



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 7

JULY - AUGUST 2014



## Summer Services



**Sunday, July 6**

**The Power and Beauty of Spirituals – *Helene Gersuny***

This unique form of song, originated by slaves in the South, often used Bible stories to express not only devout religious faith, but also, in coded language, aspirations for release from bondage. Soprano Katherine Evering Rowe, an alumna of our Senior Youth Group, will provide vocal illustrations. Come prepared to sing!

**Sunday, July 13**

**The Joys of Sharing – *Gail Burchard***

Taking her three granddaughters on a trip to Guatemala, where they volunteered at a remote rural orphanage, was for them all a wonderful exchange of values and experiences, and a memorable Christmas break.

**Sunday, July 20**

**Deconstructing our Sacred Covenant – *Betsy Dalton***

What does our covenant really mean?

**Sunday, July 27**

**Music, Memory, and Moving Moments – *Mac Richardson***

Music is the medium through which we share emotional and spiritual experiences with others. Why are these expressions of rhythm, melody, and harmony so fundamental to the human experience?

**Sunday, August 3**

**Hope After Darkness – *Amy Abel***

Amy, a member of Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich, will bring you on her journey through the struggles of coping with mental illness, from depression and despair to clarity and hope.

**Sunday, August 10**

**The Mystery of the Sacred Number – *David Floyd***

Throughout history, certain numbers and ratios have reoccurred in art, architecture, music, and religion. Recognizing these patterns can deepen our appreciation for the profound beauty of the universe.

**Sunday, August 17**

**The Joy of Relationships – *Mike Burt***

As we move through our lives, we meld our physical, spiritual, and emotional selves with others through marriages, partnerships, and friendships to form a multitude of diverse relationships. When we become part of such a relationship, we are no longer just ourselves alone— we are an indispensable part of a new community. This service will celebrate the diversity, uniqueness and joy of all relationships.

**Sunday, August 24**

**God Without Religion – *Henry O'Reilly***

Millions of people have been slaughtered in the name of God, and millions of souls have been deadened by religious dogma. A different God— a God of love, compassion, and understanding— is in the heart of every person. Why is that God so often suppressed?

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***

**Pam Santos**, Religious Education Director

**Michael Galib**, Music Director

**Kathleen Carland**, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

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### **An update from your Interim Minister Search Committee**

Thanks for the many responses from the congregation regarding your criteria for our next interim minister. The most mentioned qualities are a collaborative leadership style, warmth, and ability to give inspiring sermons and energetic guidance for stewardship. The committee communicated with the three candidates available through UUA Transitions for our position and found that none was a good fit. We then re-contacted Rev. Keith Kron from UUA Transitions and discussed the need to consider other options. We reached out for candidates at GA and so far have heard from one minister interested in a part time position with us. We are presently following up with this promising possibility.

On Sunday we and members of the Board and the Settled Minister Search Committee met with Charlotte Hamlin to learn about a Developmental Ministry. She is a member of a congregation in Greensborough N. C., where they have had an excellent experience with this alternative to an Interim Ministry, which focuses on accomplishing specific goals set by the congregation.

We are taking the time to move forward with discernment and care, knowing that we have a rich history of vibrant and meaningful lay services which we will continue to use as a vital resource during this time. We are committed to working with the Board, the Settled Minister Search Committee and the congregation to stay in communication, so let us know your thoughts.

– Penny Hall, Board liaison to the committee, for committee members Nancy Dean,  
Tracy Hart, and Hank O'Reilly and fellow Board liaison Clare Sartori

# In Between Time

Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley

Accredited Interim Minister



As I write this last column to you, I am sitting on my porch in Kennebunk reflecting. The memories of our last month together are precious and at the forefront of my mind. So many of you stopped to say how much you appreciated our relationship this year. Others wrote notes. Thank you for all those sentiments and care. Your support was so important.

