

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

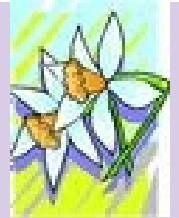
VOLUME 24 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2015



April Services

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES ARE AT 10:00 A.M.



Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Some refer to this night as Maundy Thursday, others as Holy Thursday. "Maundy" is from the Latin "mandatum," or a commandment Jesus gave to his disciples to "Love one another." This service will be a celebration of Passover using the seven symbolic Seder foods, and a service of prayerful remembrance of what happened that night so long ago.

Sunday, April 5

"Easter's Epic Testament" – *Rev. Jan Knost*

Easter Sunday Celebration

During this annual service in celebration of Easter, Rev. Knost will recite "Easter's Epic Testament," a poem in blank verse he has written for the occasion that views the holiday from a Unitarian Universalist perspective, free from the myths and superstitions that grew following Jesus's death.

Sunday, April 12

"Human Creativity"

The acclaimed African dancing and drumming group from Central Falls High School returns for another performance full of rhythm and passion. UUCSC friend Deanna Camputaro, founder and director, will speak.

Sunday, April 19

The Higher Revelation – *Rev. Jan Knost*

Music Sunday at UUCSC

Rev. Knost and Music Director Michael Galib will conduct a service in celebration of music in our lives. Michael and the choir will provide much of the music. Come and participate in word and song!

Sunday, April 26

"Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" – *Dave Hurdis*

The universe contains hundreds of billions of galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars. How likely is it that there's another place in the universe with intelligent life? Dave Hurdis will talk about current scientific understanding of the origin of the Earth and the origin of life.

UUCSC member Dave Hurdis, who has a Ph.D. in Space Science and Applied Physics, has worked for NASA and the U.S. Navy.

Sunday, May 3

Rise Up and Sing! – *Jeannie Gagné*

Jeannie Gagné returns with jazz, music to sing along with, spiritual musings, musical meditation, and reflections on bringing Unitarian Universalist music beyond the church.

An author, professional singer and life-long UU, Jeannie teaches voice at Berklee College of Music.

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

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Karen R. Ellsworth, Editor

Deadline: the 20th day of each month

Material should be submitted by e-mail to kellsworth6@verizon.net

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

www.uusouthcountyri.org

OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER

27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R. I. 02879

(401) 783-4170 • uucscri@yahoo.com

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

Rev. Jan Vickery Knost, Interim Minister

Pam Santos, Religious Education Director ■ **Michael Galib**, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

Board of Directors

Steve Harrison, President ■ Betsy Dalton, Vice President ■ Harry Buffum, Treasurer ■ Mary Fulton, Clerk

Randi Marten ■ Penny Hall ■ Clare Sartori ■ Nancy Rose, Past President

Committee Chairs

Linda Dupuis & Jenny Watson, Membership Committee ■ *Judi Marcy*, Caring Connection

John Glasheen, Social Action Committee ■ *Suzanne Paton*, Religious Education Committee

Mary Finnegan, Personnel Committee ■ *Marcia Boyd*, Finance Committee

Ed Burrell, Facilities Committee ■ *Susan Moreland*, Music Committee

Lisa McHenry, Hospitality Committee ■ *Linda Whyte Burrell*, Social Events Committee

David Floyd, Music at Lily Pads Coordinator ■ *Susan Strakosch*, Worship Committee

Roni Meyer, Flower Committee ■ *Jean Bowen*, Publicity

"From Boston to the Beach: The Hale Family in Matunuck (1873-1910)"

Joan Youngken, historian, curator, and UUCSC member, will present the next program in our **ENRICH AT UUCSC** adult education series.

Edward Everett Hale of Boston, Unitarian minister, lecturer, social activist, and author, was one of the best-known men of his day. From 1873 until his death in 1909, he and his family enjoyed summers in Matunuck, free of the constraints of Hale's ministry and the problems of rapidly-expanding urban Boston. His seven children thrived in Matunuck, where they wandered the open hills, swam in the ponds, and went by wagon to the nearby beach. This unfettered life opened their minds to the natural world and nurtured their creativity.

