



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 5

MAY 2013



May Services



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES ARE AT 10 A.M.

May 5

UU Identity: Personal and Denominational – Rev. Betty Kornitzer
As we welcome new members into this Beloved Community, we will explore our personal definitions of our faith tradition and its diversity.

We will ask the question: "Can there be unity within diversity?"

This service will include a New Member Ceremony

May 12

A Letter to My Mother – Steven M. Harrison
"Dear Mom, Happy Mother's Day. I love you. Some things
I wanted to tell you and never got the chance . . . "

May 19

Looking at Change, Part 1: Beginner's Mind – Rev. Betty Kornitzer
As we move into a time of change, it is most productive to be fully open to all possibilities.
The practice of "beginner's mind" is to cultivate an ability to meet life circumstances without preconceived ideas, interpretations, or judgments.

May 26

The Doctrine of Discovery: How it Impacts All of Us – Larry Kelland
The Doctrine of Discovery (Pope Alexander VI, 1493), its role in U. S. law, its effects on indigenous people worldwide, its relation to immigration issues, and the Unitarian Universalist efforts to combat it.

June 2

"We Are the World" – Rev. Betty Kornitzer
Does a commitment to our UU principles and a theology of oneness call us to a new perspective of outreach? What is our connection to the world outside our walls, and does that connection hold a faithful responsibility?
We'll explore these questions and more.

The UUCSC Annual Meeting will take place after the service.



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



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

PUBLISHED ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR
KAREN R. ELLSWORTH, EDITOR
DEADLINE: THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

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 • <http://www.uusouthcountyri.org> • David Crockett, Webmaster

Rev. Betty Kornitzer, Minister

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, Administrator

Board of Directors

(until June 2nd)

Nancy Rose, President

Steve Harrison, Vice President

Will Bender, Treasurer • Susan Corkran, Clerk

Gail Burchard • Lisa McHenry • Barbara Pagh

Essjay Foulkrod

Charles Donnelly, Past President

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John Glasheen, Social Action Committee

Suzanne Paton, Religious Education Committee Chair

Carolyn Hurdis, Personnel Committee Chair

Linda Whyte Burrell, Paulette Chamberas & Lindsey

Crowninshield, Committee on Ministry

Marcia Boyd, Finance Committee Chair

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Susan Moreland, Music Committee Chair

Judi Marcy, Caring Connection Chair

Linda Whyte Burrell, Social Events Committee Chair

David Floyd, Music at Lily Pads Coordinator

Vikki LePree, Gabrielle Torphy & Melissa Hughes,

Hospitality Committee Chairs

Helene Gersuny, Worship Committee Chair

Roni Meyer, Flower Committee Chair

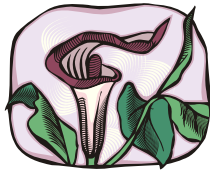
Contact Information for Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Regular Office Hours – Wednesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays: 9 a.m. to Noon,
and other times, *all by appointment*. Days off are Monday, Tuesday & Friday afternoon.

Office Telephone (non-urgent calls) – 284-3321 Cell Phone (urgent calls) – 932-1515.

E-mail (very effective) – bkornitzer@aol.com

*Please be sure to call before you drop by Betty's office. Sometimes
she is called away on business during office hours.*



The Minister's Message

By Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Change is coming

Charles Darwin wrote, “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” The qualities of resilience, adaptability and creativity are all aspects of the responsiveness that Darwin wrote of.

My friends, I am so happy to be serving UUCSC until June 30th. Then change is coming. An interim minister will arrive to be with you. Change is coming. Change happens. It's a fact of life. Our question then becomes: how will we at UUCSC greet change? How will we respond?

There are so many ways to think about change. The psychologists and the philosophers, the sociologists and the naturalists have written volumes on change. Here, we are a Beloved Community— here it is better to greet change together.

James Baldwin wrote:

*For nothing is fixed, forever and forever and forever,
it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing,
the sea does not cease to grind down rock.
Generations do not cease to be born
The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other,
and children cling to us.
The moment we cease to hold each other,
the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.*

How shall UUCSC greet change? How shall this congregation be most responsive to change? Together and with heart— it is better together, for the moment we cease to hold each other, the sea engulfs us, and the light goes out. And Friends, this is good news here at UUCSC. It is good news because I have watched you grow into an inspired and creative community that coalesces and moves forward in positive ways together.

