



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2016



## January Services



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

**January 3**

### **"First Light" – Silvermoon Mars LaRose**

Silvermoon LaRose will tell a creation story that blends Native American and Christian beliefs about new beginnings, for a reflection on the start of a new year.

*Silvermoon Mars LaRose, a writer, storyteller and mother, works for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Health Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative.*

**January 10**

### **Getting There – Rev. Jan V. Knost**

What can we anticipate regarding the long-term future of UUCSC? As we approach our 25th anniversary, it's prudent to begin to think of ways to insure the ongoing quality of religious life for this congregation and the expectation of an assured future for UUCSC members-to-be, including our children and grandchildren. Planned giving is one way to reach that goal. Rev. Knost will join the Finance and Stewardship Committees in addressing these issues.

**January 17**

### **What Will it Take to be More Like Dr. King? – Ray Rickman**

Ray Rickman will share his deeply personal views on what made the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. one of the great moral strategists of the 20th Century. Ray will also remind us of the role he believes individuals can undertake to change the moral landscape in the early 21st Century.

*Ray Rickman is executive director of the Stages of Freedom, a nonprofit cultural organization that promotes African American culture for the entire community. He is a former member of the R. I. House of Representatives, a former deputy Secretary of State, and a current member of the R. I. Parole Board. Ray also is a rare book dealer who lectures on African American literature.*

**January 24**

### **Self Care as a Spiritual Practice – Erin Barrette Goodman**

During this month of making resolutions and setting intentions, let's explore how attuning to and responding to our deepest needs and desires can be a powerful spiritual practice.

*Erin Barrette Goodman, a member of UUCSC for close to 20 years, is founder of the R. I. Birth Network, a certified Yoga teacher, and a wedding officiant. Erin also is a second-year student at One Spirit Learning Alliance, an interfaith seminary in New York City. But her favorite role is being Mama to Lily and Quinn.*

**January 31**

### **What We Know to be True about You – Rev. Catherine Cullen & Rev. Betty Kornitzer**

As two of our former ministers, Catherine and Betty believe they know us very well. They're delighted to return to UUCSC and to hold up a mirror to remind us of who we are and why we are here. This is a service of celebration for what we have been and for what we will yet become.

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](mailto:kellsworth6@verizon.net)

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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.*

### ***Staff Members***

**Rev. Jan Vickery Knost**, Interim Minister

**Pam Santos**, Religious Education Director ([pamsantos@room35.com](mailto: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

### ***Committee Chairs***

Suzanne Marcy & Carla Bowman, Membership Committee

John Glasheen, Social Action Committee • Judi Marcy, Caring Connection

Suzanne Paton, Religious Education Committee • Mary Finnegan, Personnel Committee

Marcia Boyd, Finance Committee • Ed Burrell, Facilities Committee

Susan Moreland, Music Committee • Linda Whyte Burrell, Social Events Committee

Lisa McHenry & Val Follett, Hospitality Coordinators

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

Patience Peck, Flower Committee • Peter Himmel, Stewardship Committee

Dennis Bowman, Communications & Publicity Committee

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# *For the Time Being . . .*

*by Rev. Jan Knost*

Holiday services were just wonderful! Our Music Director, Mike Galib, outdid himself with the gift of music he brought to us on Christmas Eve Eve. Dear Helene Gersuny joined Johnette Rodriguez in creating new looks at the Solstice now past. Almost the entire congregation took part in the Burning Bowl Ritual and now we look forward to a year of transition and new spiritual leadership. Lorna and I have considered ourselves privileged to have been able to work with you to prepare for that time.

Among new happenings is the fact that I'm so happy to have been informed that we will be having a regular Corps of Ushers on a rotation basis each Sunday. Hooray! We also will be working on trying to conceptualize the need for a continuing sense of responsibility for providing for the congregation's future through a process of planned giving. I know there are many of you who realize the importance of having an endowment with which to provide funds for emergency needs, not to mention pursuing ideas for serving our passion for social justice in South County. As I write this, I'm working on a sermon for the January 10th service on that topic. My hope is that with the assistance of members of the Finance and Stewardship committees, we can move toward that goal.

Finally, in the ensuing weeks I will be working with additional speakers I've invited to our pulpit up until Candidating Week. Just to whet your appetite, former minister Catherine Cullen will join our own Betty Kornitzer to lead the service on January 31st. (It will be a pulpit exchange and I will be leading the service in Catherine's church in Duxbury, Mass.) I'm also looking forward to a visit from Grace Alden, a police officer married to a UU religious educator who transitioned from Joshua Alden to Grace. That will be in early February. Then, on a date yet to be decided, we will enjoy the words of former Father Francis Daly, a longtime friend and godparent of one of our children, who will address the relationship of Unitarian Universalism and Roman Catholicism in New England in years past. Finally, artist Peter Stone, brother of Jonathan (the Save the Bay executive director who spoke here in the fall), a published author and jazz saxophonist, will regale us with his work researching right whales and other fascinating topics. I plan to be worship leader for those Sundays and hope you will make every effort to attend.

