



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2014



October Services

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



September 28

Where Have I Come From and Where Are We Going? – Rev. Jan Knost

The Board of Directors asked Rev. Knost to speak about his life so that the congregation can get to know him a bit better, and to talk about the journey we will take together into the future

October 5

Bedside Manners – Rev. Jan Knost

At the request of several congregation members, Rev. Knost will talk about what it takes to create a fully-functioning Lay Pastoral Care Department and what it entails for the congregation and for him

October 12

Cultivating Peace in the Rocky Soil of Fear and Violence – Paul Bueno de Mesquita

Stories drawn from Prof. Bueno de Mesquita's work will illustrate the challenges of working for peace in the growing culture of fear and violence and highlight the importance of cultivating peace through education, training, and action

Paul Bueno de Mesquita, PhD, is director of the Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies at URI

October 19

Deepening Connections in our Beloved Community: Healing Through Transitions

During this service, a collaborative effort by seven congregation members who are therapists (Paulette Chamberas, Tracy Hart, Barbara Holtzman, Susan Jacobsen, Joan Ray, Clare Sartori, and Kathy Swink), we will reconnect with each other so we can travel through this time of transition as a strong, united congregation

October 26

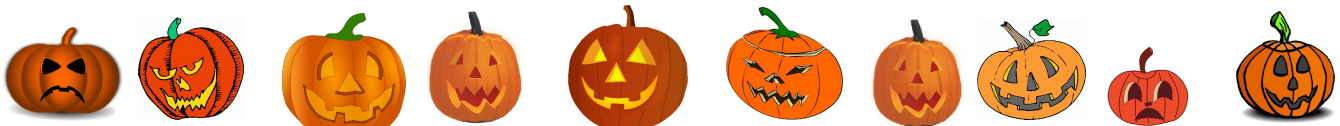
"Your Money and your Life!" – Rev. Jan Knost

The congregation's leadership has asked Rev. Knost to address the issue of stewardship and all it entails. He can hardly wait to hear what he's going to say about this important aspect of religious life . . .

November 2

Universalist Heroes and Heroines – Rev. Jan Knost

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



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.*

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Pam Santos, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

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Randi Marten • Penny Hall • Clare Sartori

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David Floyd, Music at Lily Pads Coordinator

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Roni Meyer, Flower Committee Chair

Jean Bowen, Publicity

For the Time Being . . .

by Rev. Jan Knost

Gee. I really don't know where to start with this, but it's turning out to be a great trip and all of it upbeat!

I have admired you folks since I first met you on a Sunday in 2008. Helene Gersuny had invited me to lead a service in the American Legion Hall on Route 108 in Peace Dale. (And I remember telling Lorna when I returned from that morning, "Do you know what? Those poor people have to reset the hall for Bingo after the service, and isn't that something?")

So it's been a hoot getting to know you all better. We've worked out a part-time arrangement that the Board and I are happy with and which will give us chances to head into new directions as your Ministerial Search Committee does its heavy and important tasks in finding a settled minister.

Meanwhile, I'm available to work with all your standing committees as they have need of me and to offer what humble assistance and experience I have acquired over the years.

You need to know, as well, that I am what you might have termed (in the old days referring to doctors) as a general practitioner. I occasionally make house calls in emergencies.

Please let me know "what's up" with you. I am no miracle worker but I do care about this congregation, as you have asked me to be with you in the coming months. You have (as the saying goes) "called me" and I want to be there for you in any ways possible.

And friends . . . do bless the hard-working leadership of this wonderful congregation.

'Nuff said and with affection,

"The Rev"

Are you a good listener?

Rev. Knost is assisting the congregation in re-activating the Lay Pastoral Care team. If you are interested in visiting some of the wonderful members of our congregation who can't get to services or need visits for other reasons, please speak to Penny Hall or Pat O'Reilly. Rev. Knost will help us to organize training and will provide support. This is an important part of our beloved community, and we need your help. – Penny Hall

The President's Letter

*From you I receive,
to you I give,
together we share,
and by this we live.**

It's a simple song. We sang it after the offertory when we held services in the American Legion Hall, and Rev. Judy used it in our worship services last year. We not only sang the words, we used American Sign Language to emphasize the importance of the meaning behind those words.

As we move forward with a sense of hope and optimism after a difficult first year of our Interim transition, we should remember the meaning of that song, and each of us must find our own way to put those words into action.

