

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2014



February Services

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

February 2

Which would you rather be—right, or happy? – *Barbara Holtzman*

When we see other people as vehicles for getting what we want, or obstacles to getting what we want, we're more likely to engage in behavior that leads to conflict. When we see others as people like ourselves, we're more likely to listen, understand, and cooperate. Learning how to choose peace over war in our personal relationships can transform our lives.

Barbara L. Holtzman is a psychotherapist, hypnotherapist and lifestyle coach in Providence and Wakefield.

February 9

Celebrating What's Right with the World & Appreciative Inquiry Event

– *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

This service will incorporate a film by former National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones. Don't miss this inspiring view of the world with photographs and wisdom. The Appreciative Inquiry Event continues after the service (with lunch) until 2:00 p.m. The Transition Team will assist. Please request childcare if needed.

February 16

Love is Many Things: A Multigenerational Service – *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

Valentine's Day Chocolate Heart Communion

Love encompasses a multitude of understanding and emotion. Love is also the mission of the church universal. As a symbol of these important feelings, we will celebrate a belated Valentine's Day with a Chocolate Heart Communion.

February 23

The Theology of Social Action – *John Glasheen*

A consideration of how the concepts now embodied in our Seven Principles led many Unitarians and Universalists to change their relationship with the universe and act on their beliefs.

March 2

"Brave" – *Deanna Camputaro & 'Human Creativity'*

We all encounter opportunities to be brave as we travel through life. Often it's the quiet, consistent acts of bravery that speak the loudest. Deanna Camputaro's 'Human Creativity' dance troupe from Central Falls High School will help us explore this idea.



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



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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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.*

Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley, Accredited Interim Minister

Staff Members

Pam Santos, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper • uucscri@yahoo.com • 783-4170

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

For a long time I have been interested in broadening the scope of the First Principle beyond our own species. The Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (UUAM) is also interested in this, and they have launched their "First Principle Project" to promote a revision in the First Principle: replace "every person" with "every being". It seems that it is better to join their project, rather than our embarking on it alone, in competition with UUAM.

We conducted a survey of our membership, with 21 in favor and 7 opposed. With this result and our Board's unanimous approval, I contacted a UUAM officer with our approval.

Our Seven Principles are UU bylaws. This is the message sent to them: "We, the Congregation of South County, Rhode Island, hereby call on the General Assembly of the UUA to omit 'every person' and replace with 'every being' in Article II Principles and Purposes, Section c-2.1 Principles, Line 12, UUA Bylaws."

If successful, the UUAM will have the required 15 congregations, by February 1, approving their project. In the next General Assembly it will be put to a vote to be brought up for a vote in the following General Assembly. If it passes then, the change will be in effect. There is no certainty here, one way or another.

Larry Kelland

In Between Time

Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley
Accredited Interim Minister



The Transition Team met on January 16 to design our event on February 9th. Initially the group is Gail Burchard, Essjay Foulkrod, Val Follett, John Glasheen, Clare Sartori, Joan Youngken, and me, your Interim Minister. On our workshop day, we will be joined by others who are trained to assist groups.

I hope the event excites you as much as it has your leaders. We start with worship at 10:00 a.m. (including “What’s Right with the World?” a movie featuring photography by Dewitt Jones, formerly of National Geographic magazine), and continue with lunch and the workshop until 2:00 p.m. There will also be activities for children. We need you need to sign up in advance. You can sign up in the Oneto Community Room, send an e-mail, or call to let us know you are coming and whether you need the childcare.

In my sermon on January 12, I spoke of how Appreciative Inquiry is more than a living values process designed to find the positive core. It is more than a stream of questions intended to find out who you are. It is a method of inquiry using questions framed with enthusiasm and the more affirmative the question, the more hopeful and positive the organizational response. But you must be patient. We first enter a phase of Discovery—appreciating what is. Next we Dream—imagine what might be. Third, we Design—determine the possibilities. And last, we create what will be—Destiny.