Joan has studied the Hale family in Matunuck since 2005. She was project coordinator for the restoration of the Hale House as a historic site. In this illustrated lecture, she will introduce the Hale family and their many pursuits, emphasizing the influence of their summers in coastal Rhode Island.

The program will take place at UUCSC on **Tuesday, April 21** at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

For the Time Being . . .

by Rev. Jan Knost

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” I Corinthians 15:54

This text is used during the celebration of Easter. But the fact of matter is that death doesn't take holidays. All of us face death sooner or later. It is the way we do that matters, notwithstanding our religious background. Has it ever occurred to you that there are variations on the theme of death?

Some face its presence hopelessly. When it overtakes someone they love or they face it themselves, they may decide to forget purposeful living. To their way of thinking, everything should end; lights out; the less said, the better.

Others meet it as Stoics. (“Heads bloody, but unbowed.”) They are willing to acknowledge the reality and act accordingly, but they are dry-eyed, almost defiant. There is “a time to be born and a time to die,” but you will not see them playing the role of the timid weakling.

And there are those, too, who confront death almost casually. Some of the modern cults have suggested that death be ignored or that its reality be denied. A service for the deceased is more apt to resemble a family reunion than a service of memory in celebration of a life. The “empty chair” is overlooked or blithely ignored.

Finally, there are those who face death emotionally— too emotionally. They go “all to pieces.” Beyond the health-giving ingredients that grief work entails, they are quite unable to “get back to life.” You might call it the frustration of never seeing themselves whole again.

None of these characteristics is completely valid. I speak from the religious as well as the psychological point of view. If we could be restrained, reserved, resilient and deeply sentimental when someone's death becomes a part of our lives, we then practice the ideal ingredients for making life wholesome again. But we have to be realistic without being hopeless; restrained without being fatalistic; resilient without shallowness.

A simple faith in the goodness of God— or of Life's gift— and the reasonableness and neutrality of the Cosmos are there to assist us to reach such a balanced view. It plays a role in the economy of life, making room for growth, new birth as well as death.

When life ends for someone we love or when we face it ourselves, it is up to us to take the mortal remains of that person into “the house of Life.” When we do this we come to understand that “the soul,” when it appeared in us at the moment of birth, belongs to God— to Life.

Offering prayers of hope and gratitude for lives gone is to recall words of comfort and strength, and by doing this we are borne on the beauty of living in the present moment. So may it be!

“The Rev”

The President's Letter

By Steven M. Harrison, President
and Pam Santos, Religious Education Director

The President and the Religious Education Director have collaborated for this month's President's Letter.

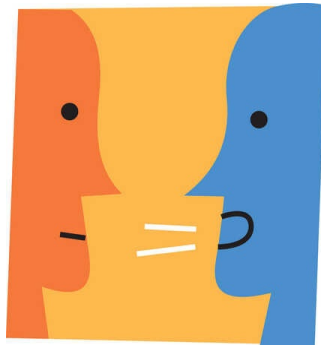
As we move through our second year of the Interim period, we are beginning to build new connections to the wider community. The Social Action Committee held two meetings to discuss the issues around racial relations after the turmoil in Ferguson, Missouri, and the Green Sanctuary subcommittee is hosting events from now until Earth Day on April 22 to spread awareness about the environmental justice movement.

In January, Congregation Beth David in Narragansett invited our congregation to share in a worship service. Rev. Jan Knost offered a greeting, and Clare Sartori, Art Stein, and I each led a responsive reading. About a dozen folks from our congregation attended. It was a moving and spiritual experience. We were invited as a thank you for making our space available for their High Holy Days last fall. We had hoped to be able to provide our space again this coming fall, but the public schools will not be closed for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, so the Peace Dale Elementary School parking lot will not be available for extra parking. We hope we can find a way to accommodate them in the future.

Kathy Carland, our office administrator, put a lot of work into coordinating all the details to make sure things went smoothly. As a result, they felt welcomed and comfortable in our sanctuary, which speaks volumes for who

and what we are.

Last fall, Pam Santos, our director of Religious Education and our representative on the URI Chaplain's Association, invited Imam Quitaba Albluwi from Masjid Al Hoda in Kingston, who is also a member of the Association,



to speak to the youth as part of the UUA curriculum Neighboring Faiths. On November 16, Imam Albluwi was the guest speaker for our Sunday service. As a result of that connection, members of Masjid Al Hoda invited us to a dinner at their mosque and community center on February 14. About a dozen UUCSC members attended.

