

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2016

April Services

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

April 3

Finding Sanctuary in Nature – *Jeanine Silversmith*

Jeanine believes people who spend time outside are happier, healthier, and even smarter than those who don't. She'll tell us how she found sanctuary in nature and why she's so passionate about helping others, especially children and teens, to do the same.

Jeanine Silversmith, who lives in Wakefield, is the founder of Rhode Island Families in Nature.

April 10

Being Yourself: A Work in Progress – *The Senior Youth Group*

Young people are often told, "Just be yourself." But if you're a teenager, how are you supposed to figure out what that means? Members of our Senior Youth Group will talk about the people and experiences that have helped each of them navigate a path toward their true selves.

After the service, Rev. Knost will sign copies of his latest book, 'Word Cairns,' personal reflections rendered in memoirs, poetry, creative prose, and selected sermons. Copies will be available for sale.

April 17

The Lost Notebooks of Loren Eiseley – *Rev. Jan Knost*

Dr. Eiseley shared his observations regarding anthropology for years as Emeritus Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a true observer of nature, a poet and an author of many books on topics manifold and diverse. After you hear about him, you'll want to visit the library in quest of his wisdom.

Mary Lynne Rainey, a working anthropologist and member of UUCSC, will serve as worship leader.

April 24

"Vive la Difference!" - *Reverends Betty Kornitzer and Jan Knost*

For some time, Rev. Knost has been talking with Rev. Kornitzer, our Minister Emerita, about how important this time of transition is for the congregation. They plan to deliver a shared message explaining the differences among three terms: Settled and Called Minister, Interim Minister, and Minister Emeriti.

They're looking forward to working together to plan what they believe will be an "epiphany" for us.



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 pamsantos@room35.com

Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ■ Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ■ Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

Betsy Dalton, President ■ Linda Whyte Burrell, Vice President

Steve Harrison, Treasurer ■ Mary Fulton, Clerk

Randi Marten ■ Elise Bender ■ Clare Sartori ■ Leah Canin

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For the Time Being . . .

by Rev. Jan Knost

Brush Up Your U.U. IQ

This month, the Membership Committee will be holding its Path to Membership series of classes for new members and interested friends on UU history, theology, and congregation governance. Look for announcements of the dates on page 5.

As an introduction to this column, I ask you to recall the movie version of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" titled "Kiss Me, Kate." Cole Porter composed the songs and it's a fine romp of music and comedy. In it, two thugs played by James Whitmore and Keenan Wynn sing a song called "Brush Up Your Shakespeare."

As a mild suggestion, then, to prepare on your own, here's a quiz and an opportunity to "Brush Up Your UU I.Q." Give yourself one point for each correct answer. (The answers are on page 7.) On your mark, get set, GO!

1. Who was said to have been history's first monotheist?
2. Who were the parties involved in the Third Century debate about the nature of God and Jesus, and who was the winner?
3. Where and in what year did that debate occur?
4. What book by Albert Schweitzer addressed the same theological issue?
5. Which early church father is said to have been the first true "universalist"?
6. What famous American court decision helped many Congregational churches become Unitarian?
7. What organization was formed in 1825 partly as a result of that court decision?
8. Name the church and the place where that organization was formed.
9. Who was the first Universalist circuit preacher in the United States?
10. Name the Massachusetts town where Universalism was established in this country by the founding of a church.
11. What was the name of that church? (5 extra points)

True or false?

12. Ralph Waldo Emerson was a lifelong Unitarian minister.
13. UUCSC is directly responsible to our national headquarters in Boston.
14. Our Board of Directors is the final authority on policy matters.

Match the question and the answer.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 15. An early book on universal salvation. | A. Rev. Thomas Starr King |
| 16. A 19th century Unitarian preacher and reformer. | B. <i>Union</i> by James Relly |
| 17. A Harvard graduate who had a California ministry. | C. Rev. Theodore Parker |
| 18. The first president of the UUA. | D. Rev. Dr. Dana McLean Greeley |

Reverend Jan

The President's Letter

Greetings to the UUCSC Congregation,

It is amazing that it is spring again, and that we are finally at the very final stages of our long search for a settled minister. I have been traveling recently, and when I travel I always gain a fresh perspective on the events of my life and on the lives of those that I love. Let me share a few thoughts with you now.