The Transition Team wants you to know that February 9 is the first part of the process, and they plan to include whatever time it takes. Another interim minister writes:

I’ve noticed something about Appreciative Inquiry. Much of it depends on time. You cannot rush it. Many of the steps and the processes are not so much to learn some unknown piece of information as to allow people to make the adaptive shift at a pace that works for them. For most of us, that paradigm shift takes time. We can ‘think’ we have it, but we discover that it isn’t really part of our psyche or our inner reality.

Meanwhile, the ministry of the congregation continues on with attention to loss, wellness, caring, finance, worship, membership, music, small groups, religious education and other programs. This is a busy place.

In this time together we will seek out the questions you need to ask to discover, dream, design and find your destiny— all this in preparation for the search for your new settled minister.

Blessings,

Rev. Judy

P.S. We’re looking for help on February 9. Offer a crockpot of soup, a tray of sandwiches, or cookies. We will need strong arms for set up in the sanctuary after worship. Many hands will make the clean-up after the workshop go quickly. We’ve decided to uphold our commitment to Green Sanctuary by the use of dishes and flatware instead of plastic. (Know how to run the dish washer?) Please call the church office if we can count on your assistance. Thank you.

The President's Letter

We have passed the first quarter of our Interim period.

During that time we said goodbye to our long-time minister and welcomed an interim minister. What had been our "normal" for so many years has changed. Our task as a Congregation during this interim time is to determine what our "new normal" will look like, while still doing all the other things that we do as a Congregation to keep operations functioning smoothly. It is not an easy task, but we are quite capable of meeting the challenge.

One important element for our success is effective leadership. We have that with our Board of Directors. We bring our diverse opinions and ideas to the group in a respectful and compassionate manner. We are mindful of our duty in setting the direction of this Congregation through our policy decisions. We are not always in total agreement, but we can reach a consensus for the benefit of the Congregation as a whole. Each of us is keenly aware of the importance of our role as the governing body of the UUCSC.

This became apparent at our Stewardship Retreat in early January when we met over dinner with Finance Chair Marcia Boyd to discuss a vision for the upcoming canvass. The brainstorming became a wave of positive energy that seemed to blossom as we shared our ideas. The fruits of that session will become apparent as the new Stewardship Committee begins operations this month.

Another important tool for us faith. No, not that kind of faith—I am not speaking about some mystical entity who will shine down upon us with bountiful gifts if we do this and that. I am talking about faith in ourselves and in each other, and

faith our abilities to make good things happen here. The upcoming Appreciative Inquiry on February 9 is a way for us to strengthen that faith in each other as members of the entity we call the UUCSC. Please plan to come, and if possible, please lend a hand with food, set up, or perhaps most importantly, clean up. Sign up sheets are in the Oneto Room on the Community Bulletin Board.



As we enter into the second quarter of our Interim Time, we must marshal our resources and our skills for the task of planning what our future should look like. Appreciative Inquiry will give us an opportunity to combine our positive energies. It is not meant to discount or dismiss our problems, but we must not dwell on them either. It is a way to reinforce our abilities by reminding ourselves of the things we do well.

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, January 22. The meeting was postponed one week because the holidays just seemed to put some of us behind. Board meetings are normally on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All members and friends of the Congregation are welcome to observe Board meetings. Here are the highlights of the January Board meeting:

The Board approved a motion

from the Finance Committee to authorize a one-year contract with Vanco Services to customize our website to accept donations through electronic fund transfers from checking or savings accounts or with credit or debit cards. Look for more information on this as we begin our canvass in the coming weeks.

A motion by Harry Buffum was approved for a fundraising concert on Saturday, March 29 at UUCSC to benefit a charity based in Mississippi that serves one of the poorest counties in the United States. This event will feature volunteer musicians and the donations will be split between the UUCSC and the charity.

The Board also passed a motion by David Hammel to offer Qigong classes, with the proceeds going to Amnesty International. No date has been set for these classes at this time.

In her Minister's Report, Reverend Judy outlined the agenda for the Appreciative Inquiry event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on February 9 that will include the worship service, lunch, and a seminar. She will hold a meeting of small group ministry facilitators on February 24.

The Minister Search representative from the UUA, Rev. Judith Campbell, will be conducting a service in the near future to help kick off the search for a settled minister.