Our last worship service and Flower Communion was lovely. Pam Santos shared Miss Rumphius with the children. May the seeds bloom when planted, as I hope all the seeds from this year of interim ministry do. Thank you for the gift of colorful Gerbera daisies and the yummy coffee hour reception planned by Transition Team members Claire Sartori, Val Follett and Gail Burchard and the goodies provided by Board members and so many of you. I was moved beyond words.

I recently read a colleague's newsletter column in which she spoke about liminal space, a place of transition that we all visit at times whether we like it or not. It is a place of disruption, yet productive in the larger scheme of things. She tells me it is best if viewed as a tool of change. Ecumenical teacher Richard Rohr writes:

*Liminal space is when you have left the tried and true, but have not yet been able to replace it with anything else. It is when you are between your old comfort zone and any possible new answer. If you are not trained in how to hold anxiety, how to live with ambiguity, how to entrust and wait, you will run . . . anything to flee this terrible cloud of unknowing.*

Please know that interim ministry is a method for coping with liminal space while the congregation says goodbye to one minister and hello to another. We each function best when we recognize the anxiety and ambiguity as a time of pain, or at least discomfort. It is then possible to seek ways to work through it with creativity and challenge. It also helps to see the liminal in a spiritual sense where you have a sense that something is coming to an end, and find good use can be made of that in-between time where it feels like nothing will ever happen. Different people have dissimilar expectations of liminal space, some including difficulty even knowing it exists. Be patient. Be open. It will all work out.

What an amazing way to end the year at General Assembly. How incredible to have 5,000 of our UU friends experience this remarkable Rhode Island city of Providence. It was a wonderful surprise each time I came across a member of UUCSC either volunteering or attending. On Wednesday afternoon everyone I saw in the Convention Center had a big smile on their face. Each person was obviously happy to be there and proudly wore their UUA GA name tags. Of course I began to see folks from all the congregations I have served through the years. Such a gift! Those of you who came home from Providence feeling all those good UUA connections, share with everyone else. We are part of a much larger community than we often acknowledge.

Have a wonderful summer and a productive year to come. Remember the trapeze story I told on the last Sunday and prepare to let go when possible. That other trapeze will be coming for you to grasp.

In faith,

Rev. Judy

# The President's Letter

What are we, where did we come, from and where are we going? Answering these questions is what the Interim time is all about. Perhaps we embarked upon our first year of Interim Ministry with the belief that it was a simple and quick process, something we could just breeze through. We have discovered that it is not an easy or simple process.

We are at a critical stage in our development as a congregation. We are young enough to have founding members still active, but we have grown to a size that has changed the nature of the organization. For most of our twenty-three years we were a small group of dedicated folks who knew each other. When I joined, we were meeting in the American Legion Hall and it was pretty laid back and informal. Our membership at the time was about half of the 148 or so members we have today. We dedicated this building in March of 2009, and since that time we have grown to a point where we are not a small informal group anymore.

Our finances, our self governance, and our responsibility as members in the greater community have changed and will continue to change. Understanding these changes is an important task in our Interim Time.

To underestimate the impact these changes are having will only prolong the quest for our next settled minister. In *In the Interim*, by Keith Kron and Barbara Child, Margaret Keip advises that it is important for a congregation to take time for self-examination during the interim process.

She writes, "If little or no change is achieved between settlements, the incoming minister may become an unintended interim." In other words, if we don't use this time wisely, we could be searching for another minister again within a couple of years.

We have a wealth of talent, energy, and dedication in this congregation. Our task in this Interim Time should be to focus these assets and figure out what we should do with them. To develop that focus we need to understand ourselves first.



What happened during our first year of Interim Ministry? The Ministerial Search Committee has asked the Board to answer that question. At our meeting on July 16, I will ask the Board to set up a process so that respectful and civil discussions can take place to get an objective picture of the events of the past year.

The answer is important for a few reasons. We will include this narrative in the information packet that the Search Committee is compiling for distribution to potential settled ministers.