You are a responsive community, resilient and creative. UUCSC does not get stuck in the mud of rigidity, rules or divisiveness. Together you are facing forward, united and strengthened in diversity and ready to accept and engage the changes ahead. I know you can do this well. More importantly, you know you can do this well.

May you continue to hold each other and keep the UUCSC light alive.

Blessings, Peace and Love,

Betty

The President's Letter

My Dear Friends,

By the time you read this issue of *The South County Unitarian Universalist*, the historic bill that will allow loving, committed, same sex couples to marry, will be the law in Rhode Island.

Many in our congregations worked tirelessly to see this happen and it was a joyous time for all of us when the full Senate voted by an overwhelming margin to grant this civil right to all Rhode Islanders.

I still feel a flood of emotions when I think of this beloved community that embraces so many of us who benefit the most from this piece of legislation.

I have been working on the struggle for GLBT rights here in Rhode Island since 1987 and it is the members of our very own Social Justice committee who have written letters, given testimony, lobbied, made phone calls and worked so hard to make this a reality, especially John Glasheen, Jean Bowen, Rod Driver and of course, our own Reverend Betty. Thank you, thank you, this is a time UUs can again

be proud for standing on the side of love!

There have been lots of other exciting developments here at UUCSC that folks should know about.



The cottage meetings that were held and the surveys have yielded valuable feedback about what folks consider to be our strengths as well as what we want to see as we move forward.

The annual pledge drive is well underway and we are confident that the generosity of this congregation will allow us to continue the many

tion provides. Remember, all pledge cards that are received before May 5th will be entered into the raffle for a year's primo parking space reserved especially for our winner.

The interim minister search team has sent off our application and will soon review applications from interested people who might want to be part of our congregation.

The children and youth continue to astound us with their projects and undertakings under our roof and in the larger community.

The music concerts, both Music at Lily Pads and our own Spring Concert, provide nourishment for our souls and help to make our congregation more visible in the larger community.

The board is preparing for new members, a new president and a new person in the pulpit.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd and we hope all will participate in our democratic process.

Blessed Be,
Nancy

EDITORIAL

Courage that deserves to be recognized

On April 23, the day before the Senate voted 26 to 12 to make same-sex marriage the law in Rhode Island, all five members of the Senate Republican Caucus endorsed the legislation. They were the first legislative caucus of either political party in any state in the country to unanimously support marriage equality.

A majority of House and Senate members from South County voted in favor of the legislation, including Senators Catherine Cool Rumsey (Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond, West Greenwich), James C. Sheehan (Narragansett, North Kingstown), and Susan Sosnowski (South Kingstown and Block Island), as well as Senate Minority Leader Dennis L. Algiere of Westerly and Sen. Dawson T. Hodgson (East Greenwich, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Narragansett), both of whom are Republicans.

Representatives Robert E. Craven (North Kingstown), Donald J. Lally Jr., (Narragansett, South Kingstown),

continued on page 5

Spring cleaning? Don't forget it's time for another

GRAND SHARE!

Saturday, May 18* ❖ 9:00 a.m. to noon

Bring jewelry, clothing, household items (decor, gadgets, furniture, etc.) in "re-gifting" condition— clean and like new, folks! This is a celebration of and for the UUCSC Community, a joyful, sustainable way to give, receive and take care of each other.

Grand Share Brunch!? If you can, please come with delicious goodies to share.

Musicians! Please let Tracy know if you can provide soulful sounds to increase the good vibes! Even jamming for an hour would be terrific!

Please drop off items on Sunday, May 5 or Sunday, May 12, after services, or call Tracy Hart to arrange a drop-off time. Leftover items will again be donated to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Rhode Island or another charity in need.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to help out, please contact Tracy Hart. Thank you!

* *Date change.*

The Caring Connection

The Caring Connection is a committee that provides support for members and friends of the congregation who are temporarily in need of assistance for medical or other reasons. Caring Connection members provide rides to doctor appointments or the supermarket, meals if you have to stay off your feet, or groceries or other errands when you can't get around. New members are always welcome. The committee meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 10:15 a.m. If you would like to volunteer to provide a caring connection to someone in the congregation, or if you know of someone who could use a meal or some support, please call Judi Marcy.