On March 8, we reciprocated with an invitation to a Sunday brunch. The brunch was well attended—there were about eighteen folks from the Muslim community center, five guests from the URI Center for Peace and Nonviolence Studies, and about forty from UUCSC.

Planning and setting up for this event took teamwork. Its success was due in no small part to the exceptional organization skills of Mary Fulton, who also supplied the rice and salad, and Bill and

Johnette Rodriguez, who supplied the exceptional cod and the fine stir-fry vegetables. Many others pitched in to help plan, set up, and clean up. Everyone I spoke to who was there found the experience valuable and enlightening. We hope to make it an annual event.

There probably are members of both groups who view this endeavor with concern, uneasiness or even some fear, and wonder why we are doing it at all. Some may feel uncomfortable with unfamiliar beliefs or practices, and some may feel that there is a direct link between world events and the folks who live down the street because they share a common culture or religion. It is precisely for that reason that such outreach is important. We need to connect with our neighbors on a human level, even if they look don't look, speak or believe the way we do.

We are predominantly an older, Caucasian, middle class group who were born in the United States. Compared to most of the world's population, we have enjoyed a comfortable existence. As Unitarian Universalists, we are well suited to building understanding among diverse groups because of our belief that all things and all people are interconnected and that everyone deserves respect.

Getting to know our neighbors will help us understand them. Understanding someone does not necessarily mean that you agree with him. But if we're going to

continued on page 5

Celebrate Climate Justice Month at UUCSC

Climate Justice Month, from World Water Day on March 22 to Earth Day on April 22, is an opportunity to embark on a spiritual journey for climate justice. The Green Task Force and the Board invite all UUCSC members and friends to participate. For more information on any of the events, please contact Lisa Petrie (teonlisa@juno.com or 364-3002).

FILM SERIES

These documentary films will be shown in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. with discussion afterward.

Tuesday, April 7 – Gasland II (2013). Is natural gas really cleaner than coal and oil? Where does today's natural gas come from, and how is it affecting communities?

Tuesday, May 5 – Blue Gold: World Water Wars (2009). Learn how overconsumption and privatization are threatening access to clean water around the world.

Sunday, May 17 – Symphony of the Soil (2014-15). Discover the hidden life of soil and its key role in solving our most challenging environmental problems.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The first meeting will be on Monday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Join us to discuss Naomi Klein's new bestseller, *This Changes Everything*, about the climate crisis and the opportunity it presents for radically transforming society. Come prepared to discuss the Introduction and the first three chapters. We'll meet two or three more times, tentatively every other Monday at 7:00 p.m., as the group decides. Don't want to buy the book? See Lisa Petrie or check one out of our Library. Conflict on Mondays? Contact Lisa and we'll see if we can work something out.

CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATION FOR AREA YOUTH GROUPS

On Sunday, April 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, two student climate activists from URI, Helena Fierle and Nikki Sepe, will talk about the climate crisis and why they decided they had to do something about it. The UUCSC Senior Youth Group will be joined by youth from Kingston Congregational Church, Peace Dale Congregational Church, and the South County Baha'i Community. Discussion and pizza will follow.

The President's Letter

continued from page 4

Stand on the Side of Love, we need to actively extend a hand of friendship and understanding to

those who are different. After all, if we can't do it, who can?

Pam Santos captured the essence of what this outreach is all

about in her letter that appeared in the *Narragansett Times* on Wednesday, March 18. The letter is reproduced below:

It was a luncheon after church services on a Sunday morning; a scene probably duplicated all over the country. Families gathered in the community room to the mouth-watering aroma of a warm meal ready to be served up. Some folks were familiar with the set-up, while others were visiting for the first time. All were welcomed.

Yet, this gathering was so much more. This luncheon was an effort by two faith communities working to get to know each other. Families from the Muslim Community of Kingston, and families from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County were sharing a meal together. Over plates of baked fish, vegetables, salad, and rice, conversations began. Simply getting to know each other, person to person. A simple chat over a meal: "Where do your kids go to school?" "Have you been at the University long?" "What country are you from?" "What's your native language?" "We are so grateful that you have joined us today."