The words "receive" and "give" can have positive or negative connotations, depending on what is received or given. In the coming year we will have to examine in depth those negative aspects of our collective culture, but for now we need to focus on the positive.

We used this song as a means of expressing gratitude for the money that is given to support the operations of this congregation. But money is only part of what we need to sustain us as an organization. There are tasks to be done. Of course there are always more tasks than people to do them, but successful organizations not only find a way to get

them all done, they get them done well.

There are two ad hoc committees that have exemplified what it means to get a task done well. Singling out certain groups or individuals for praise carries the risk of hurting those who deserve just as much credit but are not mentioned. No such slight is meant, but space and time limit us to the following examples. Many others deserve just as much credit.



The Interim Search Committee did its due diligence in screening several Interim candidates, and they took the initiative to pursue multiple resources to find candidates. Even under the pressure of a tight time line, they kept their focus on finding a candidate who would be the best fit to help us in our second Interim year.

It almost came to the point where we would not have an Interim Minister for the coming year, but instead have lay-led services and a visiting minister once a month. However, at the proverbial last minute, Rev. Jan Knost came to us as our Interim Minister for the coming year.

The second ad hoc committee

that has taken on a big job is the Ministerial Search Committee.

They have distributed a survey and are holding "Search Parties" with the members and friends of the congregation to find out what we think about who and what we are, and where we should be going. It is discovering this identity that will allow us to call a minister who will help lead us into the future we envision. The "Search Parties" are using a positive approach, with snacks and open-ended questions to get us working collaboratively, and the committee is holding many such sessions. In the coming year their time commitment will be enormous, and they deserve our full support and participation.

But those are only two of many necessary tasks facing us. Many needs are going unmet right now. Stewardship is now a year-round process, and the Board is seeking five people who can organize a program around our canvass.

We have a strong Personnel Committee, but we need more folks with experience in Human Resources to serve on that committee. The Nominating Committee needs people who are adept at recognizing leadership talents in people; not only to find people to serve on the Board, but also to bring depth to our process of leadership training. We need to concentrate on creating a process of identifying future leaders and then providing the means to develop those skills.

As a member of the Lily Pads
continued on page 5

*"From You I Receive," by Joseph and Nathan Segal, from *Singing the Living Tradition* (Boston, Mass.: Unitarian Universalist Association, 1994), #402.



The Path to Membership

Rev. Jan Knost and the Membership Committee will offer Path to Membership classes in November for those who would like to learn more about Unitaran Universalism.

These classes, which are offered every spring and fall, are recommended for those who are interested in becoming members of the congregation, but everyone is welcome to attend. Child care is available if you let us know in advance.

The classes will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on three successive Sundays, after the service:

Sunday, November 9 – U.U. History

Sunday, November 16 – U.U. Theology

Sunday, November 23 – How our congregation functions

A New Member ceremony will take place during the service on Sunday, December 7.

If you have questions, please speak to a member of the Membership Committee (Linda Dupuis, Jenny Watson, Ann McNamara, Patience Peck, and Suzanne Marcy) or Rev. Jan Knost.

Newcomers' Potluck Dinner

We'll have fun on Saturday, November 1 at the Newcomers' Potluck Dinner. It's for those who consider themselves newcomers and would like an opportunity to meet others in the congregation in a small, informal setting. Jenny Watson and Ann McNamara are hosting the 6:00 p.m. dinner at their home in Richmond. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Children are always welcome! Printed invitations are available from the Membership Committee on Sunday mornings.



The President's Letter

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Condo Association, we need someone to serve as our representative. The Harvest Fair planning is well underway. The Harvest Fair and Dining for Dollars are our major fundraisers. Raising money is vital to our existence, and we need talented and creative people to guide our fundraising activities.

And of course, we need someone to coordinate coffee hour. This task is difficult when people are reluctant to give one Sunday a

year to make coffee and tidy up the Community Room afterwards.

We have received a bounty of time, treasure and talent. Many have given generously, and in so doing have found rewards in those gifts. But there are members and friends who have not been as active.

Now is the time to step up and lend a hand. Take on a task. Give us your help as you are able. Do something you enjoy. Give an hour a week, an hour a month.

Give what you can. Give so others may receive.

Set an example of what it means to be a responsible member of this Unitarian Universalist congregation.

