

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 5

MAY 2016

May Services

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

May 1

The Spirit of Life – Deanna Camputaro and 'Human Creativity'

Deanna teaches at Central Falls High School, where she founded the celebrated performance dance troupe 'Human Creativity.' Deanna and her troupe will guide us through a joyful, high-spirited service featuring African dance and drumming. Be prepared to join in!

Deanna Camputaro, a member of the UUCSC community, is an artist, dancer, and choreographer who has studied under traditional dance masters in Mali, West Africa.

May 8

Mother's Day

Teaching the Gentle Art of Nurturing – Rev. Jan Knost

It always bewilders Rev. Knost to know that there are those souls who lambaste the Mother's Day holiday. After all, whether we like it or not, we were borne by our mothers, raised by our mothers, taught by our mothers— the debt of gratitude to our mothers is a given. If you're one of those people, try looking at Mother's day through different lenses.

May 15

Anger and Forgiveness – Rev. Jan Knost

Before the Knosts arrived, our congregation experienced some difficult times.

Rev. Knost has watched us work assiduously during the past two years to create a positive atmosphere.

Now that we're entering another time of transition, he wants to remind us of the ways we successfully met challenges in the past. This sermon is dedicated to our future.

May 22

From Refugee Camp to Project – Sokeo Ros

In the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge genocide, Sokeo Ros's family immigrated to Providence, where he grew up surrounded by poverty, gang violence and the explosive moods of his traumatized parents. Ros tells his life story accompanied by both hip-hop and traditional Khmer dance movements.

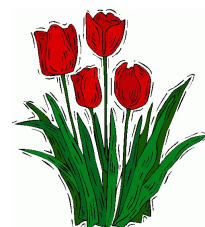
Ros is a dancer with the Everett dance company in Providence, a teacher at its school, and founder of the hip-hop dance troupe Case Closed.

May 29

What Makes the Clow n Tick? – Rev. Jan Knost

The human condition is a vast, never-ending combination of the tragic and the comic. Comedians are energized by the anger at life they feel within— and yet we laugh at them, don't we? What a conundrum. Perhaps.

Perhaps not. Rev. Knost hopes to think about this enigma with us in a few new ways.



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.

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For the Time Being . . .

by Rev. Jan Knost

There have always been two columns I shared with my churches each year, no matter what. One was sort of a reminder to all that I was always ready to be of support when you have need of me. The other came in the form of a column written years ago by the Reverend Peter Lee Scott, a colleague I have known since childhood. I commend his words to you.

When to Call the Minister

Call the Minister:

When you don't know him or her and would like to.

When you have problems you'd like to discuss— about your job, children, marriage, relationship or anything else where an understanding ear might be of help.

When you are going to the hospital or someone else in church is.

When someone close to you has died or is ill.

When you are planning to be married.

When you have a child to be dedicated.

When you're pregnant but wish you weren't.

When you have a friend or neighbor who would like more information about our congregation or UUism.

When you're considering joining the church.

When you have suggestions about church programs.

When you have suggestions for a sermon or worship.

When you'd just like to visit or know someone else who'd like to.

When you'd like to help in committee work or in religious education.

When there are community issues to discuss.

When you are angry at the minister.

When you'd like to simply talk about religion.

Reverend Jan

The President's Letter

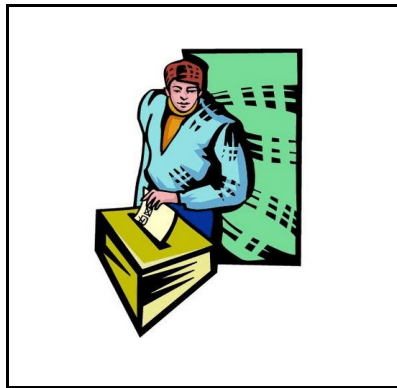
Democracy—in action

On Tuesday, April 26, 2016, all Rhode Island residents who are registered voters had the opportunity to go to the polls and to vote for their candidate of choice. I am always struck by the wonder of voting—the fact that each one of us is able to freely exercise our most basic democratic right to vote for whomever we believe in, and what they represent. At my polling place in Hopkinton, I saw my neighbors and I met strangers, talked with mothers with toddlers and with elders with walkers. Everyone there for just one purpose: to cast their vote.

