



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

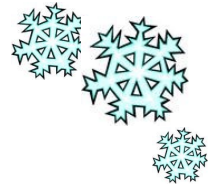
VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014



## January Services

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



**January 5**

### The Minister's Nightstand – *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

Sermons come from many places. Occasionally I awake in the morning, turn my head toward the nightstand and peer at the books piled there. The variety of titles provokes my thoughts. I admit that since I became an interim minister, more relate to church development and organization. But spirituality is high on the list too. And novels.

Whether pile or Kindle, I love books and I would like to share some ideas from them.

**January 12**

### Dreaming Into Being – *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

Human beings tend to focus on what's missing instead of what they have, and what's wrong instead of what's going well. In preparation for our Appreciative Inquiry Event next month, Rev. Dr. Smith-Valley will tell us about an activity she has come to understand as an attitude- and life-changing course of action— not only for a congregation, but for an individual as well.

**January 19**

### Hate is Too Great a Burden – *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "I've decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden."

As we commemorate his birthday, we will also reflect on 'Love is the doctrine of this church.'

**January 26**

### Encounters Through the Ages – *Annawon Weeden*

Join us for a dramatic re-telling of the Native American experience from ancient times to the present.

*Annawon Weeden, of Wampanoag, Narragansett and Pequot descent, is a classroom presenter, dancer, drummer, and actor (he appeared as King Philip in the first episode of the American Experience series "We Shall Remain" on PBS) who has worked at Plimoth Plantation, the Boston Children's Museum, and other educational institutions.*

**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.*



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



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

PUBLISHED ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR  
Karen R. Ellsworth, Editor  
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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

[www.uusouthcountyri.org](http://www.uusouthcountyri.org)

OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R. I. 02879  
(401) 783-4170 • [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com)

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](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com) • 783-4170

### *Board of Directors*

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# In Between Time

*Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

*Accredited Interim Minister*



## Happy New Year!

Life is filled with new beginnings. Once again, we start a new month in a new year. I must admit that the school-church-fiscal calendar often seems more pertinent to me. My work is organized July to June with vacation, changing sites, getting to know a congregation, planning with leaders and facilitating transition. January feels like more of a changing of calendars.

What about you? What does posting a new calendar mean to you? Is it more about the IRS tax year than anything else? We joke about 'resolutions' and our human frailties when working on such. We struggle to plan the changes we feel would benefit ourselves. Good luck to you who are bravely trying that personal change, whether small or humongous.

Healthy churches (and organizations) benefit from regular assessment of their goals. Ideally this is done halfway through and at the end of a period (usually a year). This helps the leadership not only assess and review, but refocus and adjust when necessary. This is important because we sometimes get caught up in the day-to-day stuff and lose sight of the year's goals.

Here at UUCSC we will soon be at the halfway mark of the first interim year. Your leadership and I will complete an evaluation process by the end of February for the Unitarian Universalist Association. We will discuss how things are going and verbalize the goals we are working on and what yet needs to be done. This is good practice. It is not only your staff that benefits from a process that regularly looks at goals and how they are met during the year. This is productive for the minister, the board of directors, the staff, and all the committees (not to mention the community itself). It helps keep a better pulse on the health of the congregation. It is a false economy of time when we fail to reflect on our activities as we complete them.

The Transition Team is excited about several events they are planning. We have enthusiastic discussions about many facets of the church. They are asking good questions and helping plan the interim-time question and answer session with me after the service on January 5. The Appreciative Inquiry Event on January 9 followed by a service on March 9 to sum up your answers to "What's Right with UUCSC?" comes next during the winter months.

I'll look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday each week and at all the coming events. Please continue to share your thoughts and feelings with the church leadership and me. This is your transition. Let us make the best use of the time together.

Blessings,

*Rev. Judy*

# The President's Letter

At its December meeting, the Board of Directors approved two motions, discussed the resolution of conflicts or complaints, and heard updates on several areas of old business.

Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, and all members and friends are invited to attend as observers. Meetings adjourn by 9:00 p.m. We now post minutes of the previous month's Board meeting on the bulletin board in the Oneto Community Room.

Make sure to look above the windows by the coffee table for a timeline of coming events, which Pam Santos will be posting.