We have much to do. I challenge everyone to give as much as they can to help build our congregation into a visible presence in the wider community that sets an example of what it means to practice those Seven Principles.

– Steven M. Harrison

MONEY MATTERS

News from the Finance Committee



Are you wondering what the results of the supplemental pledge request have been?

As of today, we received 32 responses that brought in \$8,990.

How does that affect our bottom line?

Well, it can be spent on a variety of budget expenses . . . on Worship for guest speakers for this year (\$1,200) or on our children in RE (\$1,250) or to pay our mortgage for two months (\$7,000) or to pay half of our projected heating bill for the year (\$7,000) or pay the year's utility bill (\$5,400). There are many ways this money can be allocated and put to good use.

It certainly helps us as we strive toward a balanced budget for this year.

Is it too late to contribute to this supplemental pledge? Absolutely not!

Simply let Jeff Berry know that you would like to join in this effort and by what amount. It would be WONDERFUL to grow our \$8,990 to \$10,000 . . . or more!

– Aline Couture

Calling all gardeners . . .

Gardeners: You are invited to pot those overgrown perennials for our annual plant sale, which will take place during the UUCSC Harvest Fair on Saturday, Oct 18.

This twice-annual sharing of our gardens has resulted in magnificent offerings in the past, and it also has raised lots of money for our congregation.

My yard is filled with reminders of Doris Anthony's bountiful largesse from our spring and fall sales.



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This is a wonderful way to contribute to the congregation by sharing our gifts.

Want to help out on October 18th at the plant sale? Do you have any questions? Please call Helene Gersuny at 789-0996.

The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence is our Share the Plate recipient for October

The Institute's mission is to teach, by word and example, the principles and practices of nonviolence, and to foster a community that addresses potentially violent situations with nonviolent solutions.



The Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Providence, targets the reduction of gang and group-related violence in Rhode Island. It works with law enforcement and hospitals to reduce the homicide rate through nonviolence training in prison and schools, street outreach, hospital response to violent crime, employment services and enrichment activities. It is the only organization in the country to serve both victims and perpetrators of violent crime through its victim services department. The institute also works with youth and adults as they prepare for release from the Training School or ACI.

For more information, visit the institute's website at <http://www.nonviolenceinstitute.org/>.



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

Young People in Action

Children make a difference. They care about their future and want to know what they can do to keep the world clean, bright, and peaceful. This month, I'm sharing some photographs of the young people of this congregation as they reach out to make changes in the world they live in. The photos, taken on September 21, show the children making flags and postcards and taking part in the interfaith march to the Peace Dale Village Green to mark UN International Day of Peace.

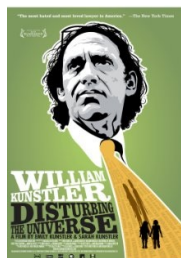


COMING EVENTS IN RE

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Friday, October 3 | Junior Youth Group: 6- foot-long ice cream sundae! |
| Sunday, October 5 | Service Sunday: Harvesting our backyard garden for the local food bank
Children and Youth "Search Party" seeking the young peoples' thoughts and opinions about our minister search |
| Sunday, October 12 | RE classes begin in classrooms |
| Saturday, October 18 | Harvest Fair. RE rooms will be open with activities and RE information |

REAL to REEL

A series of documentary films at UUCSC on the theme of courage



Saturday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m.

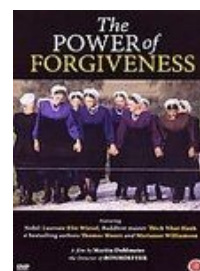
“William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe”

In this intimate biography of their famous father, Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler seek to recover the real story of how he became what the New York Times called “the most hated and most loved lawyer in America.”

Friday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m.

“The Power of Forgiveness”

This moving film takes an honest look at the intensity of anger and grief inherent in human nature. It's a collection of seven short stories that profile the most dramatic transgressions imaginable. Stories about crimes against Amish children, the 9/11 tragedy, and peace building in Northern Ireland are included, plus interviews with Thich Nhat Hanh, Elie Wiesel, and others.



Questions? Contact Iris Donnelly at charlieandiris@verizon.net or Nancy Rose at neecanancy@gmail.com.

