



# THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2015



## June Services

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



**June 7**

### **The Feminine Mystics - Rev. Jan Knost**

Long before Olympia Brown was the first woman ordained to a major American denomination (the Universalist Church of America in 1857), and long before Susan B. Anthony was working for women's suffrage, there were giants who proudly and energetically represented their gender in many areas of need in the world of their time. This service will honor the record of their lives.

**June 14**

### **Thirty Persian Birds – Kayla Parker**

What can we learn from the ancient Sufi teachers about community and the purpose of ministry?  
*Kayla Parker, who will begin her final year at Yale Divinity School in the fall,  
is the ministerial intern at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, Conn.*

**June 21**

### **Music Committee Father's Day Service**

This year's annual Music Committee service falls on Father's Day. Three committee members who are fathers— Harry Buffum, Steve Harrison and Nick Smith— each will offer a sermonette on fatherhood, and we'll celebrate with plenty of terrific music.

**June 28**

### **My Friend, Annie Dillard – Rev. Jan Knost**

Naturalist, teacher of writing, Pulitzer Prize winner, theologian—this wonderful figure who enriches the days of our lives with her prose continues to teach us the joy of what is out there in the natural world and how it affects the human condition, religiously and emotionally. This will be a grand preface to our lazy days of summer!

***This service will include our annual Flower Communion***

**July 5**

### **The Meaning of Ramadan – Adrian Wood-Smith**

Muslims throughout the world currently are observing Ramadan, the most sacred month of the Islamic calendar. How does this annual observance reflect Islamic values?

*Adrian Wood-Smith is Associate University Chaplain for the Muslim Community at Brown University.*

**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, who has a doctorate in applied physics, will explore these questions.

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 ■ **Michael Galib**, Music Director

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

### ***Board of Directors (until June 6)***

Steve Harrison, President ■ Betsy Dalton, Vice President

Harry Buffum, Treasurer ■ Mary Fulton, Clerk

Randi Marten ■ Penny Hall ■ Clare Sartori ■ Nancy Rose, Past President

### ***Board of Directors (after June 6)***

Betsy Dalton, President ■ Linda Whyte Burrell, Vice President

Steve Harrison, Treasurer ■ Mary Fulton, Clerk

Randi Marten ■ Elise Bender ■ Clare Sartori ■ Leah Canin

### ***Committee Chairs***

*Linda Dupuis & Jenny Watson*, Membership Committee

*Judi Marcy*, Caring Connection

*John Glasheen*, Social Action Committee

*Suzanne Paton*, Religious Education Committee

*Mary Finnegan*, Personnel Committee

*Marcia Boyd*, Finance Committee

*Ed Burrell*, Facilities Committee

*Susan Moreland*, Music Committee

*Lisa McHenry*, Hospitality Committee

*Linda Whyte Burrell*, Social Events Committee

*David Floyd*, Music at Lily Pads Coordinator

*Susan Strakosch*, Worship Committee

*Roni Meyer*, Flower Committee

*Jean Bowen*, Publicity

# *For the Time Being . . .*

*by Rev. Jan Knost*

May 19, 2015

## **Three columns for the price of one . . .**

***(with apologies to Bill Reynolds of the Providence Journal!)***

### **The Service this past Sunday**

Wow! What a wonderful, laid-back, comprehensive service led by our Senior Youth! I wouldn't have missed it for the world. There was humor, musical talent, deeply searching questions and ideas, and ideals for everyone to ponder. I tried to thank as many of our young people as possible for their efforts. As I spoke with a number of church leaders afterwards, my mantra was that "if this is the caliber of leadership to come, then this congregation's future is in good hands."

### **Pastoral Care and The Caring Connection**

Words of praise would be inadequate in celebrating the work of these two vital committees. As I sit with them, I am heartened by the love, care and commitment they give to finding ways to minister to those of this congregation in various stages of need. Calls, rides, errands, visits to homebound folks and those in nursing homes or hospital or recovering or in rehabilitation—they all happen. It's not just an afterthought. This is a proud part of the ministry of this congregation and you all need to be aware of their wonderful work.

### **Some personal items from Lorna and myself**

This Wednesday, we will be traveling to St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. to celebrate my graduating class's 60th Reunion. Also, the song group called "The Singing Saints" will observe the 65th anniversary since its inception. I was honored to be their director during my junior undergraduate year, and they're still making CDs and singing at locations all over the North Country, including song fests at other schools as well as trips to ski resorts, cruises and, of all things, New Orleans just recently. I hope you all will give yourselves permission to nostalgically remember the "good times" of your becoming, wherever they happened. It's all a part of bringing joy to ourselves and to those we love.