Items for the Board meeting agenda must be submitted before the agenda meeting, which is held on the second Wednesday of the month. Please submit proposals for Board consideration to the congregation president or clerk in the form of a motion as a Word attachment to an e-mail with your name and any accompanying information to support the motion.

Our Board is continuing to refine its role as your elected governing body by focusing its attention on setting policy, rules, and guidelines, while empowering committees with the authority to operate independently within those parameters as they handle the tasks of managing daily operations. It is a subtle difference that will become increasingly important for our future growth and expansion as a congregation.

## ***Treasurer's Report***

Harry Buffum reported that the work continues on transitioning from Excel to Quickbooks, and despite the name, it is not a quick process.

Our new bookkeeper Tracy Wilson is working on consolidating our various accounts into a more organized system, but it will take time. Right now the priority is to finish end-of-year reports required of all non-profit organizations.

Harry did report that we are on budget year-to-date, but that the budget includes funds that are left from one-time sources, which are dwindling. To remain solvent in the next couple of years, we need to develop other sources of revenue, and that issue needs to be addressed now, before we reach a crisis point. A strong stewardship committee is vital to keeping this congregation financially sound.



## ***Stewardship***

On January 3, 2014, the Board will meet at Nancy Rose's home to set goals for the Stewardship Committee. We will need three volunteers to organize the pledge drive. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

## ***Technology***

Our ad hoc technology committee, under the guidance of Betsy Dalton, has brought our Facebook page back to life. Google UUCSC Facebook and give it a visit. If you have some-

thing to post, please forward it to one of our content providers—Betsy Dalton, Pam Santos, or Amber Collins. They are also looking for others to help with posting on our Facebook site. If you wish to be one of the content providers, please contact one of them or come to the training session after the service on January 26.

## ***Website***

Barbara Pagh reported that while audio or video sermons can be posted on the UUCSC website, use of copyrighted material poses issues. In print, the method for citing copyrighted sources is straightforward, but it is less clear for copyrighted material that is included in audio files, and we may be required to delete copyrighted portions. There is also ongoing discussion about whether we should have a separate 'Members' area on the website, and if so, how it would be protected and what material would be posted there. For now, all parts of the website are accessible by anyone. Will Bender, our UUCSC webmaster, is continuing to supervise updating and revision of the website.

## ***Youth Board Seat***

At the November Board meeting, members discussed the idea of electing a Youth Board member. A question arose as to whether a Board member who is a minor would be able to vote. Karen Ellsworth and Marcia Boyd (both lawyers) have said the answer is yes. Anyone 16 or older is eligible to become a member of the congregation, and any member of the congregation is eligible to serve on the Board.

*continued on page 5*



## The Music Corner

by Mike Galib, Music Director

How did you first find UUCSC? Was it a walk by the church one day, with curiosity tugging at your shoes? Perhaps a friend extended a polite invitation? Chronic bingo addict converted?

How did I first find UUCSC? Well, back in December 2009, members of the church were seeking a Music Director, and Sue Moreland thought it prudent to expand beyond the UU Musicians' Network, where those without previous ties to the UU Church would not think to look for a position.

So she posted it on Craigslist.

Four years later, here we are. A blink of an eye for many, though a large life percentage for me, who had sworn off "church jobs" years ago, mentally citing the requisite ascetic Saturday evenings in order to wake up on Sunday.

While I still struggle to snooze off at an appropriate hour on Saturdays, I now look forward to those early Sunday mornings more than all others in my week. My thanks to you all.

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## The President's Letter . . . *continued from page 4*

### ***Safety Committee***

As the worship service was concluding on December 15, a fire truck pulled into the parking lot and a firefighter entered the Oneto Community Room. A leak in the corner of the lobby had shorted the fire alarm, triggering a response by the Peace Dale Fire Department. Much thanks to Bill Jones and Linda Harrison for quickly and discretely leaving the sanctuary to meet the firefighters. While there was no emergency, it brought home our need to formulate emergency procedures and training for a variety of situations. If you are interested in working on this process please contact Linda Harrison.

### ***Worship Committee***

Susan Corkran, Board liaison to the Worship Committee, noted that the changes associated with our Interim time are having a profound impact on the Worship Committee, and that reconciling those issues is an ongoing process.

