

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2016

March Services

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

March 6

Living With Loneliness and Intimacy – Rev. Jan Knost

Though we Americans pride ourselves on possessing a sense of rugged individualism, there are times when sharing intimacy avoids us and we find ourselves “lonely in the midst of a crowd.” Rev. Knost will examine these two extremes of human experience and include some of the texts written to address them.

March 13

Self Care as a Spiritual Practice – Erin Barrette Goodman

Erin, a long-time UUCSC member, will explore how attuning to and responding to our deepest needs and desires can be a powerful spiritual practice.

Erin Barrette Goodman 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.

March 20

Keeping All the Cheerios Under the Milk – Rev. Jan Knost

We all face problems in living our days. We like to think that in solving them we use reason and logic. But wait— sometimes it isn't that simple. Sometimes daily life appears to us like a Gordian knot and without a plan, we slip into the simple habit of just plain coping.

This message may just be a good place to start.

Easter Sunday

March 27

If Not God, Then What Is Our Guide? – Rev. Jan Knost

All religions have various deities, but for a significant proportion of our Unitarian Universalist membership, the word “god” has had little or no relevance.

Rev. Knost plans another ascent into the heady atmosphere of “just suppose!”

He can hardly wait to hear what he’s going to say!



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 • 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

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

Self-evidently, over the past eighteen months, in working with so many of you in this vital transition period, Lorna and I have come to care for your future in a number of ways. So I sense that this is another opportunity for me to share some of my hopes and dreams for this congregation as I move back into retirement in Charlestown in June.

My most fervent wish is for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County to find and call the very best professional religious leader that will come to love this congregation in the same way we have.

I believe you all have taken an honest look at yourselves and have produced an accurate picture of a “breakout” congregation that will attract pre-candidates with talents and dreams that they will bring with their ministry.

Today, through the efforts of our membership committee and your staff, we are seeing real growth both in new members and in young families and children attending UUCSC. That bodes well for the years to follow and it’s a good to know this fact.

Realizing that our annual canvass to raise the budget for next year is upon us, we are anticipating the well-known fact that in order to grow, it costs. We want to offer a new minister job security for they will be committing themselves and their families to a move to South County that must last. I have heard from some of the candidates who have called to interview me and they all the same question: “Is there financial security at UUCSC?”

Reaching out to the community at large with energetic efforts in social action and sharing our values with other religions is an important “dream-come-true” that will be applauded. Finally, I know it means more sacrifice, but we must find a way to protect our assets. By this I mean our building and its safety, maintenance and the vital need for a custodian who will look after these issues.

On Sunday, February 28, the Stewardship Committee kicks off our annual canvass. I hope you will take these words of mine to heart as we embark on another journey into the future for UUCSC.

In sincerity,

Reverend Jan

The President's Letter

It's March, and here in New England, we can begin to see the ponds thawing and the buds starting to show some life. We can hear the birds singing in the morning, calling to each other to herald the change of season. We can feel the gradual increase of the sun's warmth and its evening light. It is often what people say they love most about living in New England—that we can feel and experience the changes that come with all four seasons of the year. I know that I love this myself. I am a transplant to New England, being born and raised in New Jersey and moving to New England to attend college at the University of Rhode Island—now more than forty years ago— but I still marvel at the beauty here in New England, and still feel so fortunate to call this my home.

Our UUCSC is growing and changing too! Each week, as I look out from my place in the choir, I can see new faces in our congregation, some for the very first time and some who choose to come back to see us again because they experienced something in our congregation that they were seeking. Perhaps it was the friendly smile and handshake from our greeters and ushers. Perhaps it was the thoughtful and engaging message carried in the week's sermon. Perhaps it was the lovely music shared each week during preludes and

throughout the service by our musical director and choir. Perhaps it is the welcoming embrace that the children and families feel when they enter our religious education area downstairs. Perhaps it is our closing circle, or our Joys and Concerns time, or the conversations during coffee hour.