At a time when we are surrounded with images and stories of fear, violence, and misunderstanding, these two faith communities took the risk of stepping outside their comfort zones and arranging a gathering. Together, they have shared a meal at each of their faith homes. It is the hope of both communities that they will continue to deepen the understanding of each other's culture, faith, and hopes for a peaceful world. Certainly, there are aspects of each of our faith traditions on which we do not agree. Yet, seeking to understand differences and engaging in dialog, we embrace our common humanity.

We are neighbors, and it is a blessing to share a meal with neighbors.

Sniff the coffee, ponder the choices, and enjoy!

The Equal Exchange organic fair trade food sale project is off to a fantastic start.

This project, a cooperative venture with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, offers Equal Exchange coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate bars for sale during coffee hour after every Sunday service.

Sales during the first four Sundays have been brisk—about \$400 worth of merchandise has been sold during that period.

Your purchases help the small farming families who grow and produce these fair trade products. Proceeds support women's leadership at producer co-ops, environmental preservation through crop diversity, and improved yields through soil analysis.

Your purchases also help UUCSC. The profit on each item is about 40%. After the start-up costs have been covered, all of the profits will go to UUCSC.

The coffee comes in four roasts, from medium to dark: Medium Roast, Full City Roast, Vienna Roast, and French Roast. There's a virtually

endless number of coffees to choose from. Most varieties are available in regular or decaf and whole bean or drip grind. Several varieties are for sale on Sundays, and the others are available by special order.



The French Roast coffees include Guatemalan, Peruvian, Nicaraguan, and a blend called Midnight Sun. Full City Roast coffees include Ethiopian, Café Salvador, Colombian, Congo, and blends called Proud Mama, Mighty Morning, Sister's Blend, Cozy Cup, High Wire, and Bountiful Decaf.

Medium Roast coffees include Guatemalan, Nicaraguan, and Peruvian. The blends include African Roots, Hazelnut Creme, Bright Day Brew, French Vanilla, and Toffee

Caramel.

There's also a Medium Roast and French Roast Breakfast Blend; Medium Roast and Vienna Roast blends called Mind, Body and Soul and Breakfast Blend; Love Buzz, a blend of Full City Roast and French Roast beans; and Connoisseur Blend, a Full City Roast and Vienna Roast blend.

Green, black, and herbal teas are available. We also have fourteen varieties of chocolate bars, including dark chocolate caramel crunch with sea salt and Panama extra dark. Individually-wrapped "minis" also are available. You can also purchase hot cocoa mixes and baking cocoa.

Please visit our sales table during coffee hour, sniff the coffee, read the Equal Exchange brochure, ponder the choices, and enjoy your purchase!

— *The EE sales committee: Essjay Foulkrod, procurement, inventory and publicity, Lisa McHenry, chief financial officer, and Pam Brightman, display and sales manager*

Creativity and Spirituality Circle

The UUCSC Women's Creativity and Spirituality Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:15 p.m. downstairs in the youth group room. All UUCSC women and their friends are welcome.

April's topic is creativity. We hope to enjoy an interactive experience (creating a story or work or art together?), to share what inspires us and helps us to be creative (a routine or practice?), and to talk about how creativity manifests in our lives. Please feel free to bring a sample of something that you have created, an idea for something you'd like to create on the spot (a song, a dance, a poem?), or something that inspires your creativity.

Meetings begin with 15 minutes of schmoozing and a brief check-in, and end with a short healing meditation. We hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tracy Hart or Sally Barney.

— *Tracy Hart*

Show your appreciation for our staff

The Personnel Committee drafts employment agreements, facilitates communication between the congregation and the staff, and, on behalf of the congregation, ensures that all staff are treated fairly and respectfully and compensated as generously as possible.

The committee is seeking one or two new members. Are you able and willing to devote less than two hours a month to supporting our staff? Please see committee chair Mary Finnegan or committee members Carolyn Hurdis, Nick Smith, Susan Pavlow, or Joan Youngken, or board of directors vice president Betsy Dalton for more information.

So Many Ways to Communicate . . .