### ***Nominating Committee***

At the November Board meeting

the Past President was asked to assemble a nominating committee. Nancy Rose has recruited Mary Finnegan (currently a member), Jean Burke, and Kathy Swink to serve on the Nominating Committee this year.

Board members have been discussing possible changes in the process of succeeding to the office of president. One would be to have the candidate serve on the Board one year, serve for a year as vice president, and serve as president during the third year. The past president would no longer automatically have a seat on the Board; that seat could be filled by a youth member instead. The past president could be invited to serve on the Presidents Advisory Council, an ad hoc brain trust that provides historical perspective on issues facing the Board. If these changes are formally proposed, it probably won't happen until 2015.



### ***New Business***

The Board approved the following motions:

- A motion to revise the Personnel Handbook for the religious education director. The text of the change: *"If you have an idea for programs or activities, contact the DRE directly. She has office hours at the church during the week and an appointment can be made to meet with her or you can talk with her after a service. (Office hours are listed in the church calendar.) You can also contact the RE Chairperson, who is in the church directory. Congregants who have a complaint about or concern with the DRE should contact the DRE directly. If the problem is not resolved, see the Minister. According to UUCSC personnel policy, committees are not involved with the resolution of issues concerning staff members."*

- A motion to support revision of the UUA First Principle (a part of the UUA bylaws) that was proposed by Larry Kelland. The text of the motion:

*continued on page 6*



# We welcome our newest member

On Sunday, December 1, we welcomed a new member into our congregation.

*"Growing up in this congregation gave me a solid foundation for how I live my life. Now, as an adult, I am excited to become a member of this warm and loving community to continue my spiritual journey"*

— Kelsey Ellis



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## Women's Spirituality and Creativity Group

The Women's Spirituality and Creativity group will meet on Wednesday, January 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Arrive at 6:15 for social time, and we'll gather for lighting of the chalice at 6:45. If you would like to attend, but taking the stairs down to the lower level will be an obstacle to you, please contact Sarah Bell or Mary Fulton, the leaders for this month's gathering. They can arrange for an accessible alternative meeting space. At this gathering we'll try rune casting with Norwegian rune stones and other types of divination tools, to step together into the new year with inspiration. "A rune cast simply helps you concentrate more on areas of your life that you need to focus on." All women of UUCSC are welcome! — Sally Barney



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## The President's Letter . . . continued from page 5

*"I propose that the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County accept the results of the survey 'Revision of the First Principle,' 21 to 7 in favor of the revision as stated therein, and endorse the wording change to our First Principle (replace 'every person' with the words 'every being') as proposed by the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry in their First Principle Project."*

A footnote to this item: The UUA has another format for the wording of this item, so the Board will need to re-visit the proposal at its January meeting before it can be submitted.

### **Right Relationships**

The Board discussed the following guidelines offered by Rev. Judy as a clear and straightforward guide for all of us at the UUCSC to keep in mind as we navigate this time of change and transition. While the spirit of these steps has always been

a part of our culture, we have occasionally deviated from them in times of stress and turmoil. The text is as follows:

#### *"Right Relationships"*

*To maintain healthy relationships, our model for handling complaints or concerns brought to us by a member of the church community shall be:*

- *Ask the person to approach the congregation member directly;*
- *Offer to go with the person to speak to the congregation member;*
- *Offer to speak with the congregation member, using the person's name;*
- *If we agree with the complaint/concern, we may approach the person with the complaint/concern as our own; or*
- *The matter will be dropped.*

#### **The Interim Period**

Please join Rev. Judy after the service on January 5 for an informal

"Ask The Minister" discussion. Bring your questions and concerns regarding this time of Interim Ministry, the role of the Interim Minister, and the role of the congregation.

A more extensive program on "Appreciative Inquiry" will be offered on Sunday, February 9 beginning with the 10:00 a.m. service and extending until 2:00 p.m. with a light lunch planned. More details will follow.

According to Rev Judy, an "Appreciative Inquiry" is the process of identifying areas of positive strength and positive energy within a congregation.

It is especially helpful in times of change when feelings of stress and discomfort are prevalent. It is a way to focus on what is going right with an organization so as to not get caught up in a trap of negativity.