Our explanation needs to be honest and objective because prospective ministers will be looking carefully at the reasons why our interim minister left after only one year. They will compare our version of events with information from the Interim Minister, the previous minister, the district executive and the UUA transitions office. It's in our best interest to lay out all the facts as honestly as we can.

While we're discussing the events of the past year, we'll also be able to begin the process of healing. Some members did not like Rev. Judy, and they were determined to see her serve only one year. Other members

liked the job she was doing and wanted to see her serve as our Interim Minister for the second year. Other members were unaware of the conflict, and were caught by surprise when Rev. Judy gave notice in May that she would not be returning for a second year.

This conflict stirred some intense emotions on all sides of the issue. We must examine the details in an objective and mature manner so we can understand how others felt and why they felt as they did.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we need to know what happened so we can be better prepared to deal with similar conflicts in the future. I hope there is one lesson from the past year that we can all agree on: that we can do better in dealing with disagreements. Those disagreements could take many forms. They could be about our staff, other members, social or political issues, or ideas and beliefs. We must be aware that they will happen and set the ground rules for dealing with them.

Our Seven Principles are what drew each of us here, but we cannot get so involved in the crisis of the moment that we lose sight of why we became Unitarian Universalists in the first place. Each member of this congregation has agreed to uphold and affirm those Principles. We did not say we would only uphold them when things were going smoothly. We did not say that we would uphold them unless we felt we had been treated badly. If we cannot practice our Seven Principles in difficult times, then we're just another social club. We can be so much more than that. Let us dream and plan and work to make it happen, together.

— Steven M. Harrison



# Notes from General Assembly

A total of 29 members of our congregation—including our three delegates, Jean Bowen, Jan Creamer, and Larry Kelland—attended the UUA General Assembly in Providence for one or more days in June, and several of them, including Nancy Rose, John Glasheen. Ron Creamer, Lisa Petrie, and Linda Whyte Burrell, were volunteers. Jean Bowen asked everyone to write about their impressions and experiences. Here are a few notes from General Assembly:

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## From Jean Bowen . . .

More than 4,500 UUs from across the country came to Providence to “share in the love.” The workshops, business sessions, special presentations, exhibits and the UUA Express (booths and exhibits with information about congregational life) were crammed into five days, providing most participants with exhausting and exhilarating opportunities for information exchange and new and tried techniques for learning and leading in congregation life.

I chose workshops that offered information on trends in religion membership, adaptive leadership, alternatives to ministries within four walls, and the

UUA’s new crowdfunding website, [www.Fathify.org](http://www.Fathify.org), which launched during GA.

Clearly UU congregations are not alone in the trend away from families and individuals attending and belonging to a congregation. Most mainline Protestant and Catholic churches have seen dramatic drops in membership and attendance (see [www.pew.org](http://www.pew.org)). UUA membership has dipped over ten years but is now level.

Yet opportunities are there, as time and again speakers outlined trends in ways in which “humans can’t help creating institutions of commonality,” as Rev. Dr. Galen J. Guengerich of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City put it.



Barbara Pagh, Jean Burke, Jean Bowen

In “Adaptive Leadership: Reaching Out Effectively as Paradigms Shift,” presenters Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley, UUA Program and Strategy Officer and Rev. John Gibb Millspaugh, UUA Director for Congregational Development, sorted through technical problems that may be addressed but often reoccur the following year. Deficit spending is a good example, and of course I paid attention here. They advised asking the right questions during these challenges, maintaining a place of discomfort so that the work can get done, and sharing the love and the importance of our mission with others in our community.

During the business session Saturday afternoon, I attended a talk called “Humanism and Theism in Conversation.”

Sister Simone Campbell, who gave the Ware Lecture, was my highlight. A 50-year member of the Sisters of Social Service, an international Roman Catholic religious congregation rooted in the Benedictine tradition, she brought us to our feet in cheers after her sixty-minute talk. Her wisdom, passionate plea on behalf of poor people and immigrants, her good humor, and her down-to-earth stories of her meetings with world leaders endeared her to a packed crowd at the Dunkin Donuts Center. You can watch her lecture at <http://www.uua.org/economic/ga/295423.shtml>. You don’t want to miss this!