Perhaps it is all of these things. But I believe that it's probably even more than that. I believe that when new visitors enter our UUCSC, they can feel our community, our UUCSC community and our love— and it is this search for a loving community that draws them to us.

Each Sunday we have new faces not only in our sanctuary, but also downstairs in our Religious Education program. We have new members who have joined our congregation and who are leading new efforts like book groups, and getting involved as ushers and with Stewardship. We have long-time members who continue to demonstrate their dedication to our community

through their active involvement in committees, events, as Board members, and in so many other ways too numerous to mention. And, so very important in our growth, we have our Ministerial Search Committee, whose members are deeply involved in the process of finding the right candidate to become our new settled minister. We are living in a dynamic time for our congregation— a truly exciting time.

During this month of March we are conducting our Annual Canvass for pledges to the UUCSC for the coming church year. As you consider your pledge, I hope that you will keep in mind the importance that each individual pledge makes in the life, the work, and the spirit of our community. It is through the pledges made each year that we are able to develop a budget to sustain our work, and to grow UUCSC into the future. On behalf of the UUCSC Board of Directors, I thank you sincerely for your continued support of our spiritual community. We know that you, as with the visitors who have just come through our doors, find something here at UUCSC that you are seeking, and we plan to be here to provide it for many, many years to come. Thank you, all. Welcome Spring!

In faith,
Betsy Dalton

Afro-Latin Dance Workshop

Our First Friday Community Dance for March is an Afro-Latin dance workshop featuring dancers and drummers from the Human Creativity Dance Troupe in Central Falls. They'll take us through a simple dance warm-up to connect us to the rhythms, and then they'll teach us a traditional dance from Mali. There will be a short break for nourishment, so please bring a snack. We'll gather in a circle for some free expression through movement, and we'll learn the Latin dance of Bachata. We'll learn basic steps, multi-directional steps, partnering, and— for the truly inspired— turns. We'll end by trying out our new dance skills.

The dance workshop is in the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4. No experience is necessary! Just come and have a good time. The suggested donation of \$5 or \$10 supports the work of the UUCSC Wellness Team.



A message from your Stewardship Committee

It's our "sustaining members" — the members and friends of the congregation who make regular pledge payments — who enable UUCSC to remain financially stable. About 78% of our annual budget comes from pledges. That's why the annual pledge canvass is so important.

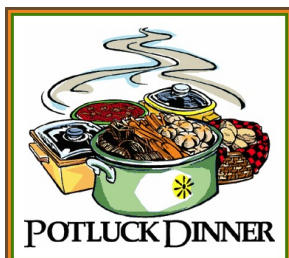
As Rev. Knost so eloquently says in his "For the Time Being" column this month, this year's canvass will be one of the most important in our history. Soon we'll be calling a settled minister. We want someone who is willing to make a commitment to stay here with us. Some of the candidates for the settled minister position have expressed concern about whether we are financially stable. They want to be sure that we'll be able to honor our financial commitments.

How can we show them that we value our congregation that we're committed to fiscal responsibility? The best way is for us to increase our pledges so that we're able to pay for all of the expenses associated with a settled minister during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

This is our 25th Anniversary. Our future starts today.

– the Stewardship Committee

Newcomers' Potluck Dinner is Saturday, March 19



Twice each year, a member of the congregation hosts a Newcomers' Potluck Dinner for those who consider themselves newcomers and would like an opportunity to meet others in the congregation in a small, informal setting. Dennis and Carla Bowman are the hosts of the Newcomers' Potluck Dinner on Saturday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. at their home at 183 Twin Peninsula Ave., South Kingstown. Please bring a dish to share. If you're planning to be there, please contact Carla at (401) 792-1116, (804) 380-9936, or cbow5@aol.com.

Interactive photo directory of members and friends will be available on our website this summer

The Membership Committee is excited to announce that they're putting together a new interactive member directory with photographs of members and friends.