— Steven Harrison



## Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

### *A Wish for the New Year*

It is the season for thinking ahead. What will this year bring? What can we accomplish? I find myself thinking this way about our Religious Education program.

I know we can provide the children and youth with a solid series of lessons, projects, and activities created to spark their curiosity about faith, morality, social action, and differences within the world.

We can create a community of like-minded families who support each other during good times and bad. Together we can share our joys and sorrows each week as the adults do upstairs.

With the help of dedicated volunteer teachers, advisors, mentors, and committee members, we can show our children and youth what strong adult support looks like. Together we walk the walk in creating a solid Religious Education program to guide our young people into adulthood.

With effort on the part of families we will have consistent attendance, allowing each and every child the benefit of a familiar classroom, teachers, and friends. RE class becomes a predictable part of each week, reinforcing its importance.

My wish for the New Year is for the children and youth of our congregation to find their own voice— to feel supported, confident, and ready to make a difference (large or small) in the world.

What will this year bring? What can we accomplish? Just thinking about the possibilities brings a smile to my face.

### **Coming Events in Religious Education**

Sunday, January 5 – Service Sunday. We will be serving our outdoor friends by making birdfeeders to hang.

Thursday, January 9 – Religious Education Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

*The Religious Education Committee is actively looking for additional members. We meet once each month to enhance and support the RE program. Please contact Suzanne Paton, chairperson, for more information about the RE Committee. Come see what a difference you can make!*

# Guest at Your Table

The annual Guest at Your Table fundraising drive has been an important part of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and congregational culture since it started in 1975. Congregation members learn about several people with whom UUSC is working. This year, the “guests” are four people who have empowered others to realize their human rights:

- Danielle Neus is teaching the displaced poor families in Port-au-Prince, Haiti to grow food for themselves in “tire gardens.”
- Nelson Escobar is helping to show workers how to stand up for their rights and get support from workers’ centers in El Salvador.
- Malya Villard-Appolon is working to end gender-based violence, and to educate and empower women to demand their legal rights in Haiti.
- George Friday is empowering small groups to work for peace and justice by developing community organizations to fight for civil rights in communities all over the United States.

Let’s support their valiant efforts to provide folks in other countries, as well as here in the U.S., with a decent life, with food, safety, jobs, and human rights. Thank you for continuing to put your coins and bills into the Guest at Your Table envelopes.

For more information, please contact John Glasheen, Pam Santos, or Essjay Foulkrod.



## Gentle Yoga every Friday morning

Gentle Yoga classes are available on Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. These slowly- flowing yoga classes focus on gentle stretching and strengthening poses to enhance ease in the body and promote a greater sense of harmony and balance.

We also practice breathing awareness to cultivate clarity in the mind and explore expanded consciousness. There will be time at the end of the class for deep relaxation to integrate the benefits of the practice.

Chair yoga is a possibility. If you’d like to do yoga on the floor, please bring a yoga mat or a blanket. Layers of comfortable clothing are suggested.

New and experienced yoga students are welcome. Sarah Bell, a certified yoga instructor, leads the classes. The first class is free. The suggested fee is \$13 per class or \$40 per month. If you have questions, please get in touch with Sarah.

Those who have concerns about whether yoga is appropriate for their particular physical condition should speak to their health care provider.

## More opportunities to get together

We are 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.



# Unitarian group boycotts Renaissance Providence Hotel

*By Patricia Daddona  
PBN Staff Writer  
December 5, 2013*

PROVIDENCE – In response to an ongoing labor dispute at the Renaissance Providence Hotel, the Boston-based Unitarian Universalist Association announced at a rally Wednesday night that they would boycott the hotel.

The Rev. James Ishmael Ford, senior minister of First Unitarian Church of Providence, said the association is withdrawing a block of rooms it had planned to use for its members at an annual business meeting set for June 22-30.

Jan Sneegas, the UUA's director of general assembly and conference services, elaborated Thursday, putting the number of rooms at 847.

Ford made his remarks to a crowd of close to 50 supporters who rallied in front of the hotel for about an hour Wednesday night.

Citing the "inherent dignity" of people that his church upholds on principle, Ford said, "Sadly these otherwise good people have fallen short by refusing to engage in dialogue with the union . . . and refusing to provide a living wage. We will stand with you until justice is achieved."