We are so very fortunate to live in a country that works this way. Democracy does not exist in so many countries around the world. I was struck by the impact of this reality when I attended a conference in Kuwait a number of years ago. Kuwait is a true monarchy, ruled by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah. His family line has ruled Kuwait since 1756, and the family has been unchallenged in their reign. If we think of this in relation to America, Kuwait has existed under the same ruling family since before we were even a country! We have elected 44 different leaders

since our inception, and we are soon to carry out this process of democratic selection of leaders again.

What is it like to live in the monarchy of Kuwait? If you



were born a Kuwaiti, life can be quite good. All Kuwaiti natives are guaranteed a job. All health expenses are government supported and there are even housing subsidies for native Kuwaitis. The problem is that only about 20% or less of the people who live and work in Kuwait are actually natives. People come from all over the Gulf, the Middle East, and elsewhere to find jobs and to work in Kuwait, but they have no rights and have no services, and, most importantly, they have no path to move forward to get them. If you are born in Kuwait, you get everything—and if not, you get nothing. There is no path to residency.

There is no voting. What happens in Kuwait is decided by the ruling family, and that is that!

We live in a different system, albeit not a perfect system, but from my perspective it is a system that does have a path to citizenship. It's a path that could be wider and more inclusive, but it is a path that we do and should preserve at all costs, since it is at the heart of who we are as Americans. I come from a family of immigrants, from Ireland and from Hungary, and I treasure the diversity of my heritage, as I suspect so many of you all do as well. Diversity, opportunity, democracy: characteristics of America recognized and valued by those around the world and at home. In our own UUCSC, we experienced this democracy recently in our special meeting on the bylaws. I was so proud of our congregation on that day—how we all cared enough to speak what we truly felt and believed in, how we listened to and respected the views of others, and how we followed our democratic process to reach agreement. This is truly our democracy in action. Thank you, all.

In Faith,
Betsy Dalton

Our on-line photo directory is here!

Our new on-line photo directory of members and friends is now available on our website. The directory is a secure site with photographs and contact information for every member and friend of the congregation.

This directory is easy to use, and a great way to get to know our congregation members better. Now you can put a name to each face you see in church!

E-mails with instructions for how to get access to the directory, including a user name and password, were sent to all members and friends in April. If you didn't receive one, please get in touch with Linda Dupuis at 294-9147 or ldupuis4@cox.net.

When you get to the directory site, you'll want to explore the tabs at the top left, just above the pictures. "Households" are families or individuals living at the same address. "Individuals" shows all members and friends separately, with e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers. If you click on the photograph you will get the person's information.

The photographs on the site come from several sources: personal photos sent to Linda, photos taken by Linda, and some photos from the 2010 photo directory. If there is no photograph of you on the site, or if you don't like the one that's there, you can send a photo to Linda by e-mail, give her a photo to scan, or upload a photo to the site yourself. Linda can take a new photo of you, too. Just let her know when you'll be at a Sunday service. If you love your photo and would like a copy, Linda can send you one.

Any of the tabbed directories (household, individual, group) can be printed on a home computer. Just click the "print all" button at the top right side of the directory. A PDF document will download to your computer, and you can print it or save it in your computer for quick reference. A few copies of the directory will be printed for those who don't use a computer. If you'd like a copy, please get in touch with Linda or Kathy Carland in the office.

If you have questions about how to use the site, just click on the "help" tab at the top left side of the screen. It will take you to the CTRN website, which has several helpful articles and videos.

Any questions or comments? Please get in touch with Linda.



Being Bee Conscious

If you're interested in bees, or even dreaming about setting up a hive because of the well-publicized colony collapse disorder, this presentation will help you get started.

Experienced bee keeper Mike Shepard and his son Ian will bring an observation hive, the necessary equipment, and pictures of the operation.

Mike kept bees for 15 years in the 80s and 90s. About five years ago, Ian wanted to start up a hive. That led to the two hives



they currently maintain. Last year they harvested close to 200 pounds of honey!