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## From John Glasheen . . .

What was the meaning of GA 2014, “Love Reaches Out,” for UUCSC?

The UUA is a faith community of congregations that bring to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance, and social justice. UUCSC seeks to build that community locally by reaching out in love to invite participation; we seek to follow Sister Simone Campbell’s direction, in the annual Ware Lecture, for Social Action to “walk towards trouble.”

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## More notes from General Assembly

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As we move forward, UUCSC seeks to build our beloved community locally by shared effort (the Board of Directors and the Committees for Facilities, Finance, Personnel, Caring Connection, Hospitality, Music, Worship, Social Events, Religious Education, Membership, Flowers), and shared support for our Social Action.

As part of that Social Action, we will join across the country in the UUA's challenge to extreme inequality—just as prior generations led movements fighting for the abolition of slavery and seeking fully-inclusive civil rights for all. We also affirm commitment to gun violence prevention, support the Faith Summit in Washington, D.C. on July 31 and August 1 on stopping deportations, and at General Assembly, we voted that the UUA divest from fossil fuel companies in its Common Endowment Fund.

The collection at the Sunday morning worship service at GA raised \$50,000 for Housing First Rhode Island, one of UUCSC's long-time local partner organizations, and McAuley House and McAuley Ministries, the Providence non-profit sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy that provides food, clothing, shelter, and health services to the most vulnerable. An additional \$8,000 was raised in bowl sales.

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### From Linda Whyte Burrell . . .

I volunteered for 24 hours and ended up working from 8:30 a.m. Tuesday through 6:00 p.m. Sunday—and that after two months of prep! Previous coordinators were unable to serve, and I was asked. After two months of stress and worrying, since I had only attended GA once in Boston in 2003, I actually relaxed and enjoyed being with so many happy people!

I attended two workshops: one on busyness, which was a good and needed refresher on simplifying; and then the workshop entitled “When everything you thought you knew isn't enough,” on church growth. I took notes in each.

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### From Gene Jolie . . .

I attended a seminar by Keith Kron on Searching for a Settled Minister. It was spot-on and detailed all of what we need to do—quite pertinent to the task at hand.

When I walked through the large area where UU stuff was on sale, it made me realize the diversity of Unitarian Universalism in general. Never thought about how different we all are, but somehow together.

I went to the service on Sunday, which was inspiring. The

way it was choreographed was kind of “megachurchy,” but okay, as the music was wonderful. The sermon was out of this world. They started and finished on time, which was remarkable.

I really enjoyed my limited contact there. Kudos to those who volunteered 24 hours. When I got my schedule, I backed out.

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### From Clare Sartori . . .

These notes are taken from the workshop I attended with Rev. Keith Kron, who really does seem to have a pulse on the needs of different congregations:

- Interim ministers intentionally act different so all frustration can be taken out on the interim. This creates a different system and leads to lots of heat. Even an interim minister who no one likes serves the congregation better than no interim.
- Developmental Ministers, who receive both interim and developmental training, may be invited to become settled ministers, unlike an interim minister. They are frequently used to address specific concerns: For instance, they may teach Right Relations. A number of volunteers at GA were



Art Stein and Clare Sartori

designated to support people in establishing Right Relations and I was very curious about that. (In Buddhism, we have the noble eightfold path that does not include Right Relations). Perhaps some support around that would have mitigated some of the hurt feelings over this past year. A developmental minister may also provide support in aligning the mission statement with behavior, or offer a “beyond categorical thinking” workshop.

- Geography and culture matter for the minister and the family of the minister. Search committees should be asked

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## Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

**“Although we are a country at war, we are a people of peace.”**

On September 21, millions of people around the world will participate in activities, demonstrations, and events acknowledging the International Day of Peace. This year, the children and youth of our congregation will be reaching out to young people in our community in an effort to create an interfaith peace event in our own.