About 60 hotel employees have been working with Unite Here! Local Union 217 in hopes of having the union represent them, said Renaissance housekeeper Santa Brito, who cited low wages and

poor working conditions.

"We've been fighting this hotel for nine months and they're still trying to get over on us," Brito said. "Do not visit this hotel until we win a fair contract with the employer. Please respect this boycott."

Sneegas noted that the association would work with the hotel once the dispute is resolved, but said the association felt compelled to act.

"It's clear that the UUA supports fair wages and equitable treatment of employees," said Sneegas. "As a liberal religious people, we support the right of people to make a fair wage and be treated well. In the event there is a labor dispute at the property, we won't subject our people to the effects of it and we stand in solidarity with fair labor practices."

Reached Thursday, Richard MacAdams, chief legal counsel for the hotel owners, the Procaccianti Group, said the decision for workers to encourage a boycott did not make sense.

"We respect their right to make that decision, but the whole notion of a boycott is really misguided because it's more likely to have an adverse effect on the employees," he said.

Employees have brought their concerns to the National Labor Relations Board's Region 1 office in Boston in the form of charges, which have not yet been authorized as a complaint, according to

Laura Sacks, a supervisory attorney, said the NLRB is waiting to hear back from the Procaccianti Group, as to whether it should be included as a party. The workers leveled the charges originally at RP Providence LLC, doing business as the Renaissance Providence Hotel.

Brito said Thursday the workers presented management with a signed petition on March 26.

"Our position all along is that there is a prescribed procedure under federal law by which the union can attempt to organize the hotel," MacAdams said. "The union is trying to coerce us to forego rights that we have under the law, the National Labor Relations Act."

One of the concessions the union has sought is to use a card-check system, which does not ensure privacy, instead of a secret ballot, in an election to decide whether or not the union should represent workers, MacAdams said.

Through a translator, Brito said hotel management is "trying to distract us from the working conditions."

Several other speakers supported the boycott Wednesday, including workers from the nearby Omni Hotel, Pastor Santiago Rodriguez of the Gloria Dei Church, George Nee, president of the RI AFL-CIO, Shelby Maldonado, Central Falls City Councilwoman-elect and Guillaume de Ramel, 2014 candidate for Secretary of State.



## Letters to the Editor

### “Let’s talk.”

To the Editor:

“Let’s talk” is a simple little phrase. It can be used as a verbal olive branch to signal one’s willingness to deal with conflict or disagreements with another. It is an open hand of compassion as opposed to the clenched fist of anger. It can also be near impossible to say in times of turmoil and passion. At such times it may be best to say nothing.

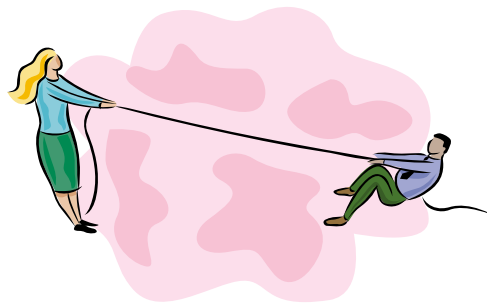
Maybe as UUs we could count to seven, albeit a bit more slowly, before we formulate a response to something that has stirred such feelings. When we feel our most sacred values have been threatened, our normal genetically wired response is to defend those values. And if we feel threatened by another, then love and compassion can fly out the window as we prepare for battle.

It seems some folks are never able to get past that stage. Some belief systems reinforce this normal human reaction by vilifying groups of people who are different in some way. The end result can range from subtle snubs to deadly force.

We all came to this congregation because we felt there was a better way. Our Seven Principles give us a framework by which to pursue that better way.

As I understand it, Unitar-

ians and Universalists argued and debated and argued and debated at great length to arrive at a set of rules that would be acceptable to a group of independent minded folks who don’t particularly like being told what to do or what to believe. That in itself seems like quite an accomplishment. But that is only the first step. Believing and doing are two processes, and the second is decidedly more difficult than the first.



Our past success as a congregation is perhaps working against us during this Interim time. We are a strong and vibrant congregation, and have accomplished great things in the past. Look around at the wonderful space we now occupy. Look at the programs and activities that fill this space with positive energy. We should be proud of what we have done.