On being prepared

Recently an aged friend died. Her death benefit covered only a fraction of the expense of her funeral arrangements, so her children split the (considerable) remainder of the cost. I wished for their sake they had been informed about the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

My late husband Carl and I have been members of RIFCA (formerly the R.I. Memorial Society) for several years. In my opinion, one of the most important benefits is a sizable discount on pre-paid arrangements through the Cremation Society of Rhode Island, a great comfort to me and my children last summer when Carl died. RIFCA also offers a wealth of information about Rhode Island funeral homes, comparative prices, legal advice and much more.



An element of trust in RIFCA can be found in its address at Westminster Unitarian Church.

The RIFCA website address is www.funerals.org/affiliates/rhodeisland. The mailing address is 119 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich, RI 02818. You can also contact them by e-mail at fca-ri@cox.net. – Helene Gersuny

Small Group Ministry builds closer connections between people

Small Group Ministry is a program many churches use to facilitate closer connections between people through shared spiritual exploration.

The groups use a common structured format to share and learn together about topics from a spiritual perspective. Ten or fewer participants make a commitment to meet twice a month over a period of time.

At UUCSC we ask that people commit at least six months to their group, and make it a priority, which in turn helps the group bond. We currently have four Small Groups at UUCSC, and while some may have openings, we can help get a new group going soon if there is enough interest and a common time to meet.

You may have heard of this wonderful program from enthusiastic participants. The good news is that no one has to wait for a group to invite them, or ask to be invited to a group that looks attractive! There is a process for getting into a group or getting a new

group started.

We have not been in the practice of having people choose the group they want to get into, or of groups choosing the people they want and inviting them.



Our practice has been to ask people to indicate the times they would be available, and then line up groups according to common time preferences, and sometimes according to gender or relationship to other members of a group. Couples usually are asked to consider joining separate groups so each person can have an individual experience.

Through the years this process has been led by the minister who, knowing the congregants, could help assure fair

and balanced placement of people in existing or new groups. During this interim year, Rev. Knost has agreed to oversee and assure the integrity of the process that will be carried out by the facilitators.

As a member of the Interim Transition Team, I am working under the guidance of Rev. Knost to help revitalize the Small Group Ministry program. To support the program's integrity and mission, the monthly meetings of the Small Group facilitators will resume in October. We ask that each group designate a representative to attend these facilitator meetings, to check in and share questions. It would help in terms of continuity if the same person could come for several meetings, but isn't necessary.

If you have questions, or you would like to find out how to join a Small Group, please contact me at 789-0723 or sbarney07@aol.com.

– Sally Barney

The transition team

Now that we have an interim minister, the Interim Search Committee has become the Transition Team. The team's job is to help Rev. Knost connect with folks and do the things we most need him to do. He's only here half-time, so we'll have to prioritize.

Rev. Knost will do a service with a sermon two or three times a month and will meet with committees and others on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon by appointment. Make sure to meet him and let him know how glad we are that he is here. And please keep in touch with us about your hopes and concerns this year!

– Your Transition Team: Nancy Dean (chair), Sally Barney, Linda Whyte Burrell, Hank O'Reilly and Penny Hall

Fifteen from UUCSC join People's Climate March in New York

Fifteen members and friends of UUCSC took part in the People's Climate March on Sunday, September 21 in New York City, joining a crowd estimated at 300,000.

The Sierra Club of Rhode Island arranged transportation from Providence and URI to New York City on nine buses. Abel Collins, former Sierra Club program manager and currently on the executive committee,



Left to right, rear: Abel Collins, Guy Latour, John Glasheen, Tracy Hart, Mike Teodros, Sue Strakosch, Lisa Petrie. Front: Carolyn Hurdis, Linnea Abraham, Penny Hall

was a coordinator. Ten members and friends of UUCSC were among the the 450 Rhode Islanders who rode the buses. Others, including Ron and Jan Creamer, drove to New York.

"It was a day I will always remember," said Carolyn Hurdis. "It feels good to have been a wee part of such an important march. I hope it does much to make a difference with the leaders of the world."

There were so many marchers that those at the rear stepped off about two hours after the march began. "I did not expect to stand on 72nd for an hour and a half waiting to get on Central Park West and start walking," said Suzanne Paton. "It was mind boggling to realize that people actually did start walking at 11:30; it just took until almost 1:00 before we started moving and it was after 2:00 when we got to Columbus Circle. I can't imagine how long it took for people



Jan Creamer carries the UUCSC banner.

lined up back at 86th! Amazing that so many people made the trip to make their voices heard."