See you in church on the 7th and 28th of June. With affection as ever,

*"The Rev"*

# The President's Letter

This month, for perhaps the 24th time in the history of the UUCSC, one president's term ends and another's begins. The cycle of our democratic process continues. Hallelujah. But before I add Amen, I wish to take one last opportunity to share some thoughts as I look back on these past two years.

It was difficult at times, rewarding at others and never boring. The office of president is a visible one, especially when questions and problems arise. Who do you call? "Call the president, he should know." Sometimes I did know, and sometimes I did not know. Some answers were well-received, and some were not. Sometimes I had no answer. Sometimes I just broke down and cried.

Our first year of Interim was difficult, our second much smoother. As a congregation we did a lot of growing up in those two years. After many years of relative calm with our first settled minister, we developed a pretty high opinion of ourselves. I think the past two years have taught us many lessons, if we are willing to embrace them. I have come to realize we are just a bunch of regular folks who are abundantly human. When we place the welfare of our congregation ahead of our own personal agendas then we

can accomplish great things. It all goes back to practicing those Seven Principles. Our unique strength lies in our ability to get back to that solid philosophical and spiritual base and work as a team in making the world around us a little better place.



As president, one does stand on a larger stage, and the attention can be seductive. Thankfully I am blessed with a partner whose wisdom and honesty supplied much needed reality checks, especially when my ego tended toward over-inflation. For that I am grateful. Thank you, Linda. I must mention that while the presidency carries its share of demands and duties, at least there is recognition when things are going well, and often there is an appreciation for one's efforts when they do not go so well. For one's

spouse, there is no such visibility or appreciation, but at times the demands upon her or him are just as great. It must be very hard to see someone you love struggling with complicated and emotionally-charged situations, and have little ability to change it. Perhaps this term ends with a double Hallelujah!

Let me end with a grain of wisdom encapsulated in a sentence fragment: "One on two." It is the basic rule for stacking dry stone walls. During the Pleistocene era of some 20,000-plus years ago, the Laurentide ice sheet didn't leave a lot of stones where I grew up in New Jersey, so stone walls were not part of my environment until we moved to Kingston Hill. My fascination with them drew me to reading about their construction. Our yard has a few hundred feet of walls in varying states of disrepair, so I gained some practical experience over the years re-stacking. These walls are laid-up dry wall, and have no mortar. Only gravity holds them together. If stacked correctly, they last hundreds of years. The stones themselves are quite impervious to the elements, and gravity is always present. The key lies in laying down the very first stones in a

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## Here's what you need to know for summer

### Religious Education

The last day of Religious Education and Nursery time was Sunday, June 14. During the summer, parents may use the Nursery space for breaks, if needed. Please leave the space as you found it. RE programs for all ages will resume September 20. Water Communion will be September 13.

### Office Administrator's Summer Schedule

Friday, June 25 – Last day office is open.

June 28 to August 24 – Office closed.

August 25 – Regular office schedule resumes.

### Pastoral Needs – Rev. Jan Knost

([auldrev@cox.net](mailto:auldrev@cox.net) or 377-8989) is not under contract for July and August, but he will be available for memorials, funerals, weddings, or hospital visits if needed.

### The Caring Connection – Judi Marcy

([judimarcy@cox.net](mailto:judimarcy@cox.net) or 792-1338). The Caring Connection helps provide meals or transportation in times of difficulty.

### Pastoral Care Team – Penny Hall

([pendletonhall@gmail.com](mailto:pendletonhall@gmail.com) or 789-8636). A team of trained congregation members assists the minister in caring for members and friends of the congregation who are experiencing times of challenge and transition.

**Weekly E-News** – The Weekly E-News, distributed by e-mail on Fridays, will continue during the summer. Please send submissions to Karen Ellsworth ([kellsworth6@verizon.net](mailto:kellsworth6@verizon.net)) by Thursday morning at the latest. The insert to the Order of Worship will not be published during the summer.

**The South County Unitarian Universalist** – We publish a combined July-August issue of our monthly newsletter in the summer. The deadline is Monday, July 6. Please send submissions to Karen Ellsworth ([kellsworth6@verizon.net](mailto:kellsworth6@verizon.net)).

**UUCSC Interactive Calendar** (on our website, [www.uusouthcountyri.org](http://www.uusouthcountyri.org)) – Kathy Carland will work in the office two hours each week during July and August. Please send calendar requests to her at [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com) and write “UUCSC Calendar” in the subject line. You will receive a reply within one week.

**Keys** – If you need keys to the building, contact Essjay Foulkrod (284-0634 or [sjgraymare@aol.com](mailto:sjgraymare@aol.com))

**Mail** – The Office Administrator will check the mail weekly.

**Reimbursement Requests** – Forms are available on the office door. Please leave your completed form for administrative processing.