As part of the Ballou Channing District outreach grant awarded to our RE program this year, I have already begun to nurture this project with invitations to participate. A total of 35 letters have been sent to various churches, temples, and mosques seeking input from the youth of their faith homes. Additionally I am in contact with Ginny Fox of the Peace Flag Project and URI's Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies.

I am hoping to share with our young people the importance of acting on issues of great importance as well as the strength of working together with others. We will shape an event that allows young people to show their support for a peaceful world.

As we gather again after our summer break I will have more information to share on this exciting project. Until then, embrace the peace within your own life, relax into summer, and notice each small wonder.

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## GA delegates vote to divest from fossil fuels

Delegates to the UUA General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to divest its Common Endowment Fund from fossil fuels. UUCSC's delegates— Jean Bowen, Larry Kelland, and Jan Creamer— voted in support, reflecting both their own views and a vote by the UUCSC Board of Directors. Only five delegates spoke against the resolution.

More than two dozen lined up at the “Pro” microphone to speak in favor, but only a few had an opportunity to speak. The first was UU climate activist Tim DeChristopher, who served 21 months in prison for disrupting a Bureau of Land Management oil and gas lease auction of public land in Utah's redrock country. He said efforts to fight climate change continually run up against “the wall that is the political power of the fossil fuel industry.” Others emphasized the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for Unitarian Universalists to “put our money where our mouths are.”

Those who spoke against the resolution said UUs should be shareholder activists— although the resolution allows the UUA to retain small investments in order to do that. Some also said the divestment issue is a distraction from other actions that might be more effective.

The UU Common Endowment Fund, valued at about \$173 million, holds investments of the Unitarian Universalist Association, affiliated UU organizations, and about 300 UU congregations throughout the country. The UUA is the second national religious body in the U.S. to vote to divest, after the United Church of Christ.

To watch a video of the debate and vote, go to: <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2014/business/vi-296143.shtml>.

— Lisa Petrie



## More notes from General Assembly

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to bring in spouses during pre-candidacy.

- The previous minister forms a covenant with the interim. Build trust through listening without judgment. Your best friend is curiosity. "Why does this mean so much to you?" "What is the story behind it?" The interim's job is to rock the boat. "What would happen if we did it differently?"
- Someone from another congregation mentioned that, like us, half of the transition committee quit.
- The ratio of choices to extent of ministry is as follows. There will be ten applicants for each full time ministry, six for three-quarter time, three for half time, and maybe one for one-quarter time ministry. Stronger applicants are attracted more by the salary than by the reputation of the congregation.

I encourage everyone to listen to the Ware Lecture featuring Sister Simone Campbell (on the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/economic/ga/295423.shtml>). I would not be able to do her justice. Very inspiring, as was Rev. Mark Stringer at the Sunday service. Both lead a clarion call to get out of our comfort zone and out of our four walls to connect with people from other faiths around issues of social justice.

The GA being in Providence was just a chance I could not miss, but I would not volunteer again because it was so many hours. I met some lovely people, however, and it was fun seeing so many UUCSC friends there, being in a visible spot. It would be wonderful to offer some video presentation of GA to our full congregation sometime.

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### From Larry Kelland . . .

Notes on some sessions I attended:

1. Divestment and beyond – Legal aspects of divestment were discussed, as well as the alternative, shareholder activism. According to one of the panelists, Simon Billenness, shareholder activism and divestment can be practiced at the same time; the point is to influence corporate policies and actions.

2. Immigrants, Families and Illegality – Dr. Aviva Chomsky addressed children crossing our border to escape from terrible conditions at home. She showed how U.S. policies, trade agreements, corporate dumping of cheap corn in Central American countries have lead to the immigration crisis. Her logical precision and ability to connect the dots made this the best session by far, for me.