Three members of the Senior Youth Group— Emma Paton, Linnea Abraham, and Michael Teodros— made the trip with their mothers. Linnea's favorite part of the march was meeting and talking to new people, including some marchers from Canada. Mike said, "During a typical day, I ride a bus, eat some junk food, and scream a lot (while listening to 'death metal' music). At the People's Climate March, I got to do all of these things, and help to save the world."

For more photos, visit

<http://uusouthcountyri.org/wp/?p=1204>

Jan and Ron Creamer brought the UUCSC banner and carried it during the march. Jan said, "Ron and I were very proud and happy to carry our banner, and many onlookers and marchers alike took our picture holding the banner and cheered either Rhode Island or the Unitarian denomination. My legs and feet were killing me at the end of the day, but we would do it all over again in any conditions in order to convince the world to go 'fossil free.'"

There were many creative and eye-catching visuals— the big silk Tar Sands octopus floating high above the crowd, the melting Earth-cone, bird and bee puppets. Lisa Petrie met, for the first time in person, a friend from Atlanta she made two years ago through a tele-course on sustainability.



Left to right: Tracy Hart, Lisa Petrie, Mike Teodros, Linnea Abraham, Guy Latour, Penny Hall, and Carolyn Hurdis

"What a day," said Tracy Hart. "I especially liked the quiet moments of looking into a stranger's eyes and both of us smiling, nodding— making a connection. And I loved the chanting, especially the call and response: 'Tell me what democracy looks like.' 'This is what democracy looks like.'"

Tracy also enjoyed sharing camaraderie with strangers. Her group took a break at the same time as the Ecuadorian family who shared their extra food, including corn cooked in its husk. "We shared ours with them. Good feelings all around." — Lisa Petrie



Don't miss the Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 18th

UVCSC's second annual Harvest Fair is on Saturday, October 18. It's a perfect way for a family to spend a beautiful autumn day.

Don't come by yourselves— bring a neighbor! Not sure which neighbor to bring? Pick the one with kids, or one who has helped you in the past year. Or both. The fair has something for everyone. It's handicapped accessible and there's plenty of convenient parking.

Marie Younkin-Waldman is the chair of the Harvest Fair this year. She's delighted to have the opportunity to use the organizational skills she honed as head of last year's Narragansett Seaside Village Fair for this important fundraising event for our congregation. She's hoping that this year's Harvest Fair will attract four times the number of folks who attended last year.

The Harvest Fair gates will open at 10:00 a.m. When you and your neighbors enter, you'll be welcomed by a live performance of traditional roots and folk music, home-made pastries, and coffee.

Walk around the corner and be surprised by what you find at the White Elephant table. Make a deal and take home something you've always wanted.

Further on, you'll see the ponies and bunnies to the left, and lots of booths to your right. You'll be delighted by the variety— it will take you a while to get through the retro jewelry, fashion pocket-books, and all sorts of hand-crafted delights. But your kids will drag you away when they spot the absolutely huge and wonderful children's area with giant blocks, pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, and lots of games.

Our annual fall plant sale will be a part of the Harvest Fair this year, too. You'll be able to stock up on beautiful perennials for your garden at bargain basement prices.

Hungry? There will be plenty of hot and cold foods to choose from, including hot dogs for the kids, vegetarian fare, and freshly-baked pies. Feeling lazy? Relax in the shade and chat with your friends and neighbors.

If you think this is fair is a fair weather event, think again. We've arranged to move it indoors in case of rain.

For the latest news about the fair, visit the Harvest Fair website— www.UVHarvestFair.com.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“Let us by all means teach black history, African history, women’s history, Hispanic history, Asian history. But let us teach them as history, not as filiopietistic commemoration. The purpose of history is to promote not group self-esteem, but understanding of the world and the past, dispassionate analysis, judgment, and perspective, respect for divergent cultures and traditions, and unflinching protection for those unifying ideas of tolerance, democracy, and human rights that make free historical inquiry possible.”

– *Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. (1917-2007)*

Schlesinger, born October 15, 1917, was a historian and social critic whose work explored the American liberalism of political leaders including Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Robert F. Kennedy. He won two Pulitzer Prizes, one in history and one in biography. He was raised as a Unitarian by his mother, who was of New England Unitarian ancestry.