They're aiming to have the directory ready to go live by June. It will be a valuable asset for our new minister, who'll be able to use it to get to know all of us.



The directory will be on our website. Members and friends will use a password to gain access to it. It will be interactive—we'll be able to update our contact information and upload new photographs of family members. A version of the

directory in PDF (portable document format) will be available to store in your computer and print out. Printed copies of the directory also will be available for those who don't have access to a computer.

The Membership Committee needs our help to get the directory on line by June. Please e-mail a photo of yourself and your adult family members to Linda Dupuis at ldupuis4@cox.net. You can send her a scanned photograph or a photograph from a digital camera or cell phone. If you have printed photographs, she can scan them for you. She can also edit photographs before they're uploaded to the new directory. The photos will be about one and a half by two inches, so you should make sure that faces are large enough to recognize.

There will be a space for the individuals in each household and for a family group photograph.

There will also be groupings for Board members, staff members, and others. You can even send a photo of your pet. At this time, photographs of children are not being included in the directory, but after the directory is up and running, children's photos may be included at parents' discretion.

The Membership Committee is trying to get as many photographs by e-mail as possible. For those who don't have a digital photograph to send, there will be two or three "picture Sundays" when photographers will be on hand to take your picture after the service. The dates will be announced in the Weekly E-News and the insert to the Order of Worship.

The committee's goal is to get a photograph of every member and friend of the congregation so the directory will be useful for all of us. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Linda Dupuis.

Would you like to serve on the Lay Pastoral Care Team?

Would you like to serve on the Lay Pastoral Care Team?

We visit by phone and in person with folks in our congregation who are having challenging times and would like the support of companionship and a listening ear. Once a month we meet with Rev. Knost to plan our visits and do training in spiritual support. All our work is held in confidence.

Team members are Barbara Beckwith, Paulette Chamberas, Penny Hall, Toni Littlestone, Pat O'Reilly, Patience Peck, and Mary Lynne Rainey. If you're interested in joining us, please speak with Rev. Knost or Penny Hall, the PAT team coordinator.





Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

Introducing children to nonviolence

In June of 2015, I was fortunate enough to spend two weeks at the University of Rhode Island Nonviolence Summer Institute learning about the nonviolence principles and techniques used by Dr. Martin Luther King during the civil rights movement. This was a profound experience as I shared the classroom with folks from all over the world, some from communities struggling with significant violence.

The Six Principles of the Peaceful Community

- 1. Nonviolence is a way of life for brave people.**
- 2. The Peaceful Community is the goal for the future.**
- 3. Attach problems, not people.**
- 4. Know and do what is right, even if it is difficult.**
- 5. Avoid hurting the spirit and body of yourself and others.**
- 6. The world is on the side of justice.**

These nonviolence principles can help shape societies, classrooms, and even families! Local 5th grade teacher Robin Wildman has adapted the Kingian nonviolence principles for grade school-aged children. It is these peaceful principles that we share through our RE learning.

During the April school vacation, April 18 through 21, children in grades 4 through 8 can learn more about these principles during Peace Camp here in our own RE space. I will be in charge of the camp. For more information about this wonderful opportunity, please contact me at pamsantos@room35.com.

Upcoming Dates in RE



March 6 – Service Sunday: Healing shawls

March 13 – RE Committee meeting

March 27 – Easter egg hunt after RE classes

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"It has always seemed to me to be a little ridiculous in any man, whether a clergyman or a layman, to undertake to mark out the boundaries of [a woman's] sphere, or show precisely, what is fit or not fitting, for the other half of humanity. The ridiculousness of such a proceeding would perhaps appear even to those who so often embark in it, if women were to set about defining 'the appropriate sphere of man.' The women in such a case would doubtless be told to mind their own business."

– George Bradburn (1806-1880)

Bradburn, an antislavery politician, journalist, lecturer, and Unitarian minister, was born in Attleborough, Mass. on March 4, 1806.