



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

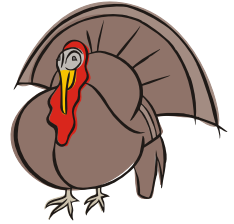
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2014

November Services

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



November 2

Universalist Heroes and Heroines – *Rev. Jan Knost*

In this brief history lesson, we will remember some of the founders of Universalism, a component of our liberal faith. Stories and legends abound. Come and recall!

November 9

Motion and Emotion: Music, Poetry and Church Services – *Thomas Casey Greene*

Words spoken and sung during Sunday morning church services often convey emotions and meanings that are not readily apparent. Our guest speaker will tell you how to find them.

Tom Greene, an organist, plays frequently at Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich. This will be his third time in our pulpit.

November 16

What do Muslims Believe? – *Qutaiba Albluwi*

Like Unitarian Universalists, Muslims value a free and responsible search for truth and seek a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Imam Albluwi will talk about how these values are enshrined in the Quran.

Qutaiba Albluwi is the Muslim chaplain at URI and the imam of Masjid Al-Hoda (The Mosque of Guidance) in Kingston. He is currently pursuing PhD studies in the Department of Computer Science at URI.

November 23

A Multi-Generational Celebration of Bread – *Rev. Jan Knost*

The children in our religious education classes will participate in this Thanksgiving service at which we will consider bread as a symbol of life-giving nourishment--- and as something delicious to eat. We'll hear readings about bread, watch a bread-making demonstration, and share freshly-baked bread.

November 30

To be announced.

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

Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

Board of Directors

Steve Harrison, President • Betsy Dalton, Vice President

Harry Buffum, Treasurer • Mary Fulton, Clerk

Randi Marten • Penny Hall • Clare Sartori

Nancy Rose, Past President

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Linda Dupuis & Jenny Watson, Membership Committee Chairs

John Glasheen, Social Action Committee Chair

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Mary Finnegan, Personnel Committee Chair

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Ed Burrell, Facilities Committee Chair

Gene Jolie, Adult Enrichment Coordinator

Susan Moreland, Music Committee Chair

Judi Marcy, Caring Connection Chair

Linda Whyte Burrell, Social Events Committee Chair

David Floyd, Music at Lily Pads Coordinator

Susan Strakosch, Worship Committee Chair

Roni Meyer, Flower Committee Chair

Jean Bowen, Publicity

For the Time Being . . .

by Rev. Jan Knost

Things 'n' Stuff UUs Need To Know

One of the most graphic and unnecessary experiences of my life was being initiated into a Greek letter fraternity. Beyond the silly (and often cruel) behavior of men engaged in "higher education" was "Hell Week". We initiates learned very little about the way things work in such an organization. That shouldn't be true. Those making up a membership need to share insights and answers to questions from those new to the group. It is good to know that efforts here at UUCSC are continually made to acquaint new folks with this religious institution. I'd like to add to this process. Here are a few of the lesser-known aspects of life in Unitarian Universalism.

Fact: All UU churches are different.

Don't expect to find the same architecture or congregational life in every UU society you visit. Two extremes would be King's Chapel in Boston with a dark, brooding structure of stone. Contrast this with the UU church in Sepulveda, California and its Byzantine tower that gives this church the moniker of the "Onion Church."

Fact: All UU ministers are different.

Each of us has his or her own way of pursuing ministry; a way of preaching; a way of writing sermons; of visiting those in need (or not); of attending events; even personal habits. In regard to ministers who serve our congregations, though their training may have been similar, it's a great big *vive la difference* when it comes to ministerial styles.

Fact: Ask what happens in our services on Sundays and you'll get the same reply.

All our churches approach this important weekly event in varying ways. Often the process of creating a special service of worship is a shared activity between the minister and the worship committee.

Fact: UU ministers are required to earn a four-year undergraduate degree; complete a full unit of clinical pastoral education; successfully complete a supervised internship in a church or chaplaincy setting, and satisfy the requirements of the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee in order to be recommended to serve our member societies.

It's an onerous journey to ministry and one lay folks need to remember. Ministers sacrifice more than just tuition dollars to become UU professionals. They sacrifice ten or more years. One other thing . . . many ministers come from mid-careers and have left totally diverse employment, so they may be age-challenged or green at the gills. But you can bet most are sincerely following a call.

I realize that these are pretty general observations, but I also know they will be primary concerns as you look forward to calling your settled minister. Yes, most of you already know these facts, but it's valuable to share them for some who may not yet know. Be well!

"The Rev"

The President's Letter

Why should we delay calling a settled minister for another year? Haven't we had enough of Interim? Isn't it time to move on and get back to normal with a settled minister? We're a strong congregation. We are capable. We have energy and drive. So why delay?

The Finance Committee and the Ministerial Search Committee each have compelling reasons for extending the search for another year. From an administrative viewpoint, it will give us more time to work on two vital issues:

1. What is our purpose as a UU Congregation?
2. How can we better manage ourselves as a nonprofit corporation?

Let's look at #1 first.

Worship is the core of our existence. It's the foundation beneath everything else we do as a group. We must preserve a sense of peace, safety and comfort around worship. But we must also be aware that worship evolves over time. We can take the next two years to explore new possibilities around our worship.

But we are more than our worship service each week. We serve as a social gathering site for our members and the wider community. Our list of functions and activities is continually expanding. Our presence is becoming more widely known because of those activi-

ties. But we must define ourselves as more than a community center. We must determine what role we can play in making things better for those less fortunate— what we can do to leave the world a little better than we found it.