Not so very long ago— just a short five years now— I first walked through the doors of the UUCSC, “on the banks of the Saugatucket River, in beautiful Peace Dale, Rhode Island” (as our own Steve Harrison so often reminds us). It was January, and I had just returned from a year of studies in Boston, and was seeking to connect to some aspects of life that were not a “carry-over” from my undergraduate days at URI. I love my long-time friends, but I was seeking something that I could feel was unique to me— a slice of life that was a fresher start, I suppose, and an opportunity to build new relationships. I listened to Rev. Betty’s talk, I watched the service unfold, I heard the voices of the choir, and afterwards, I stepped forward to talk with Michael about possibly joining the choir. That was it! From that point on I started to grow my connections with UUCSC more and more. It’s interesting when you come to a place that “fits.” UUCSC fits me. UUCSC fits many other

people, too. It is apparent in the focus that I see in the eyes of the congregation during Sunday services. It is apparent in the flurry of conversation that takes place every Sunday during coffee



hour. It is apparent in the smiles of our precious young congregants as they gather ‘round for their special time each Sunday in the sanctuary, and as they are sung to by the congregation as they proceed down the middle aisle to their classrooms downstairs. It is apparent in our dedicated social action efforts, and in the social activities that are thriving and growing. Yes, UUCSC fits for so many.

We are not a perfect group, however. We have our faults and our weaknesses. After all, even with the very best of intentions, we are human. We make mistakes. We do not always follow our beloved principles as we hope that we might be able to, but, in the long run, I must say that as we reflect back over the past few years at UUCSC, we are *really trying*! We are working. We are working hard! We are talking with each other. We

are digging deep to support each other— emotionally, physically, and financially. And we are feeling the benefits of all of these efforts in our growth as a community: a family of individuals who are seeking together.

This month, our Ministerial Search Committee will extend an offer to one candidate to come and join our family and become our spiritual leader. A “called” minister: someone who has studied us, considered us, spoken with our dedicated search committee many times, and will decide that the UUCSC is where he or she wants to put down spiritual roots. After this decision, the entire congregation will have the sacred task and opportunity to come to know this candidate during Candidating Week, and at the end of the week, the congregation will decide if this willing candidate will become our new minister. What a truly exciting time for all in the UUCSC community. And what an important time. It is the next turning point for our Break-through Congregation, a time of both reflection and renewal. Thank you for letting me serve during this very important time as your president. I have been honored, and challenged, by all that has taken place this year. It has shown me even more strongly that UUCSC is a great fit for me. Thank you, all. Happy spring. This *is* a time of *true* renewal.

In faith, *Betsy Dalton*

Candidating week begins May 8

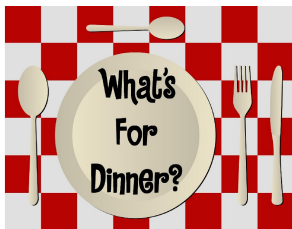
The Ministerial Search Committee is happy to announce that Sunday, May 8 through Sunday, May 15 will be our candidating week with whomever we select as our first choice to be our next settled minister. We want everyone to meet this wonderful person and will plan many events so that everyone will have that opportunity to do that. More details will follow as soon as we have plans in place. There will be potlucks for sure, so start thinking about which of your favorite recipes you want to share. Happy times are coming!

– Cindy Berry, Jean Burke, Jean Bowen, Amber Collins, Val Follett, and David Fulton

It's D4\$ time again!

Since spring of 2010, we have held ten Dining for Dollars silent auctions, raising close to \$50,000 for our congregation.

By all accounts, everyone— both the hosts and the guests— has a great time at these events. If you've been to an event and had a good time, if you'd like to participate in the financial health of UUCSC and if you like to bring folks together, please consider being a host.



It's time to plan the next edition of this fun and fund-raising auction. Our auction will offer events scheduled for late spring, summer and fall and we'll leave winter alone as we know how difficult it can be to deal with inclement weather.

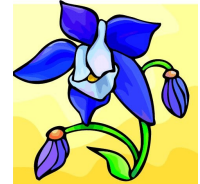
Your event can be as simple as a pizza-and-movie night or it can be as elaborate as an elegant dinner with your best silver and china.

Chairperson Nancy Rose is working to put together another successful auction. If you're willing to help out, please e-mail Nancy at neecanancy@gmail.com and she'll help you through this very easy process.

Plants are needed for spring plant sale

UUCSC's annual spring plant sale will take place on Sunday, May 22 before and after the service. All proceeds go to the congregation.

Helene Gersuny, the individual without whom this twice-a-year event would not take place, invites you to study your perennial beds, identify the residents who need to move to a new neighborhood, and pot them up for sale.



Shrubs also are welcome, as are house plants, whether already established or newly planted from cuttings.

Need pots? Have pots (preferably 4-inch, 6-inch, or 8-inch) to share? Want to help out at the sale? Please contact Helene at 789-0996.