3. Just Good Food – This was a discussion of climate action, class justice, and the joy of just eating. One pre-

senter, Frances Moore Lappé, wrote Diet for a Small Planet. Our penchant for meat leads to considerable cruelty at the slaughterhouse. Vegetarianism was discussed.

4. #UUsGetSocial: Reaching 'Nones,' Activists, and Spiritual Seekers – Rev. Sarah Gibb Millsbaugh said 12% of the "nones" are atheists, 16% are agnostics, and 72% are theists. We need to relate to the "nones," understanding their relations, to reach them.

5. Facing Islamophobia: Building Bridges of Peace and Unity – Much of the discussion was about the position of women in Islam, how they generally do not feel oppressed, and the achievements of some Muslim women, including women heads of state.

6. Buddhist Perspectives on the First and Seventh Principles – These two principles guide us toward ethical lives. Buddhist philosophy is in synch with the web of all existence concept, and that change is everywhere.

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### From Jan Creamer . . .

Ron and I were so enthralled by GA that we've decided to go the next GA in Portland, Oregon rather than going on the Scotia Prince for a week to celebrate what will be our 40th wedding anniversary. That tells you how special the experience was!

I was so happy to be a delegate and to vote on vitally important issues. The pinnacle of that experience was looking back from my front row seat to see an overwhelming number of delegates vote for fossil fuel divestment. The other thrilling experience was taking part in the GA choir—180 beautiful voices singing for thousands on Sunday morning and at the closing ceremony.

The negative part of the experience was the hours that volunteers must work. Ron had to usher every morning service and nightly service, which meant we had to leave our house at 6:00 a.m. every day to get to Providence by 7:00 a.m. We got home at 9:30 p.m. or later. I mean to write to the UUA to suggest that they shorten the volunteer hours. Ron and I didn't get a chance to go to many of the many fascinating workshops or explore the exhibitions.

We were lucky enough to see the Ware Lecture and were fascinated and moved by Sister Simone Campbell, who lobbies on issues of peace-building, immigration reform, health care, and economic justice. Ron and I would both love to be delegates to next year's General Assembly. We'd like to go early so I can sign up to be in the GA choir again!

I'd encourage everybody to save up to go to Oregon next  
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## More notes from General Assembly

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year, as the whole experience is fascinating and soul-deepening, inspiring one to “walk the walk” not just “talk the talk” of social action embodied in our Seven Principles.

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### From Virginia Carter . . .

I must say, the GA reminded me of all the Professional Society meetings I went to in the good old days. The Wednesday night revival meeting was a bit overwhelming and where, oh where, was OUR banner? Very disappointing not to see our banner at the only GA meeting I will ever attend. I found the various meetings I attended a bit spotty; some helpful, some not so much. Crowds were a bit overwhelming, but everyone was very helpful and I found all the rooms (and elevators for Cindy whose hip was bothering her).

I did not get a lot of help with Finance Committee problems, but perhaps that was because I missed a couple of meetings on Friday that might have been illuminating. The bookstore was helpful in this regard. I did not find it an overwhelmingly good experience— however, age and long experience with scientific society meetings may have colored my perception.

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### From Lisa Petrie . . .

For me, the high point of GA was the vote on the divestment resolution. It was exciting to be present for this historic moment when UUs from around the country voted overwhelmingly to sell off our investments in fossil fuels. After the vote, the house erupted in cheers, and I felt hopeful for the future and proud to be part of an organization that was taking a strong stand on the defining issue of our time.