UUCSC has several different ways for sharing and communicating information. Each is best used for certain kinds of information. Please think of this when you have something you want to share:

Weekly E-News – For short announcements, last-minute information, and condensed versions of longer items that are posted on the website, with a link to the website posting. Distributed late Thursday or early Friday by e-mail only. To be added to the distribution list, contact Kathy Carland at uucscri@yahoo.com or the editor, Karen Ellsworth, at kellsworth6@verizon.net. Send items to Karen by Thursday morning at the latest.

Order of Worship insert – For short announcements. Distributed weekly, in print, at Sunday services. Contact Kathy Carland at uucscri@yahoo.com. Deadline: Wednesday prior to Sunday service.

Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/UUCSC>) – For events, brief stories, announcements. Postings throughout the week. Contact Betsy Dalton at elizabethmdalton@gmail.com to submit items. Note: We reserve the right not to post inappropriate content.

Website (<http://uusouthcountyri.org/wp/>) – Our primary online site for UUCSC information. Here we offer a calendar of events, information about our UUCSC community, our ministry, our education programs, our services, announcements, events, and much more. Longer items of interest about and for our congregation, as well as recent photographs, can be submitted for posting to the website. Our newsletter is available here every month. Contact Will Bender at wxb@cox.net or Karen Ellsworth at kellsworth6@verizon.net to submit items to be posted on the website. To add an event to the calendar, contact Kathy Carland at uucscri@yahoo.com. Note: We reserve the right not to post inappropriate content.

Newsletter – The color version of our monthly newsletter, the *South County Unitarian Universalist*, is posted on our website and mailed to those who ask for it (as a black-and-white paper copy, by request to Kathy Carland at uucscri@yahoo.com). The newsletter contains columns by the minister, the congregation president, and the RE director, as well as longer articles. Send items for inclusion to Karen Ellsworth at kellsworth6@verizon.net.

Publicity to the Community-at-Large – When you would like the community to know about a coming event, a story, or other information, we can use our contacts at local newspapers and on-line news sites to publicize it. If you have something you want to communicate to the general public, please send the information to Jean Bowen at jeannbowen@gmail.com or Kathy Carland at uucscri@yahoo.com. Please be sure to include detailed information.

Thank you, everyone. We hope this information will help you to understand and use our different means of communicating most effectively. - *Betsy Dalton, UUCSC Vice President*

Path to Membership classes start on April 19th

As we do twice a year, Rev. Knost and the Membership Committee will offer classes this spring for those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, especially those who are considering becoming members of our congregation.

The classes will be held downstairs in the nursery at 11:30 a.m., after the Sunday services on three mornings. We will provide child care if you let us know in advance that you will need it. The dates are:

Sunday, April 19 – Rev. Jan Knost will talk about the history of Unitarian Universalism

Sunday, April 26 – Rev. Jan Knost will discuss Unitarian Universalist theology

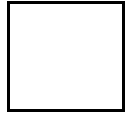
Sunday, May 3 – The Membership Committee will talk about how our congregation functions



Are you already a Unitarian Universalist? If you plan to join the congregation, you don't need to attend the first two classes unless you want to, but it's important for you to attend the third class.

If you're planning to join the congregation, please let us know. A New Member Ceremony will take place during the service on Sunday, May 10. – Linda Dupuis and Jenny Watson, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY
27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter Lingers Long This Year

The blizzard last winter
is but a memory now
as I sit here on the deck this March day

Winter lingers long this year
as it does from time to time

The spring ice on the pond
milky white with dimples and pock marks
does not look so formidable now
helpless, it awaits its inevitable fate
devoured by the jaws
of the southeast facing shore

In the wind and storm
huddled in my sleeping bag and wooly layers
I watch the mighty symphony
play upon the birch and black walnut
as the great sycamore sways its curly crown
as if slashing madly at the snow

Yes,
last winter is but a fading memory now
as now the snow so furious then
is but a whimpering pile, crouched
in shady spots, cowering from the sun

Another winter slowly ends and
snowmelt signals preparation for
what will surely follow

For winter will soon be back
and I will be ready once again
to catch the best shows of the year
and that most beautiful havoc

amen.

Steven M. Harrison