The Path to Membership begins on Sunday, April 4

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 after 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 4 at 11:30 a.m. – Rev. Jan Knost will talk about the history of Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. – Rev. Jan Knost will discuss Unitarian Universalist theology.

Sunday, April 24 at 11:30 a.m. – The Membership Committee will talk about how our congregation functions.

Are you already a UU? 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 22.

– Carla Bowman

'Just Mercy' discussion to continue April 3

Nearly 30 friends and members of UUCSC spent time during the past several weeks reading the *New York Times* best seller and UUA "Common Read" *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, Bryon Stevenson's narrative of his journey to bring justice and mercy to many abused by our judicial system.

Almost twenty people met on Sunday, March 13 to discuss the book and how its theme relates to the Black Lives Matter movement.

The group decided to meet again to continue a discussion of what actions each person might take, individually and as a group, to bring about racial justice. That follow-up meeting will take place on Sunday, April 3 after the service. If you'd like more information, please get in touch with UUCSC adult religious education coordinator Carol Layne at carollayne06@gmail.com.

Maple Syrup

It is maple syrup, and that says a lot.

Trees are such awesome creatures
When a bunch of them get together for a
long time
the result is stunning.

Some hold amazing secrets
acer saccharum among them

as a pancake lover
pancake cook
since I was quite young
I grew to love the syrup
poured over those amber brown stacks

for years I knew only the adulterated kind
not knowing anything else
it was quite fine

oh here and there some breakfast on the road
the real stuff would be found
and it was savored as a special time

later on we even bought a bottle or two
when the money was not such a bind

and then last year I had enough
of seeing other people's pots hanging every year

I cut some tubing, and when I saw their cans
appear
I drilled and tapped
my very first trees.

The magic came of course,
first cup collected I toasted
to the seasons to the rhythm to
what is not known but always expected
for now I tasted spring
and earth and land and sky.
and then I boiled and tapped and boiled
and discovered it was not magic
it was unlocking
the joy
of nature's bounty
and catching a glimpse
of something much larger than I.

– Steve Harrison





Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

Spring Cleaning

What a joy it is to step outside to the sound of birds and peepers. Springtime is indeed a breath of fresh air after a chilly winter. Often families will take this opportunity to open the windows, shake out the rugs, and do a little spring cleaning.

This can be a great time as well to have a fresh start on family habits and traditions. Shake out that dusty habit of screen time. While we can agree to limit the time our children spend on screens, we adults need to take a look at our own screen time. Replace those lost moments with a nature hike, a board game, or backyard family soccer. Rediscover the excitement of reading a book together as a family. Have fun with bubbles. Record the changes in nature with your child: When do the buds appear? When do the finches turn yellow again? Which trees are the first to have leaves emerge?

Spring is a time of everyday miracles. New life happens before our eyes, the world seems to be given a fresh new start. May the wonder of a bright new season, a bright new day be a blessing to young and old. Happy spring!

Upcoming RE dates

Sunday, April 3rd – Service Sunday: Preparing for a butterfly garden

Sunday, April 10 – Annual Youth Sunday Service

Sunday, April 17 – RE Committee meeting

“Brush Up Your U.U. IQ” answers

1. The pharaoh Akhenaton. 2. Athanasius of Alexandria (the winner) and Arius. 3. The First Council of Nicaea, a council of Christian bishops convened in 325 A.D. 4. *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (1906). 5. Origen Adamantius (184-253 A.D.). 6. *Baker v. Fales*, an 1820 Mass. decision involving First Parish in Dedham. 7. The American Unitarian Association. 8. The Federal Street Church in Boston, Mass. 9. Rev. John Murray (1741-1815). 10. Gloucester, Mass. 11. The Independent Christian Church. 12. False. 13. False. 14. False. The congregation is the final authority. 15.- B. 16.- C. 17.- A. 18.- D.

SCORE: If you scored less than 10, you need to take our UU history class. If you scored 11-15, a hearty congratulations! If you scored 15-18, you should be teaching UU history! A perfect score of 23—when would you like to preach ?

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“Get wealth if you can by honorable means, and if it do not cost too much. A true cultivation of the mind is fitted to forward you in your worldly concerns, and you ought to use it for this end. Only, beware lest this end master you; lest your motives sink as your condition improves; lest you fall victims to the miserable passion of vying with those around you in show, luxury, and expense. Cherish a true respect for yourselves. Feel that your nature is worth more than every thing which is foreign to you.”

– *William Ellery Channing*

Channing, the foremost Unitarian preacher in the United States in the early nineteenth century, was born in Newport on April 7, 1780.