Nancy Rose reported that membership of the Stewardship Committee is almost finalized. Gail Burchard's proposal for a canvass brochure is almost done, thanks to the help of Kathy Carland, Harry Buffum and others.

The Nominating Committee met on January 15 and is actively

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Celebrate What's Right with the World!



An Appreciative Inquiry Event

Sunday, February 9 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We begin the morning in worship with a short movie and continue into the afternoon. A yummy lunch will be provided. It will be life changing, inspiring and energizing. We will determine what we most appreciate here within our spiritual home and about each other. To register, please sign up in the Oneto Community Room, send me an e-mail at revjsv@gmail.com, or leave a message on my cell phone (781-606-1813).

Please let me know if you will need childcare.

– Rev. Judy

The President's Letter

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seeking candidates for vice president, clerk, and two trustees. I explained the suggested bylaws amendment that would establish a longer election progression intended to give candidates for president more experience on the Board. These changes are not slated for consideration until at least June 2015 but candidates for one of the trustee positions are being informed that this is a possibility.

Betsy Dalton, chair of the ad hoc communications technology committee, is working on a Facebook policy. Please check us out by Googling UUCSC Facebook. Please contact Betsy, Pam Santos or Amber Kelley if you have something to post. You can also leave a comment on the site.

Barbara Pagh will work with Will Bender on the link for making on-line donations. Some old links will be eliminated. Discussion is ongoing as to what content will be posted on our site, including which

documents, and whether access should be limited in some way.

John Glasheen addressed the Board concerning the possibility of our members offering rooms for rent to visitors at UUA General Assembly as a fundraiser. General Assembly guidelines require housing to be within a half hour of the convention site, and not all of us are within that area. A volunteer is needed to move this project forward by contacting the GA housing coordinator to determine if we qualify, and if so, to disseminate the information to the Congregation.

Anyone wishing to submit an agenda item for Board consideration must send it by the second Wednesday of the month to the President as a Word document. Please remember that the Board decides policy, and management issues should be directed to the appropriate committee chair or to the past president, who is chair of the Program Council.

The next Board meeting is

scheduled for February 19.

– Steven M. Harrison

The transition team wants to hear from you

The Transition Team— Joan Youngken, Essjay Foulkrod, Clare Sartori, Gail Burchard, John Glasheen and Val Follett— would like to hear from you.

We assist the Interim Minister by providing information about the attitudes, perceptions and feelings of the Congregation. The Team would like to receive your comments on how you think things are going here at UUCSC. Is something working well? Please tell us. Do you have concerns about anything? Please tell us, either in person, by calling one of us, or by e-mailing one of us. In order to do our jobs, we need to hear from you.

Thanks in advance for your help in keeping our congregation running smoothly and happily! *– Val Follett*



MONEY MATTERS

News from the Finance Committee

The November edition of *The Economist* magazine ran an article that looked at “strategy” vs. “planning.” This made me think of our UUCSC approach to our finances.

We have a Finance Committee Strategic Plan, which we update every few years. It is sort of a wish list of where we are aiming toward. The “strategy” sometimes works out and at other times we fall short of our goal. For 2013-14, for instance, we predicted that our membership would grow to 169. (Latest figures have us at 149 for this year.) We also strategized that our pledges would be at \$157,300. This number in reality is at \$149,127.

Planning for the future we all are dreaming for—for starters, a full time minister, a part time sexton, and a reduction in our reliance on our Land & Building Fund to balance the budget— requires us to do some hard number-crunching. How do we get to where we want to be? We do it together.

As we approach our annual pledge campaign, we urge everyone, members and friends, to make a pledge rather than a non-pledge donation. Having real, solid numbers to base our financial decisions on protects all of us as we *plan* our UUCSC future together.

– Aline Couture



Financial Fact of the Month

Our mortgage payment each month is \$3,500 (\$42,000 annually). This represents a paydown of principal and interest at an interest rate of 5.75%. BankNewport gave us a \$500,000 mortgage when we purchased the building. We currently owe \$440,000.