Courage that deserves to be recognized

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Teresa Tanzi (Narragansett, South Kingstown), and Larry Valencia (Richmond, Exeter, Hopkinton) voted for the House bill in January. Rep. Samuel A. Azzinaro (Westerly) and Rep. Doreen Costa (North Kingstown, Exeter) voted against it. Rep. Donna M. Walsh (Charlestown, New Shoreham, South Kingstown, Westerly), who favors it, was out of state for the January vote, and Reps. Dickinson (South Kingstown) and Kennedy (Hopkinton, Westerly) were recorded as "not voting."

Many of us contacted legislators to urge them to vote in favor of the bills. Now that the legislation has been approved, it would be appropriate to thank those legislators who voted 'yes.' One legislator who especially deserves thanks is Sen. Dennis L. Algiere, who represents Westerly and parts of Charlestown and South Kingstown.

Senator Algiere leads the Senate Republican Caucus that endorsed the legislation. His conservative constituents put tremendous pressure on him to vote against the bill. A strongly-worded full-page ad paid for by the National Organization for Marriage appeared in the *Westerly Sun* urging Senator Algiere to vote against the bill, and the pastor of St. Pius X Church in Westerly urged parishioners from the pulpit to contact Algiere and tell him they oppose the bill. Opponents of same-sex marriage have vowed to try to unseat him in the next election.

Senator Algiere's courage deserves to be recognized. You can write to him care of the Senate Chamber, Rhode Island State Senate, 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903, or at 6 Elm St., Westerly, RI 02891. His e-mail address is sen-algiere@rilin.state.ri.us. — *The Editor*

The Hunger Banquet: Open Eyes, Not Mouths

An experiential dining event to promote hunger awareness

Did you know . . .

- 13.1 % of the world's population is hungry. That's roughly 925 million people who consume less than the recommended 2,100 calories a day.
- Poverty is the main cause of hunger, and hunger is a cause of poverty. When people are malnourished, they lose brain function and the mental resources they need to earn money.
- The world produces enough food to feed all seven billion people who live in it, but those who go hungry either do not have land to grow food or money to buy it.
- One out of every five children in the United States lives in a food-insecure household.



Please join the Senior Youth Group on Friday, May 3 at 6:00 p.m. for our Hunger Banquet. Tickets are \$5. Together we will learn more about the state of hunger in the world and what we can do to help improve it. The proceeds from the Hunger Banquet will be donated to The Storehouse, a meal program located at the First Church of God, 209 Allen Ave. in Peace Dale.

Enhancement of the Seven Principles

I am calling a meeting of all interested members of the congregation after the service on Sunday, May 12 to find out if there is support for my proposal to amend two of the UUA Seven Principles. The meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery.

In a sermon last year, I suggested changes that I believe would enhance the First Principle to include the humane treatment of animals, and enhance the Seventh Principle to specifically include environmental issues.

The First Principle now says that we covenant to affirm and promote "The inherent worth and dignity of every person." My proposal is to change it to: "The inherent worth and dignity of every person as well as the inherent worth of other sentient beings."

The Seventh Principle now says that we covenant to affirm and promote "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." My proposal is to change it to: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we and the earth's great ecosystems are a part."

The Seven Principles are contained in Article II, Section C-2.1 of the UUA Bylaws, so changing the wording of these principles would require amendments to the bylaws. At the meeting on May 12, I will explain the procedure for proposing amendments to the UUA bylaws. I hope to hear whether other members of the congregation are interested in supporting these changes.

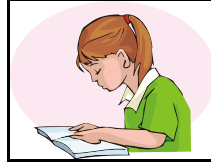
– Larry Kelland

A little help from your friends

The Agape Fund is a discretionary fund the minister uses to confidentially assist members and friends of UUCSC who need help in critical areas of sustenance such as food and housing. A special collection for the Agape Fund is taken annually at the Christmas Eve service. These funds are available to those who could use a little help from their friends to meet their basic



needs. Please call Rev. Betty at 284-3321 or on her cell (932-1515) to inquire about assistance from the Agape Fund. It is there to serve you.