Oh, and by the way, I'm planning some sermons for the ensuing months ahead which I modestly hope you will find meaningful.

That's it for now. Call me if you have needs. With affection,

*Reverend Jan*

# The President's Letter

It is a new year—a chance for each of us to look forward to new beginnings, new ideas, and new experiences. It seems strange that such a great opportunity comes at the darkest point of the year, when all plants and so many animals are deeply asleep . . . or at least this is true in usual years, but this year has turned out to be anything but usual, weather-wise. The temperatures of winter are reaching heights that have never been reached before. As a result, the mornings have been filled with sounds of singing birds, fooled into thinking that spring is just around the corner. Even the flowering trees and the bulbs in the ground are stretching forth, some even bursting into bloom. It makes me sad to the living world around us so mixed up. How anyone can deny the realities of global warming is beyond my own understanding, but yet, there are many who will still, in the face of clear and positive proof, deny the realities of a situation that is so very evident to others.

What do we really base our decisions on? Are facts the final arbiter in a discussion? Why, even when presented with facts that are so very clear and well-founded to some, are others still unconvinced, or even unresponsive? I have come to understand, as I strive to serve as an informed congregational leader, that facts are just that—

only facts. Things that are presented as "facts" often can be, and probably should be, questioned—for their source, their validity, their relevance, and their impact upon others. It is people, after all, who make us what we are as a congregation, and people do not thrive just on facts, they thrive when facts are informed and tempered by emotion.



This is an important and unique and wonderful quality that sets apart our spiritual community from other communities that we may be part of—the fact that we embrace emotions. We recognize that life is, and truly needs to be, more than just a bag full of facts!

I think that this, more than anything else, is what draws us together each Sunday, and often for events and purposes in between—this search for a life that is more than just a series of facts. We want more. We want to have a place where we can consider and share our feelings, and we feel the call to reach out and understand what others feel. For me, our spiritual community offers the chance to share my thoughts, feelings, worries, and joys, and to do so

without the fear of being judged. Too often, other life situations call upon us to guard ourselves from sharing too much. Such sharing can sometimes be interpreted as weakness, as failure, or at least inappropriate to the situation. I am so happy to have found our community, where feelings and emotions are embraced and understood.

I'm not really sure what caused me to write about this right now. Perhaps it was remembering the sharing of emotions that took place this past Sunday (and every Sunday) at "Joys and Concerns." Perhaps it was thinking about the emotions that were shared among members of the Board as we struggled to deal with the issue of fire safety in the sanctuary. Perhaps it is the joy and anticipation (and a bit of anxiety) that I am feeling as we move forward in the new year to seek with great hope our next spiritual leader.

The blending of our emotions with factual realities is often a struggle, but it is also inevitable. In this New Year, I am both honored and thankful to be a member of this spiritual community, a place where knowledge and feelings walk hand in hand, and certainly do honor each other's presence.

Wishing each and every one of you a truly Happy New Year.

– Betsy Dalton

## Monthly Community Dance Parties continue

Our Community Dances continue in January with a New Year's Day celebration featuring live music by Nick Smith's band, the Repercussions. This fun, family-friendly event in our Sanctuary begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 1. The theme for February's Community Dance Party will be international folk dancing. The date is Friday, February 5 and the time is 7:00 p.m. UUCSC young adults Allegra Migliacchio and Lily Bell will teach circle dances from all over the world.



A Community Dance Party takes place on the first Friday of every month. UUCSC members and friends are encouraged to invite their friends, neighbors, and family members. A suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 will benefit UUCSC and its wellness programs.

If you have questions, or if you'd like to help with set up, clean up, or publicity, please contact Sarah Bell at [sarahbell@earthlink.net](mailto:sarahbell@earthlink.net).

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## Still time to go solar in South Kingstown

If you own property in South Kingstown, the Green Task Force would like to remind you that you still have time to register for Solarize South Kingstown, a community-supported discount buying program that uses tiered-pricing, town-supported education and outreach, competitively selected installers and access to flexible financing to dramatically reduce the cost of solar power. The more residents who sign contracts, the lower the price is for everyone.

South Kingstown is one of seven Rhode Island communities participating in the Solarize R.I. program. The designated installer for South Kingstown is Sol Power, a worker-owned cooperative based in Providence. The deadline for registration is February 15.