Our environmental focus is strong. Our ability to rally for social justice issues is ingrained in our culture as UUs. But what can we do specifically as the UUCSC? We need to determine just what our focus should be, given our limited resources. We need to clarify exactly what our focus will be for social justice before we call a settled minister so we can find a minister with the specific skills and interest that are compatible with that focus.

To accomplish our purpose, we need an organizational

structure. We are a nonprofit corporation, which according to state law is a corporation in which members, directors, and officers do not individually receive any part of the income or profit. So by our very nature, we exist for the collective benefit of everybody here, and everybody we choose to help. But we won't deliver those benefits unless we have an effective organizational structure in which to work.

Your Board of Directors learned a lot during our first year of Interim. Sometimes we got it right and sometimes we made mistakes. But we are working hard to improve the process of governing this growing organization. The task is more challenging with a congregation such as ours, full of independent-minded folks with strong feelings and even stronger opinions on how things should be done. The Board has much to do in structuring the mechanics of this organization. We are defining the role of the Board and the committees. We are constructing a framework for more open and accessible decision-making. We are defining and delegating management functions to committees, and looking at how those committees are structured so that we can become more efficient in our

continued on page 5

You're invited to Thanksgiving dinner at Vikki and John's



For the third year, Vikki LePree and her husband John Jackson will open their home in Green Hill to members of the congregation on Thanksgiving Day. Vikki and John will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner buffet from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Singles and small families are especially welcome. An RSVP at 783-3637 would be appreciated. If transportation is difficult, Vikki and John can arrange a ride for you.

The President's Letter

continued from page 4

daily operations.

This will take time. It will not happen without differences of opinion and contrasting visions. But it needs to be done before we call a settled minister. We have a tremendous amount of energy and drive as a congregation. When we are pulling together we accomplish great things. But when we find ourselves in internal conflict, we use much of that energy inefficiently.

Last year taught us that we must structure ourselves in

such a manner as to be able to handle our differences, our conflicts and our disagreements in a way that will move us toward resolution without causing deep resentment, anger and hurt.

We will not eliminate conflicts and disagreements, but we can build a structure to handle them with compassion and respect. Allowing for another year of Interim will give your Board of Directors the extra time to work on our organizational infrastructure before we welcome a settled minister. We need to know

what we are all about before we can find the right professional to assist us. We need to have an effective process for self-governance in place to manage our ever-expanding organization.

This is the time to prepare ourselves for the next settled minister, and we have a lot to do. Let's take the time to do what has to be done, together.

Please come to the special congregational business meeting on Sunday, November 2 and cast your vote to postpone calling a settled minister for another year. – Steve Harrison

The Advent Garden Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, December 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Please join us for a contemplative, meditative experience
as we walk the spiral labyrinth by candle light.



*A spiral path of evergreen boughs
A single candle's flame in the center
One by one we walk, winding our way all the way to the middle
Lighting our candle and beginning the journey back out again
Adding our own light to illuminate the path for others*

All ages are welcome to participate, but children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

*If you can help with setting up (at 3:00 p.m.) or cleaning up, please contact Sally Barney.
We need five people for each crew. If you're attending with children, please
don't plan to set up or clean up with your children present.
We want to preserve the magical quality of this event for the young 'uns.
We need evergreen branches for the spiral. If you can provide a few cuttings,
please bring some with you or drop them off on Sunday morning at church,
leaving them on the tarp near the front door. Thanks!*



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

Thoughts on Weaving Community and Generations

The children were thrilled with the ponies, their parents enjoyed the crafts, and everyone loved the music— it was this year’s Harvest Fair, community at its best!

Yet, the most lasting image I took from this year's Harvest Fair was looking across the driveway to see my own two teenagers sitting at a table in animated conversation with two of my favorite “elders” in the congregation, John Glasheen and Hank O'Reilly.

Recently, at a gathering of religious education directors I attended, someone said that what most young UUs recall is not what they learned in their RE classes, but the human connections they made with the adults in the congregation. Those adults might be RE volunteers, mentors, or simply people who offered advice, took a moment to listen, or offered an invitation to get involved in a project. It is these connections that coax young UU adults to remain active in their church, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and joy.

What a gift to give our young people: a connection to the life wisdom of our older congregants. What a gift to give our elders: the chance to once again experience the joy, wonder, and optimism of youth. May we all sit together at the great table of life and learn from each other.

COMING EVENTS IN R.E.

Sunday, Nov. 2 - Service Sunday: making toys for the birds at Lazicki's Bird Rescue in Warwick

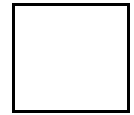
Saturday, Nov. 15 - Senior youth group conference at First Parish (UU) in Norwell, Mass.

Sunday, Nov. 23 - Multigenerational service

Opportunities for Religious Education volunteers

Opportunities to volunteer in the RE classes are still available. We are looking for folks to help out with holiday activities from December 7 through 21. This is a three-week commitment during a really fun time of the year! In January we have two volunteer spots available with our youngest group, kindergarten through second grade. And in the spring we have two spots available with the third through fifth grade class. Please contact Pam Santos if you would like to get involved.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“I was taught that the human brain was the crowning glory of evolution so far, but I think it’s a very poor scheme for survival.”

– Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (1922–2007)

Vonnegut was the author of *Cat’s Cradle*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Breakfast of Champions*, and other works that blended satire, gallows humor, and science fiction. Descended from a family of German freethinkers who were skeptical of conventional religious beliefs, he described himself variously as a skeptic, freethinker, humanist, Unitarian Universalist, agnostic, and atheist. He was born in Indianapolis on November 11, 1922.