“Facing Islamophobia: Building Bridges of Peace and Unity” — With all the negative stories about Muslims in the news, I tend to think of Islam as a religion characterized by rigid rules, harsh punishments, and severe oppression of women. This workshop helped me to get beyond these stereotypes and see the beauty of this multifaceted and highly diverse global community. The workshop, led by two UU women who are also Muslims— the Rev. Dr. M’ellen Kennedy and Jaye Starr— began by exploring the Five Pillars of Islam: faith, prayer, charity, fasting, and pilgrimage. Rev. Kennedy highlighted the practical value of each practice, and I was particularly struck by her discussion of fasting, which, like Lent, can include the suspension of other habits as well

as eating. She pointed out how suspending our habits for a time can help us to see which ones have too much power over us and begin to break that power, instead making conscious choices about how to spend our time and energy. She also discussed the many powerful women in the Koran, and pointed out that eight female heads of state have been Muslims— and, most surprising of all, that Muslim women



Nancy Rose and Jean Bowen

are the second most highly educated women in America after Jewish women, with a whopping 43% holding college or postgraduate degrees,

compared to 29% of American women. A recent Gallup poll found that, worldwide, Muslims were no more likely than Americans to support violence against civilians. The workshop closed with a powerful prayer for peace around the world.

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### From Aline Couture . . .

I was fortunate to attend GA this year and I’m excited about the ideas that were presented. There is so much positive and creative thinking going on within UU congregations around stewardship. All presenters were eager to share their insights and I was there (along with 4,500 others) to gobble them up!

I will be touching on several things I heard as the year moves on, but would like to whet your appetites for the subject right now. One overarching theme in each of the sessions was the attitude we each carry around the topic of money. Where did we first receive the message of scarcity or abundance? The spoken or unspoken messages we received in our early growing years, and how they made us feel, is the foundation of our belief that we ‘have enough’ or we ‘don’t have enough.’ All of the presenters voiced the same theme . . . that we can change our attitude of scarcity and move toward abundance because we do have enough.

We have something to give— each of us.

This is what our stewardship is grounded in. It is a spiritual issue that feeds all our living. When we live from this

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# The latest news from the Board of Directors

The June Board of Directors meeting was the first for newly-elected Clerk Mary Fulton and Trustees Randi Marten and Claire Sartori. It was also the last Board meeting for our Interim Minister, Rev. Judy, who is leaving for another interim position.

The Board approved a clarified procedure for dispensing money from the Agape Fund, approved a request from the Green Sanctuary Committee that our General Assembly be directed to vote in favor of the resolution for the UUA to divest from fossil fuel companies, and increased the rent for our upstairs office space by \$10 a month.

Treasurer Harry Buffum reported that our expenses were as expected but income was down. It was too soon to have received results from Cindy Berry's letter requesting pledge increases to help cover the budget deficit. The financial reports are now being generated in a timelier manner as the conversion to Quick Books progresses.

Rev. Judy reported that the UUA now asks congregations with interim ministers to do two interim evaluations per year. The Board will do our second one in July; Rev Judy has already submitted hers. These would ordinarily have been done in September if Rev. Judy had contin-

ued with the expected second year of interim ministry here.

The Board chose Penny Hall and Claire Sartori as liaisons between the Board and the Interim Search Committee, and Betsy Dalton as liaison between the Board and the Settled Minister Search Committee. Betsy will continue as liaison to the Publicity and Technology Committee.



Our website's on-line donation system is now active. Will Bender has moved the link to a more prominent position on the "Our Community" tab. It takes only a few minutes to set up a profile. The system can be used for a one-time donation or for regular payments. It makes the donation process simple and hassle-free.

Temple Beth David in Narragansett has invited the UUCSC to participate in a Friday evening service during the High Holy Days this Fall.

The Board appointed Jean Bowen and Larry Kelland as the congregation's delegates to General Assembly, with the third delegate to be named later.

Nancy Rose shared information from a recent governance seminar she attended. Her information is valuable as we continue to define the roles of the Board and the committees and create a formal process for leadership development.

The first-ever orientation for new Board members was scheduled for July 6 with Jean Bowen, who has extensive experience with non-profit boards and as president of a UU congregation.

The next Board of Directors meeting is on July 16 (the third Wednesday of the month) at 7:00 p.m. We welcome all members and friends to observe our meetings. Agenda items should be submitted to the President, Steve Harrison (at [chefsteve@cox.net](mailto:chefsteve@cox.net)) by the second Wednesday of the month. Motions concerning policy issues should be sent as MSWord attachments, and any supporting information send as a separate document. Items that deal with management or day-to-day issues may be referred to the appropriate committee.