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

As June approaches, it may seem like the “church year” is winding down. Yet it is in this beautiful month of May that the Religious Education Committee is gearing up its plans for an exciting and robust upcoming year. May is the month in which we invite interested, curious, even tentative individuals to sign up as an RE volunteer for next year.

You might wonder who makes a good volunteer for a religious education program like ours. Here is what I have found:

- » It is not necessary to have a teaching background— just an open spirit
- » It is not necessary to know your “religion facts,” although you’ll learn a lot!
- » You don’t need to be a parent. It takes a village to raise a child in a UU church.
- » You don’t need to be young, although the kids will make you feel young again!
- » No need to be organized— I’ll organize for you.

This year, we have been teaching a curriculum based on our Christian and Jewish heritage, stories from the Bible, and lessons that help to guide an adolescent’s own individual spiritual journey. Next year we will be using three very different curricula:

- Kindergarten through second grade – *Walking the Rainbow Path*, lessons bases on the seven Unitarian Universalist principles.
- Third through fifth grade – *We Believe*, lessons on living and learning our UU principles.
- Sixth through eighth grade – *Neighboring Faiths*, the exploration of other faith traditions.
- Ninth through twelfth grade – *Coming of Age*, an in-depth understanding of our UU traditions, history, and principles.

Please consider volunteering next year for one of our sessions of religious education. You may be surprised at what you learn yourself and will be sure to be energized by the curiosity and enthusiasm of the children and youth of this congregation.

I volunteered to teach a session of RE in the K through second grade class. Since I’m not a teacher and it has been many years since my own children were that age, I appreciated the clear, well thought-out curriculum written by UUs who do know about educating children. Each lesson offered a few options for stories, craft projects, etc. Pam is very available if there are any questions regarding the lessons. She also had all the materials gathered and ready for us each Sunday. I was amazed by some of the discussions we had with the kids. It’s clear that they are learning at home, not just on Sundays, how to live our UU principles. The only downside for me is missing the service upstairs for several weeks in a row. I feel like I gained more than I gave in spending the time with these delightful children and will definitely sign up for a session next year.

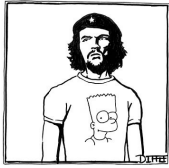
— Lisa McHenry, RE volunteer

In Cuba with Witness for Peace

A photography exhibit called “In Cuba with Witness for Peace,” a photography exhibit featuring work by Iris Donnelly, Michael Hyatt of Arizona, and Eliud Martinez of New York will open with a reception at the Hera Gallery, 10 High Street, Wakefield, on Saturday, May 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The exhibition, sponsored by Hera Gallery and the International House of Rhode Island, is funded by an Arts Access Grant from the R. I. State Council on the Arts.



A presentation about an April 2012 visit to Cuba by a delegation from Witness for Peace will take place on Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Kingstown Public Library. Registration is required; please call 294-3306.



The Hera Gallery will host a Cuban film series beginning on May 16. The schedule:

- Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. – “Unfinished Spaces”
- Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. – “Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up?” A gallery talk will take place before the film is shown.
- Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m. – “The True Story of Che Guevara”

Unitarian Universalist Summer Camps, Conferences and Retreats

Now is the time to start planning for this summer’s vacation! Why not consider one of the many Unitarian Universalist camps and conference centers? They are friendly, reasonably-priced places to be with people of similar backgrounds.

There are conference centers small enough for family reunions (Senexet House in Woodstock, Conn. and Cedar Hill in Duxbury, Mass.) and larger ones for two-day or week-long retreats (Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine, UU Rowe Camp in Rowe, Mass., and Star Island off the coast of New Hampshire). There are also a great many outside of New England. All



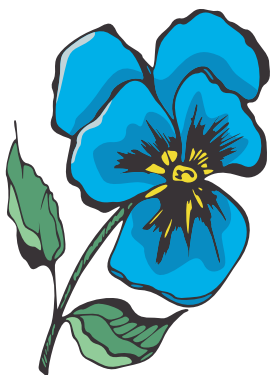
have varied conferences to choose from.

The Council of Unitarian Universalist Camps & Conferences has a website (www.cu2c2.org) where you can find information about all of them.

