

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 7

JULY - AUGUST 2015

Summer Services

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

July 12

Are Physics and Astronomy the Universal Ministry? – *Robert Tyce, Ph.D.*

As seekers of truth, it's up to each of us to decide what we believe. Are our beliefs based on scientific facts? Or do scientific facts depend on our beliefs? Robert Tyce, a doctorate in applied physics who teaches at URI, will explore these questions.

July 19

Gratitude – *Dorothy Devine*

Dorothy will talk about her journeys in and out of Unitarian Universalism since her teens and the crisis (for which she is grateful) that led her to explore the meaning of her time on earth and brought her back to our congregation at the start of 2015.

July 26

A New Male Manifesto – *Michael Burt*

Men's lives can be diverse, complex, and simple, all at the same time. Mike, organizer and active member of UUCSC's Men's Group, will discuss these contradictory descriptions in order to define a masculine ideal.

August 2

"Start Your Search for Truth and Meaning Here" – *David and Mary Fulton*

This is the tagline on the UUA's on-line bookstore web page. David and Mary, both retired librarians, will offer suggestions for how to begin your spiritual practice of inspirational reading with the donated books in our UUCSC library.

August 9

Langston Hughes: Poet, Philosopher, Humorist, and Dreamer of Dreams – *Helene Gersuny and Russell Stokes, M.D.*

Helene and Russell will examine a small portion of the works of this prolific star of the Harlem Renaissance. Today, almost fifty years after his death, his verse and prose are still relevant.

More Summer Services on page 3



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

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Karen R. Ellsworth, Editor

Deadline: The 20th day of each month

Material should be submitted by e-mail to kellsworth6@verizon.net

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

www.uusouthcountyri.org

OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER

27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R. I. 02879

(401) 783-4170 • uucsri@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 ■ **Michael Galib**, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

Board of Directors

Betsy Dalton, President ■ Linda Whyte Burrell, Vice President

Steve Harrison, Treasurer ■ Mary Fulton, Clerk

Randi Marten ■ Elise Bender ■ Clare Sartori ■ Leah Canin

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Lisa McHenry, Hospitality Committee ■ *Linda Whyte Burrell*, Social Events Committee

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

Roni Meyer, Flower Committe ■ *Dennis Bowman*, Publicity

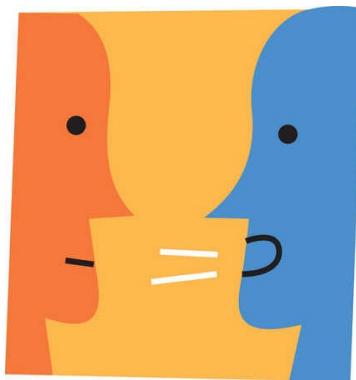
The President's Letter

Greetings, dear members and friends of UUCSC,

This is my first message to you since having the honor of being elected to serve as your Board president at the June annual meeting. Directly after that annual meeting, I embarked on a nearly month-long trip through several countries in Europe (Denmark, Germany, and Poland) and several international education conferences (International Association for Special Education and International Society for Technology in Education). While travel is always exciting, and my work with these two organizations is certainly enriching, I am very happy to be back home and in our beloved UUCSC community once again. I hope sometime in the future to be able to share stories about my travels and some of what I have learned from my work internationally.

My first UUCSC connection upon my return was to attend the service on Sunday, July 5 and listen to the informative, thoughtful, and very timely talk presented by Adrian Wood-Smith, Associate University Chaplain for the Muslim Community at Brown University, on the outer and inner meanings of Ramadan, the most sacred month of the Islamic calendar. The talk was informative, since I doubt

many in our congregation (including myself) knew much about Ramadan and its meaning. The talk was thoughtful, in that he conveyed a deeper understanding of Ramadan beyond just word and definition—guiding us to seek the real meaning that this month holds in the lives of Muslims around the world.



And the talk was timely, as it reminds us as a congregation of our commitment to build a strong interfaith community for the betterment of all, here in South County and throughout the world. How can we truly impact the lives of those in our immediate community, and around the globe? It is not an easy task, but here are a few of my thoughts on this:

- We can continue our outreach efforts to other faith communities, outside of and within UU, inviting them to visit with our community and taking the time to visit theirs. We can develop shared initiatives in which

we talk and work together, building a deeper understanding across faiths and among our fellow UUs;

- We can continue our social action efforts, identifying and supporting the causes that demand and deserve our time and our attention—and we can follow through, too, with true action, and not simply words;
- We can pay attention to the differing needs of others—the elders of our community, individuals with disabilities, those who are experiencing pain and suffering, whether temporary or long-term—and we can make ourselves and our UUCSC connections more accessible in a very real sense;
- We can strive always to communicate our ideas, our views, and our concerns with each other, and not bury or disregard them. Communication can be our greatest asset, but it remains (and likely will always be) a challenge. Let us work together, through thoughtful and clear communications; and
- We can model how we believe all beings on this earth should be treated: with respect, with honesty, with compassion, and with love.