## The “Environment is Everyone's Business” Rally

**Wednesday, June 10, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the State House lawn**

The environment is the place where we all live and work— it is a common, not a special, interest. Climate change is an emergent crisis, not a far-off future problem. This rally is will be a non-partisan event, bringing together environmental, faith, business, labor, social justice, and other groups to say that the time to act on climate change is NOW.

Michael Dorsey, Sierra Club national board member and a recognized expert on global governance and sustainability, will be the keynote speaker.

The UUCSC Green Task Force, one of the rally's co-sponsors, invites you to join us at the rally. To find a carpool, contact Lisa Petrie (364-3002 or [teonlisa@juno.com](mailto:teonlisa@juno.com)). To learn more about the rally, contact Robert Malin (497-7419 or [rhodysierran@gmail.org](mailto:rhodysierran@gmail.org)).



# Welcome to our new members!

On Sunday May 10, 2015 we welcomed five new members. Here's how they feel about joining the congregation:

*"During the past two years I have come to understand the strength of positive energy and love in this remarkable community, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to share my energy and love with you as a new member."* – Mary Lynne Rainey

*"It is with pleasure that I join the UUCSC congregation. Finding like-minded people and themes makes our move to South County a perfect decision, and I am happy to make this my spiritual home."* – Emily Jacobs



Mary Lynne Rainey



Holly, Sean, John, and Emily Harrington



Emily and Mark Jacobs

*"I can not imagine finding a more welcoming and clever group of kindred souls with whom I can continue a spiritual journey. I am delighted!"* – Mark Jacobs

*"We are looking forward to being a part of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation spiritual community, and we want to support and provide opportunities for our children as they discover their own spiritual paths."* – Holly and John Harrington

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## The President's Letter

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stable manner so as to make a solid base for the next layer of stones. The stone above is placed so it straddles two stones below, hence my mantra, "one on two." This gives the stone extra stability by relying on two supports. The wall is built with the sides sloping slightly inward so that gravity is pulling each side toward the other. If stacked well, a laid up stone wall exists in a state of

dynamic tension. And it exists for a long, long time.

Each year we lay down another layer of history of this congregation. We must do it with care, remembering that what we do one year is a foundation for the next. The force of our convictions, and our desire to make things better in our world, are the forces that can hold us together.

But like a stone wall without

a good foundation, those same forces can pull us apart. So far, we have seen some times when some re-stacking was necessary, but over-all, the wall is coming along just fine.

I leave my stones for those who follow. I hope I have positioned them well.

Amen.

– Steven M. Harrison



## Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

### Thoughts of Summer

Barefoot, dragonflies, tidal ponds, puffy clouds, water balloons, popsicles, naps, building forts, climbing trees, baseball, sandy hair, sun-kissed cheeks . . . summer.

Although we do not meet for Religious Education classes over the summer months, it is my wish that you all deeply and profoundly enjoy your summer. As schedules relax, allowing us time to take life slowly, spend a little more time with each other, and experience the wonder of nature, it is good to see summer as the blessing that it is.

While I enjoy my summer, I will also look forward to the time when we will gather again in September, sharing our joys and concerns from our summer-time break. It is good to be part of a caring community, our UUCSC family.

Have a lovely summer!

#### Upcoming Dates in RE

June 7 - Service Sunday - Planting our backyard garden

June 14 - End of the year RE Party!

September 13 - Multigenerational Water Communion Service

September 20 - First Day of RE classes

### A message from our “construction” team

This year’s spring canvassing effort was a success. The amount of money pledged to the congregation increased by 12.5%— a record increase.

If you think of our congregation’s income as a building, pledges are the foundation. Our important fund-raisers, such as Dialing and Dining for Dollars, are the upper floors.

To be a financially stable community that supports all of its members and friends, we need to have a strong foundation. We can no longer rely on finite resources such as the monetary gift we received from the late Richard Oneto. We must be able to rely on ourselves to provide for our congregation’s needs.



The Stewardship Committee is here to stay. We want our UUCSC community to thrive.

– Charlie Donnelly, Cindy Cole Berry, Peter Himmel, and Dennis Bowman

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27 NORTH ROAD  
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



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“In the years I was a parish minister I was always taken aback when someone came to me and said. ‘I’ve just come from the doctor and he told me I have only a limited time to live.’ I was always tempted to shout ‘WHAT? You didn’t know? You had to pay a doctor to tell you— at your age?’”

– Robert Fulghum

*Fulghum, a Unitarian minister and best-selling author, was born June 4, 1937.*