continued growth. The committee chairs also voiced their thoughts on the subject at a program council meeting in July.

The overall feeling seems to be that moving to two services is a last resort option to handle our increased participation. Many feel that we have already made a big change by moving to our new home, and we should concentrate on adjusting to these new surroundings before we implement any additional major changes.

The committee has taken these concerns to heart, and our first task is to find alternate ways to handle the increased participation each Sunday.

The main issues associated with our growth are seating, parking, and coffee hour. One of the immediate changes for September will be for the RE children. Debby and the RE staff will be helping to encourage children to sit up front on the floor for the beginning of services. This will free up several seats for adults.

The UUA recommends that congregations should not exceed about 80% of their seating capacity to insure that everyone can find a seat comfortably. At times we are close to this threshold, and we have

even exceeded it on occasion. If seating is too tight, potential new members will be discouraged from attending.



We also are working on expanding the sound system to include additional speakers in the rear of the sanctuary and to add sound (and possibly video) into the community room to accommodate additional seating. The sound issue has proven more complicated than first thought, and we hope to have solutions early in the fall.

The Green Team will be implementing twelve projects as we begin the process of obtaining Green Sanctuary Certification. We strongly recommend that part of this process should include promoting car pooling and biking and lining up off-site parking. Our lot is nearly full on most Sundays, and if visitors cannot find a

parking space, they will most likely pass us by.

Coffee hour has been well attended, and the community room does get a bit congested. The process will flow more smoothly if everyone remembers to move away from the food and beverage tables once they make their selections, and to not congregate right at the refreshment tables. The lobby, the sanctuary and outside are all nice places to socialize.

The task force is also working on contingency plans for two services. In a time when many Unitarian Universalist congregations are losing members, we are growing. We must make plans to accommodate this growth while at the same time preserving the open, welcoming and loving spirit of this congregation that brought us to this point. If we keep that in mind, we will navigate these times of growth successfully.

We will be discussing these plans at a congregational meeting on September 19th after the Service, and we urge everyone to attend as we chart a course to manage and encourage the growth of our congregation.

– The Task Force on Managing Our Growth
(Nancy Dean, Charley Donnelly, John Glasheen, Steve Harrison, and Betty Kornitzer)

Swords into Plowshares: A Film Series for Peace



In October and November, the UUCSC will join other congregations in presenting Swords into Plowshares: A Film Series for Peace. Movie directors from around the world have been making anti-war films for decades. We'll screen some of the best of those films.

Venues in addition to the UUCSC will be Kingston Congregational Church, the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church, and Congregation Beth David of Narragansett. After each screening, a facilitator will lead a discussion. A detailed schedule with descriptions of each movie will appear in the October South County Unitarian Universalist. Sponsored by the UUCSC's Adult RE Committee. For more information, call Iris Falck Donnelly.

– Iris Falck Donnelly

Meditation at UUCSC

Our Meditation Group meets in the sanctuary every Wednesday from 10:00 - 11:00. We practice sitting and walking meditation and share a reading and time of discussion. All are welcome; no meditation experience is necessary.

Do you love music and video? We are looking for someone to attend our Music at Lily Pads events, have fun and do some creative video. There are usually four events scheduled throughout the year. Whoever does the work will get credit for it on YouTube and on our own website and upcoming Facebook page. Email your interest to Myron Waldman.



Preserving Joys & Concerns with a sentence or two

Joys and concerns is one of the most sacred elements of our worship service. It is a way for each of us to allow our congregation to share in those deeply personal times of great joy, deep concern, or profound sorrow. If you choose to share these important personal experiences with us, it is important to observe a few guidelines.

Please be brief.

Collect what you wish to say and put it in a sentence or two. It can be unnerving to stand before a group, especially if you are experiencing an emotionally charged time in your life. If you feel nervous, jot down the basic things you wish to share beforehand.

- Light a candle and tell us your name and if yours is a candle of joy, concern, or sorrow.
- Tell us what it is and who else it has touched— a birth, illness, graduation, death or other milestone of life.

Please do not feel you must give a detailed account. We are all truly interconnected, and this time in our worship is where we can touch each other on a deeper plane. Our own life experiences will help us understand what you are feeling.

Only convey a personal experience.

Joys and Concerns is not a forum for our views on current events, political issues, or world news. As UUs, many of us may feel strongly about things that are happening within our earth community. However, comments about those public events are not appropriate during a time reserved for personal experiences. There are other forums available for comment or action on those issues—a newsletter article, an announcement for the insert in the order of worship, discussion at a small group meeting, committee work, even a sermon. Speak to Reverend Betty, a board member, or a member of the appropriate committee if you feel strongly about public issues or events that should be brought to the congregation.

We must all be mindful of how we use this special time in our worship, and respect these guidelines. As our congregation continues to grow, the constraints on our time of community worship will become even more important. On behalf of the Worship Committee, I would like to thank you all for helping us to keep this a most sacred time of sharing in our worship service. – Steve Harrison

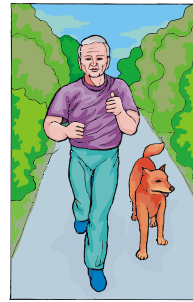
Dealing with Life

Everyone has experienced being hurt and having a broken heart. It continues to happen throughout our lives. Quite often the person doing the hurting isn't aware of what he or she is doing. On the other hand, many people are well-versed in inflicting hurt. Often we carry that hurt for a lifetime. We may forgive but we don't forget. Many of us suffer from what author John Bradshaw calls "toxic shame," when we aren't ashamed of a misdeed, but ashamed of who we are. We live on a merry-go-round of emotions, losing sight of the good life we were meant to enjoy.



It is said that "your fate is in no one else but you, no other hands but yours." By our own initiative we can be the source of comfort, the guiding light, the one who truly cares. Hank O'Reilly, a layperson experienced in leading group discussions, will facilitate a series of workshops to explore ways of dealing with life. The workshops will take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, beginning on September 28, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. – Hank O'Reilly

Path to Membership classes this fall



For all those considering membership in the UUCSC, or those who just want to learn more about our faith and our congregation and meet some people in a smaller setting, dates for the Path

to Membership classes are:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 at 6 p.m.

– Pot luck dinner for newcomers.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 after the Service – UU history

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 after the Service – UU theology

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 after the Service – The workings of our congregation

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 during the Service – New Member ceremony

The classes are open to all and are especially recommended for anyone considering joining the congregation. If you have questions, please speak to Barbara Pagh or Val Follett.

Do you like to make people feel welcomed?

Do you like to greet old friends, make new friends, and make everyone feel welcomed? The Membership Committee wants you! We have a great job, and we're looking for others who might want to share in the joy on Sunday mornings. As our mission statement says, we "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 being a part of this fun work is something your heart is drawn to, please speak to either co-chair, Barbara Pagh or Val Follett, or any of our happy members wearing purple nametags on Sunday mornings. We'd love to have you join us.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY
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*"Apparent failure may hold in its rough shell
the germs of a success that will blossom in time,
and bear fruit throughout eternity."*

– Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911)

*An African-American Unitarian writer, lecturer, and political activist
who promoted abolition, civil rights, women's rights, and temperance,
Frances Harper was born 185 years ago this month.*