UU Ferry Beach Camp & Conference Center in Saco, Maine, just south of Portland, offers programs for all ages, many interests, singles, and families. Housing is at the beach or camping in the pine grove. You can enjoy fabulous food, spiritual enrichment, thoughtful conversation, meditation, celebration, or just rest and relaxation. Brochures and a catalog are available in the Community Room, or visit the website at www.ferrybeach.org. Ferry Beach is my “spirit home” to which I return at least once every summer. I hope to see you there. Please contact me if you would like more information. – Essjay Foulkrod

The Lay Pastoral Associates Team

The Lay Pastoral Associates Team (PAT) assists Rev. Betty in caring for members and friends of UUCSC who are experiencing times of challenge and transition. Rev. Betty will continue to offer pastoral care; the lay team will supplement her work, thus affording a wider and deeper resource of attention to our growing community. Members of the Pastoral Care Team are: Val Follett, Penny Hall, Randi Marten, Mary Morrissey, Pat O’Reilly, Lynda Wells and Jenny Watson. Call Rev. Betty (284-3321) with your pastoral concerns, she will speak with you and make referrals to the PAT when appropriate. A PAT brochure and further explanation is available at UUCSC and on the UUCSC website.



The annual spring plant sale is Sunday, May 19

UUCSC's annual spring plant sale will take place on Sunday, May 19 before and after the service. All proceeds go to the congregation. You are invited to study your perennial beds and plan to pot plants that needs to be thinned, making someone here very happy.

Shrubs to share? Bring them on. House plants, whether already established or newly planted from cuttings, are very welcome.

Need pots? Have pots (preferably 4", 6" or 8") to share? Contact Helene Gersuny.

From the Administrator

Linked In: A number of congregation members have contacted the office recently to ask to connect the office to their Linked In business networking accounts. I presented this new request to the Board for consideration. The Board concluded that worthwhile as Linked In may be, the office should not participate.

E-Weekly Highlights: Based on feedback from a number of congregation members that articles are too long, I will soon consider ways to streamline and redesign the Friday highlights. This is a work in progress so your suggestions are always helpful.

— Kathy Carland

Dining for Dollar\$ auction ends May 12

The seventh edition of our Dining for Dollars silent auction will take place before and after the service on Sunday, May 5 and Sunday, May 12. You can place a bid any time until 1:00 p.m. on May 12. Some amazing events are offered, and



one hundred percent of the proceeds from the auction go to support this congregation — so bid high and bid often! To place a bid, you will need your own bidding number. If you don't have yours, please speak to Nancy Rose. If you

can't make it to church to place a bid, Nancy will take your bid by e-mail or on the phone.

— Nancy Rose

Al Gore has a plan

In his book *Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis*, Al Gore sets out steps to remove the United States from its deep over-reliance on carbon-based fuels. The book gathers in one place the most effective non-political solutions to solve the climate crisis so that future generations will be able to live healthy and sustainable lives.

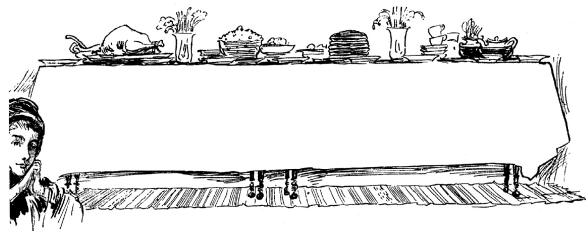
Individuals can make choices that will affect the political climate of their country and countries throughout the world. Already individuals and businesses have moved toward energy-efficient practices in their homes, places of business and modes of transportation. Grassroots efforts can and are supporting decision makers in their choice of new policies, laws and treaties. Further efforts are needed in these and other areas to redesign technologies and systems to reduce global warming pollution.

With all these efforts, mobilization to transform our fellow citizens has started. Our actions will also help to transform peoples throughout the world. To see what you can do, borrow the book from the UUCSC Library in the Green Task Force (GTF) section.

— Melissa Hughes
for the UUCSC Green Task Force

The 2013 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly will take place next month in Louisville, Kentucky. Registration is now open. For all the information you need, please visit www.uua.org.

Our partnership with Welcome House



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County has long held dear our partnership and collaboration with Welcome House, our neighbor in Peace Dale.