— Steve Harrison

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## More notes from General Assembly

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belief in ourselves, we generate an energy of abundance. With the challenges we face this year, we all need to help one another move away from a scarcity mentality and focus on who we are and what we have accomplished. This is the truth by which our congregation lives.

We have said many times over the past few years that we want to attract more members. This is a vital part of our

UUCSC future. Our country needs our liberal faith presence more than ever. What attracts someone to enter our doors and remain? I suggest that our attitude of abundance and generosity is one very big draw.

Finally, a good question (from Dan Hotchkiss, a consultant who spoke at GA) for each of us to reflect on as we move into this interesting year ahead: "What lives do we intend to change, and in what way?"

# Welcome to our newest members!



David Fulton



Mary Fulton



Jon Thompson



Tom Reiser

On Sunday, May 11, we welcomed four new members into the congregation— David Fulton, Mary Fulton, Jon Thompson, and Tom Reiser. David and Mary recently moved to Rhode Island from New York State, and have been UU's for some time. After the service, we had a reception in the Oneto Community Room for our four new members. We are so happy to have them all as part of our congregation!

— Linda Dupuis, for the Membership Committee

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## An update from the Ministerial Search Committee

As you know, the Board appointed Cindy Berry, Jean Burke, Amber Collins, Val Follett, David Fulton, Mary Iacobbo and Gene Jolie to the committee charged with finding and presenting to the congregation a candidate for Settled Minister. Our committee started work before the end of the church year.

On the weekend of June 13 and 14, we met with Rev. Judith Campbell, our Ministerial Search Representative, for an intensive retreat workshop. Discussions included all tasks the committee needs to accomplish, a schedule of the steps in the process, and the assistance available from the Ballou Channing District and the UUA. Individual committee members took primary responsibility for certain critical tasks. Jean and Amber will serve as co-chairs of the committee.

Rev. Campbell emphasized that confidentiality is critical, because many prospective candidates will want to keep their interest in our

congregation private. Committee members are prohibited from discussing the details of candidates we may be considering. But we promise to keep the congregation up to date on a timely basis about what we're doing.

We very much need your input about the type of candidate you want. This summer, the committee will send out a detailed survey to all congregation members. When we have processed the survey results, we'll organize a series of cottage meetings to get more in-depth information and identify any issues or concerns.

In the meantime, we are developing the Congregational Record (the CR), a vital document that will be made available electronically to all candidates who are interested in our congregation. It will be a virtual portrait of our congregation, outlining our history, our mission, hopes for the future,

our high points and, alas, our low points too. We have been told repeatedly that candidates look for utter candor about all aspects of a congregation's history and experience.

Those of us responsible for drafting this document are approaching the Board, committee chairs, our staff, and members for critical information for the CR. Please help us with this very important task!

Each step of the way, we will have the guidance of Rev. Campbell as well as Rev. Keith Kron from the UUA. Currently the committee is meeting every two weeks, and we expect that as the process continues we will meet more often.

We want to hear from all of you. Don't hesitate to call, meet or e-mail any one of us to let us know what you think.

— Jean Burke, for the members of the Ministerial Search Committee

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY  
27 NORTH ROAD  
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*And stars whirled back to sun again  
To be consumed in flaming pain! . . .  
In them at last all life was met:  
They were God's self! This earth had set.  
Mad fires of life sang through their veins,  
Ruinous blisses, joyous pains,  
Life the destroyer, life the breaker,  
And death, the everlasting maker . . .*

*from 'The Dance of Life,' by Conrad Aiken (1889-1973)*

*Conrad Aiken was a poet, novelist and essayist, Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress (now the U.S. Poet Laureate) from 1950 to 1952, and winner of a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Aiken, a Unitarian, was born on August 5, 1889.*