But let us not be seduced by that success into believing that we have all the answers. Let us not fall into the ego trap of believing we now have “gotten it right,” so we need not look any further. This is an understandable feeling, and the true strength of this congregation, this Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County, is that we are really very good at taking the beliefs embodied in the Seven Principles and living them.

In times of past stress and discord we

have found our way. We have been there.

We have dealt with passionate disagreements, angry differences, and strife that has nearly torn our young congregation apart. But we found a way. We survived stronger and wiser each time. This time is no different, but we have our history and our culture as a congregation to help guide us and give us hope.

This time of change and experimentation can result in frustration, anxiety, and discomfort. But perhaps it is also a time to strengthen our core values by allowing us to practice them when times are difficult. Our immune systems benefit from exposure to everyday germs, and the occasional cold is beneficial in the long run.

Let us embrace this time to strengthen our own internal systems as a congregation. When we are experiencing those negative feelings in this time of transition and we become upset with another person, let us see it as an opportunity to practice those beliefs by opening our hearts and extending a hand in love with the simple phrase, “Let’s talk.”

Isn’t that what we are all about?

*Steven M. Harrison*

# We raised \$7,493 for our 'Share the Plate' recipients in 2013

Members of this congregation are generous! In 2013 we donated \$7,493 to twelve different non-profits, charities, and advocacy and empowerment organizations.

In our 'Share the Plate' program, the collection plate receipts for the first Sunday of each month are donated to a designated organization selected by our members and the Social Action Committee.

During 2013, we focused on the environment, with donations to 350.org, Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light, and the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation.

We assisted people who are hungry and in need of permanent housing by supporting Welcome House, the Jonnycake Center, the Storehouse, and Westerly Area Rest and Meals (WARM). We supported advocacy organizations by donating to the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence and Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. We also collected \$1,512 for the Philippine Relief Fund distributed by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and made a donation to the UUA to help with the cost of moving to new headquarters. The two 'Share the Plate' summer collections were invested with Oikocredit, an organization that offers micro-financing to small businesses around the world.

We thank Lisa Petrie and John Glasheen, and the late Rich Evans, for their stewardship efforts. Members are encouraged to suggest non-profits for consideration as donees. Please contact Jean Bowen for more information.

– Jean Bowen



For the second year, we have designated 350.org as a 'Share the Plate' recipient. The group will receive our January 'Share the Plate' donation.

To preserve our planet, scientists tell us we must reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere from the current level of 400 parts per million to below 350 parts per million. Using on-line tools to facilitate off-line action, 350.org seeks to develop the best ways to strengthen the climate movement. The group's goal is to build a global grassroots movement to address the climate crisis. Online campaigns, organizing, and mass public actions are led from the bottom up by thousands of volunteer organizers in more than 188 countries.

## Wellness Gatherings

The Wellness Team's new Wellness Gatherings give you an opportunity to get together with others and do something healthful for yourself. The gatherings take place once a month, on a Sunday, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

At this month's Wellness Gathering on January 19, Sarah Bell will guide a short, basic yoga session that can be practiced standing or seated. The aim is to make yoga more accessible and more easily incorporated into your life, bringing more ease in your body, clarity into your mind and peace to your spirit. Everyone is welcome to attend.

– Sarah Bell

## Cancelling Sunday services in bad weather

If winter weather makes travel difficult or dangerous, our Sunday morning service will be cancelled.



Congregation president Steve Harrison and Rev. Judith Smith-Valley will decide early on Sunday morning whether the service will be cancelled. If the service is 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 channel 12 and channel 64.
- Announcements will be broadcast on radio stations WHJJ (920 AM), WWBB (101 FM), WHJY (94.1 FM), and WSNE (93.3 FM).

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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"So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy."

– Roger Baldwin (1884-1981)

Roger Nash Baldwin was one of the founders of the American Civil Liberties Union, serving as its executive director until 1950.

Raised in Wellesley Hills, Mass. by parents who attended the Wellesley Hills Unitarian church, Baldwin once said his desire to help other people arose from his childhood experiences as a Unitarian.

Roger N. Baldwin was born 130 years ago this month.