To sign up or to learn more, visit <http://solarizeri.com/solarize-south-kingstown/>. You can also call Sol Power at (401) 680-0765 for technical or cost questions, or call Doug McLean, South Kingstown Senior Planner, at (401) 789-9331, extension 1244 with questions about the program.

If you're not a South Kingstown property owner but you're interested in the program, visit the Solarize R.I. website at <http://solarizeri.com/> to find out how you can participate.

## Donate flowers to honor someone you love

Beginning this month, members and friends are invited to donate a floral arrangement for the front of the Sanctuary on the last Sunday of each month. You can donate flowers in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, or in support of a particular event or cause.

If you'd like to donate flowers for our Sanctuary, please contact Patience Peck ([patience88@cox.net](mailto:patience88@cox.net)) at 783-4493 or speak to her at a Sunday service.



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## A message from the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee hopes that all members and friends of the congregation experience a sense of grace, compassion and hope for the new year.

The committee's mission, approved by the Board of Directors in 2014, is "to create a sense of ownership and mutual responsibility within the congregation, and to foster a culture of caring and generosity."

This may sound like an overwhelming task, but the committee members don't feel that way. We believe it is a privilege to have this opportunity to be of service.

– Dennis Bowman, Charlie Donnelly,  
David Ruede, and Peter Himmel

MUSIC AT LILY PADS

# Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt

Saturday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m.



Claudia Schmidt and Sally Rogers are celebrating their 35th year of making music together, weaving their magical and fluid harmonies, accompanying themselves on dulcimers and guitars and bringing listeners along on an emotionally rich musical journey. They are currently recording their fourth CD together, so they'll have new songs as well as old favorites. This is their first appearance at Lily Pads.

Claudia Schmidt has recorded 19 albums of mostly original music. During four decades as a touring professional, she has crossed North America and Europe, performing in intimate clubs, 4,000-seat theatres, and on festival stages. An acclaimed 12-string guitar and mountain dulcimer player, she explores folk, blues, and jazz idioms. A Michigan native, Claudia lives in Traverse City, Michigan.

A songwriter and children's book author as well as a performer on guitar and dulcimer, Sally Rogers began her career as a full-time touring musician in 1979. An invitation from Garrison Keillor to appear on his radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*, launched her career. She has since made more than a dozen appearances on the show. Sally has recorded 13 solo albums and a number of collaborations with other artists. She is a public school educator and an adjunct faculty member at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass. Also a Michigan native, Sally lives in Pomfret, Conn.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available on-line from [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) (<http://brownpapertickets.com/event/2468203>) and at the door.



## Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

# Great Expectations

The year 2016 is here! For this year, in our congregation, I have Great Expectations.

I expect this is the year we will welcome our new settled minister.

I expect that our Religious Education program will thrive and bloom with new families, enthusiastic children, engaged parents, and unparalleled support.

I expect that our youth program will grow and experience the empowerment of helping others. Our children will be filled with curiosity about our past and the stories that have been shared through generations.

I expect that our youngsters will be inspired by stories of Unitarian Universalists who have walked the walk of social justice.

I expect our very youngest UUs will be nurtured and guided by loving and caring adults and teens in our church nursery.

Great Expectations is the first step to Great Outcomes. I welcome this new year and all that it holds. I embrace the possibilities that are before us and encourage each of us, young and old, to expect great things from this congregation.

### ***What does an RE volunteer do?***

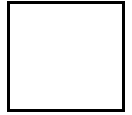
*Volunteering in RE this past fall was easy, fun and meaningful! Pam, the RE director, was super organized in preparing the children's program each week and had all the supplies laid out for us to lead any creative projects that were part of the lesson. It was often delightful and sometimes moving to share joys and concerns with the children. I found the children to be so thoughtful and sincere. I had been a little apprehensive about signing up to assist in RE, but I'm so glad that I did it. I really enjoyed getting to know the children and my co-leader better and I learned from the insightful and dynamic religious education curriculum that we shared with the children.*

*If you're interested in being involved in our Religious Education Program, please contact Pam Santos ([pamsantos@room35.com](mailto:pamsantos@room35.com)). Positions are open for the spring session. – Sarah Bell*

### **Upcoming Dates in RE**

**January 3 – Service Sunday:** For our community service, we'll make a meal for our neighbors at Welcome House

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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“God knows, I’m not the thing I should be,  
Nor am I ever the thing I could be,  
But twenty times I rather would be  
An atheist clean,  
Than under gospel colours hid be  
Just for a screen.”

– Robert Burns (1759-1796)

Burns, the national poet of Scotland, never joined a Unitarian church, but was well known for his heretical religious views and was friendly with leading Unitarians of his day, including Joseph Priestley. He was born in Ayrshire, Scotland on January 25, 1759.