continued on page 4

The President's Letter

continued from page 3

It is a new year for UUCSC, and many wonderful and important challenges lie ahead. Summer services continue in the sanctuary, and your Board of Directors continues our work throughout the summer months as well. Board meetings take place on a regular basis, and on July 18 the Board will meet for our summer retreat and planning session. So much is ahead as we look at the ministerial search process, our bylaws and committee structure, our continued focus on stabilizing finances, and growing our UUCSC spiritual

wellness. While the Board has committed itself to lead this congregation, I want everyone to realize that this is, and must be, an "all in" effort by the entire congregation in order to achieve the goals ahead of us. As president, I am counting on your input, your guidance, and your support.

In the bullet points shared above, I have outlined the principles that I will strive to follow during my time as Board president: focused and ongoing outreach, true social action, accessibility of UUCSC for all, strengthened communi-

cations, and modeling what we believe.

I promise to do my very best to achieve these goals—and I am counting on you, my beloved UUCSC community, to help me to stay on this path. Thank you all for everything that each of you contributes to the health and well-being of UUCSC. We truly are a beloved community, and I am so very proud that you trust me to serve as your president. I look forward to this year with great anticipation and hope.

In faith,
Betsy Dalton

More Summer Services

(continued from cover)

August 16

The Virtue and Privilege of Not Knowing – Bill Rodriguez

Bill has been a journalist and theater reviewer off and on for half a century, writing for publications ranging from the *Providence Phoenix* to the *New York Times*. He will talk about intellectual humility—the advisability and frequent necessity of not knowing, as opposed to comfortable, smug certainty.

August 23

Self-Compassion – Peter and Nancy Himmel

Self-compassion means being kind to yourself when anticipating or experiencing suffering. It may be at the heart of our spiritual journey.

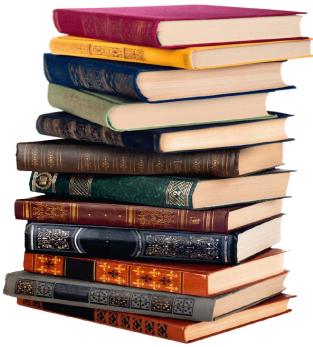
Peter is a retired medical doctor and Nancy is a licensed marriage and family therapist.

August 30

Wrestling With Respect – Sandra Ketrow

Should we be tolerant of others? Should we accept their differences? Or should we follow Elie Wiesel's advice and practice neither tolerance nor acceptance, but respect? What's the difference?

Sandra Ketrow, Ph.D., is a professor of communication studies at the Harrington School of Communication and Media at URI.



UUCSC is now a member of Library Thing

"The World's Largest Book Club"

David and Mary Fulton, UUCSC members who are retired librarians, have created a UUCSC page on Library Thing (<http://www.librarything.com/>), a cataloging and social networking website for book lovers.

David and Mary are cataloging every one of the approximately 800 books in the UUCSC lending library. They are about halfway finished, and expect to have all of the books cataloged and entered on the website by early August.

Library Thing gets its information about books from Amazon.com and from more than 700 libraries around the world, including the Library of Congress. If you visit the UUCSC page on the website (<http://www.librarything.com/profile/UUCSC>), you can browse the titles and descriptions of the books in our library. You can also search for a particular book or a book on a particular topic. If you sign up as a member of Library Thing, you can review books and participate in on-line discussions about books.

NPR's 'All Things Considered' calls Library Thing "a virtual feast of information."

This Summer's Flowers

The floral arrangements at the front of the sanctuary, entitled "A Study of Summer Seascape," were created by Roni Meyer.



Little things can add up

Can you think of a simple activity that an individual or a small group of people can have fun doing—without pressure—that could raise money for the congregation and might be worth repeating each year? If so, the Stewardship Committee would love to help you make it happen.

Please write down a brief description of the activity on one of the index cards you will find in the Oneto Community Room, and put the card in the box.

If you'd like to do this activity yourself, and you'd like some help, please include your name and your telephone number or e-mail address. A member of the Stewardship Committee will get in touch with you.

If you just have a good idea, describe it on the index card and leave the card in the box. You don't have to sign it.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"Look at the facts of the world. You see a continual and progressive triumph of the right. I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice."

– Theodore Parker, from *Ten Sermons of Religion* (1853)

Parker was a reforming Unitarian minister, an abolitionist, and a Transcendentalist. This portion of Parker's sermon is thought to have inspired Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous assertion of similar sentiments: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

Parker was born in Lexington, Mass. on August 24, 1810.