The presentation will be on Tuesday, May 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It's the latest in our ENRICH at UUCSC series of adult enrichment programs, which are open to the public. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for the Nour School for Syrian and Palestinian refugees near Beirut, Lebanon.

Our eleventh D4\$ Auction is this month!

This month marks the eleventh time we will hold our fabulously successful Dining for Dollars fundraising auction.

Bidding will take place on Sunday, May 22 and Sunday, May 29. Auction booklets should be available on our website and at church by Sunday, May 15.

This year's events offer something for everyone. Seven of the events are collaborations among friends and neighbors, a lovely idea that allows the hosts to share the work and the expense and speaks to the value of working together. We have several family events,

some returning favorites, and lots of outdoor events.



Although you don't need to be present to bid, you do need a bidding number, so if you're new to our congregation, be sure to contact Nancy Rose.

She'll give you a bidding number and explain how the auction works. You won't be able to place a bid on line, but if you can't be at church on May 22 or May 29, you can contact Nancy and she will place your bid for you during the bidding period.

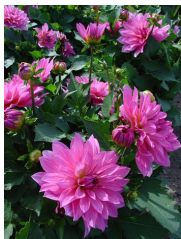
Dining for Dollars has raised more than \$50,000 for our congregation, and just as important, it has provided wonderful, fun, and delicious ways for folks to get together and get to know one another in a smaller, more intimate setting. It's a tasty way to support our congregation, so please bid early and often.

The Path to Membership continues

The final session in our Path to Membership series this spring will be on Sunday, May 8 after the service. Rev. Jan Knost will talk about Unitarian Universalist theology.

A New Member Ceremony will take place during the service on Sunday, May 22.

Spring plant sale on Sunday, May 22



Our annual spring plant sale will take place before and after the service on Sunday, May 22. All proceeds go to the congregation. Helene Gersuny would love to include your plant contributions. If you have any extra perennials, please pot them and bring them on the 22nd. She would also love to have some help setting up and taking down. If you need pots, if you have pots, or if you can help out, please call Helene at 789-0996.

What's your elevator speech?

An "elevator speech" is a concise statement that explains or describes a product or a concept. The expression reflects the idea that the speaker should be able to deliver the speech in the time span of an elevator ride. You're on an elevator. The person standing next to you asks, "So what do Unitarian Universalists believe?" What do you say?

Peter Himmel would say, "We believe in building a compassionate, caring, and loving world today. We believe that all people are worthy of being cared about. We believe that 'God' is experienced in many different ways."

What would you say? Please send your elevator speech to the editor at kellsworth6@verizon.net.



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

Inviting you to help with next year's RE programs

It's that time of the year when the Religious Education Committee is looking ahead to next year to develop the very best programs for our the youth and children. To create wonderful programs, we need wonderful support. We will be reaching out to you with hopes that you will spend some time with the children next year.

Here are some of the responses I've heard when I've asked folks to consider volunteering with the RE program:

"I work with children— I don't want to volunteer with them too."

"Oh, I helped out when my kids were younger."

"I go to Florida in the winter, so I can't help."

"I don't know much about UU theology, so I wouldn't know what to teach."

"I'm new to this church, I'm just learning."

"Don't the parents take care of that?"

Here are the responses I hope to hear during the next few weeks:

"When my kids were younger, others helped out, so now it's my turn to help."

"Yes, I know I'll get plenty of support when I'm helping with the children"

"I'm only traveling for one month this winter, so I can help when I return."

"Yes— I look forward to meeting the young families of our congregation."

"I know I'll learn more about my UU faith as I teach the kids."

"Yes, I want our congregation to attract families."

When you are asked to help with the children, please consider your response. Spending some of your Sunday mornings with the youth and children of this congregation may have a surprising effect on your understanding of service, of ministry, and church. We look forward to welcoming you to next year's religious education programs.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 1 – The children will be upstairs for the service to watch Human Creativity drumming and dancing.

Sunday, May 1 – May Day Celebration outside at 11:30 a.m.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emerson (1803-1882), the Unitarian essayist, lecturer, and poet who led the Transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century, was born in Boston on May 25, 1803.