Welcome House has provided emergency shelter and safe and affordable housing for many years in South County. The shelter can assist 17 individuals who stay an average of 48 days. Welcome House staff assists guests to find work and contribute back to the support of the organization by helping in community service and purchasing coffee and milk.

Transitional housing is provided in three units for men and women. Each guest pays a reduced fee for rent and meets with a case manager once a week who assist the guest with reaching personal goals.

Supportive housing is offered for six families to help them achieve long-term independence. Threshold units are re-

served for three individuals who need assistance with mental disabilities.

Welcome House operates a daily soup kitchen Monday through Friday where community members volunteer their time. Last year 17,150 meals were served.

Our congregation contributes one evening meal a month for the guests in the shelter and the transitional housing. We also assist Welcome House in other ways. We participate in the annual Walk for Shelter in Peace Dale, we volunteer at the soup kitchen, and we donate Share-the-Plate contributions.

This year's Walk for Shelter is on Saturday, May 11. Please walk, or sponsor a walker, to help our neighbors become self-sufficient. For more information and for pledge forms, please visit the website (www.welcomehouseofsouthcounty.org) or check the Social Action bulletin board. — Jean N. Bowen

THIS MONTH'S FLOWERS

The design team of Roni Meyer and Patience Peck created the floral arrangements at the front of the church.

They are dedicated to marriage equality for all.



The UUCSC Meditation Group meets every Thursday

Our Meditation Group now meets in the sanctuary every Thursday from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. We practice sitting meditation and may share a reading and time of discussion. All are welcome, no meditation experience is necessary.

The Women of Wisdom will lunch on May 6

This month's WOW (Women of Wisdom) Luncheon will be on Monday, May 6 at 12:30 p.m. at Gregg's Restaurant on Route 2 in North Kingstown. Please speak to Ann McNamara for more information.

The UUCSC Wellness Team

Our Wellness Team offers a technique that helps people prepare for surgery, heal faster and use less pain medication. This mind-body-spirit technique is also used successfully in lessening the side effects of chemotherapy, radiation, and the challenges of acute and long-term health issues and anxieties. The method we use is validated by substantial clinical research done in major hospitals.

Members of the team are Sarah Bell, Paulette Chamberas, Val Follett, Lynda Wells and Rev. Betty. The Caring Connection can refer people to the Wellness Team, or you can request a session yourself by contacting the Wellness Team Coordinator, Val Follett.

The voting rights martyr who divided America

The 1965 Voting Rights Act, currently under review by the U.S. Supreme Court, was enacted shortly after Viola Liuzzo, a Unitarian Universalist from Detroit, was murdered by Ku Klux Klan members while working as a civil rights volunteer in Alabama. This is an edited excerpt from 'Children of the Movement,' by CNN reporter John Blake, published in 2004.

On March 26, 1965, Penny Liuzzo was watching the 'Donna Reed Show' at her home in Detroit when a wave of nausea swept over her. In an instant, she knew what had happened. "Oh my God," she thought. "My mom's dead."

When Penny's mother, Viola Liuzzo, called home a week earlier to tell her family she was going to Selma, Penny was engulfed by a sense of dread. She tried to talk her mother out of going.

"I'm never going to see you again, Mom. I know it. I just feel it. Please let me go in your place. I'll go."

Liuzzo laughed off her daughter's fears. She was determined to help marchers in Selma after watching newsreel footage of civil rights marchers being beaten there. She had cried after the newscast ended. "I'm tired of sitting here watching people get beat up," she told her family before driving off to Selma.

The call came at midnight. Penny had gone to bed but could not sleep. She heard her father answer the phone. "Penny, your mother's dead! Your mother's dead," he wailed.

Then something happened that Penny still cannot explain 40 years later. Her 6-year-old sister, Sally, walked into the bedroom and said, "No, Mama's not dead. I just saw her walking in the hall."

The murder of Viola Liuzzo was one of the most shocking moments in the civil rights movement. On an isolated road outside Selma, Liuzzo was ambushed and shot to death by a car full of Ku Klux Klansmen while giving a ride to a 19-year-old black man, Leroy Moton, one of many civil rights marchers she had driven around Selma.

Liuzzo's murder became international news. Her photo became a fixture in history books.

The Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian Universalist minister, had just been beaten to death in Alabama. But people had far less sympathy for Liuzzo when she was murdered. Hate mail flooded her family's Detroit home, accusing her

of being a deranged communist. Crosses were burned in front of the house. Anthony Liuzzo Sr. hired armed guards to protect his family.

A 'Ladies' Home Journal' magazine survey taken right after Liuzzo's death asked readers what kind of woman would leave her family for a civil rights demonstration. The magazine suggested that she had brought death on herself by leaving home—and 55% of its readers agreed.

The life and death of Viola Liuzzo

"It was horrible," Penny says. "People sent [copies of] this magazine that showed her body in the car with the blood and bullet holes. They called her a white whore and a nigger lover, and said that she was having relations with black men."

The family says they were even more devastated when they learned years later who had initiated the public backlash: J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI. To absolve itself of culpability in her death—an FBI informant was in the car with the men who killed Liuzzo—the FBI released her psychiatric records and directed a smear campaign to suggest that Liuzzo was promiscuous.

The loss of her mother and the public backlash shattered Penny's family. Her father never recovered. Her sisters and brothers struggled. And Penny carried around a knot of bitterness for years.

Viola Liuzzo was a restless person. She married at 16 but had the marriage annulled the next day. She married again and had two daughters. Seven years later she was divorced again. In 1950, she married Liuzzo, a Teamsters leader. They had three children.

Though she was a ninth-grade dropout, in 1961 she enrolled in night classes to become a medical assistant. She graduated with top honors. She was a Catholic but left the church after a priest told

her that a child she had miscarried would never see the face of God. She joined a Unitarian Universalist church.

In Selma, Liuzzo was one of 2,000 marchers gathered in response to a plea from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She plunged right in, ferrying civil rights marchers around Selma for six days. Cars displaying swastikas drove by marchers constantly. White locals made obscene gestures at white women marchers walking next to black men. Gov. George Wallace publicly warned that white women who had come down from the North for the march would be going back home to give birth to black babies.

On the last day of the march, Liuzzo joined the 3,200 people walking into Montgomery for a rousing rally capped by a speech by King. She then drove back to Selma with Moton and other marchers. Liuzzo dropped off her passengers in Selma and returned with Moton to Montgomery to pick up more marchers. They were driving on U.S. 80 when a car filled with four white men pulled alongside Liuzzo's car. One of the men shot Liuzzo in the head, killing her instantly, according to police reports.

President Lyndon B. Johnson appeared on television the next day to announce the arrest of four Ku Klux Klan members.

An all-white, all-male jury acquitted all four men of Liuzzo's murder. Then they were tried again under different charges and three were convicted.

In 1975, Anthony Liuzzo Jr., the eldest son, filed a \$2 million lawsuit against the FBI on behalf of himself and his siblings for the agency's complicity in his mother's death.

During the trial, the FBI admitted that it had shredded 10,000 pages of documents connected to Liuzzo's murder. But in 1983 a federal judge threw out the lawsuit and ordered the family to pay the government's court costs.

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“During the first two thirds of my life, I looked to the masculine idea of character as the only true one. I sought its inspiration, and referred my merits and demerits to its judicial verdict . . . The new domain now made clear to me was that of true womanhood—woman no longer in her ancillary relation to her opposite, man, but in her direct relation to the divine plan and purpose, as a free agent, fully sharing with man every human right and every human responsibility. This discovery was like the addition of a new continent to the map of the world, or of a new testament to the old ordinances.”

– Julia Ward Howe (1819 -1910)

Best known today as the author of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” Julia Ward Howe was a poet, essayist, lecturer, social activist, women’s suffragist and abolitionist.

Raised in a Calvinist household, she heard William Ellery Channing preach while in her 20s. “I studied my way out of all the mental agonies which Calvinism can engender and became a Unitarian,” she said.

Her husband, Samuel Gridley Howe, the physician and reformer who founded the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, disapproved of her literary endeavors and mismanaged her considerable inheritance. After his death, she focused on her reform efforts, founding the Association of American Women and serving as president of the American Woman Suffrage Association.

She died of pneumonia at ‘Glen Oak,’ her home in Portsmouth, R.I., at the age of 91, having outlived her husband by 34 years. Julia Ward Howe was born 194 years ago this month.