Cancelling Sunday services

If winter weather makes travel difficult or dangerous, our Sunday morning service will be cancelled. The cancellation will be announced in the following ways:

- If you are on the church e-mail list, you will receive an e-mail.
- A notice will be posted on the UUCSC website home page.
- An announcement will be broadcast on TV channels 12 and 64.
- Announcements will be broadcast on radio stations WHJJ (920 AM), WWBB (101 FM), WHJY (94.1 FM), and WSNE (93.3 FM).

The Education Exchange is our February Share-the-Plate partner

Do you know our next door neighbor? The Education Exchange (<http://edexri.org/>), formerly known as the Washington County Adult Learning Center, is a non-profit dedicated to using the power of education to change lives. For 35 years the Education Exchange has worked with adults who are no longer able to be served in the



K-12 system but still need help to be more successful in the workforce.

Besides providing workforce training, the Education Exchange helps adult learners get a high school equivalency diploma (GED), learn English, prepare for citizenship exams, or transition to college.

The Education Exchange receives 60% of its funding from the Rhode Island Department of Education, but depends on grants and the generosity of the community for the other 40%.

Several members of UUCSC have served as volunteers, either tutoring or mentoring students, while others have made generous financial contributions to help the Education Exchange fulfill its mission. Our February Share-the-Plate donation will directly help students improve their earning power and in turn strengthen our community.

Thank you for your support and please know you are always welcome to visit next door.

– Carolyn Hurdis, President of the Board of Directors of the Education Exchange

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, Feb. 2

9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot.

Questions? Speak to Charlie Donnelly.



A Free And Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning

This is the walk that the middle school children in our Neighboring Faith Classroom are walking each Sunday. One of the many curricula that our Religious Education program draws from is the popular UUA program called Neighboring Faiths.

Each month, the classroom looks at a faith tradition, exploring its history, basic concepts, and images on the first Sunday. The second Sunday a guest speaker (or speakers) speaks to the students about what it was like to grow up within this faith tradition. Stories are shared about lighting a menorah, taking communion, or reciting Islamic prayer. A human element is connected to the previous week's learning.



Qutaiba Albluwi, Imam at the URI mosque, during his visit to UUCSC

The third Sunday typically involves a visit to a place of worship. Here the children are given an opportunity that even adults rarely get (or make for themselves). After studying a faith tradition and hearing from someone who has experienced it first hand, the students attend a worship service. They view the place of worship, they hear sounds of prayer and music, they observe the use of ritual, and most importantly, they meet brothers and sisters of different beliefs.

On our final Sunday, we review our experiences. If there are questions that have been left unanswered, we do our best to find an answer. We look for the common threads that all faith traditions share. We respect each and everyone's individual path toward truth.

The church year is not yet half over, so our exploration continues. There are questions to be answered and houses of worship to be explored.

Coming Events in Religious Education

February 2 – Service Sunday – We are making care packages for people without a home.

February 9 – Appreciative Inquiry

February 13 – RE Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

February 16 – Multigenerational Service on Love.

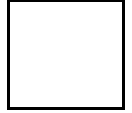
Want to have more fun?

We're thinking of starting one or two more groups at church. They would meet during the day, probably in the early afternoon. One would be a craft group. Participants would bring whatever craft project they are working on at the moment, and spend an hour or two getting crafty together in the Oneto Community Room. The other group would be a weight loss support group. Participants would follow whatever weight loss strategy they choose, and would get together to share tips and support each other's efforts.

Are you interested in taking part in either group? If so, please contact Val Follett.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“The darkest hour in any man's life
is when he sits down to plan how to get money
without earning it.”

– *Horace Greeley (1811-1872)*

Horace Greeley, the founder and editor of the New York *Tribune*, was a founder of the Liberal Republican Party, a reformer, a politician, and an outspoken opponent of slavery. He was considered the most influential U.S. newspaper from the 1840s to the 1870s, and used his newspaper to promote the Whig and Republican parties, oppose slavery, and promote social reforms ranging from vegetarianism to socialism.

Greeley became a Universalist when he was young. In New York, he joined the Church of the Divine Paternity, where P. T. Barnum was a member and Edwin Chapin was minister. He attended church frequently. He would arrive with the pockets of his long white coat filled with newspapers, and sleep before and sometimes during the service, opening his eyes only when Chapin was especially eloquent.

Horace Greeley was born 203 years ago this month.