



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2014

September Services

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



September 7

Annual In-Gathering and Water Communion
– *Nancy Rose, Worship Leader*

Remember to bring a few drops of water gathered during your summer travels
to add to the communal bowl.

This is an intergenerational service.



September 14

'Love Reaches Out:' Its Meaning for UUCSC – *John Glasheen*

The theme of the 2014 General Assembly was "Love Reaches Out," and Sister Simone Campbell told us to "walk toward trouble." Reaching out in love, we'll try to rally others in our community to join us in seeking dramatic change in our country's policy on climate change by taking part in the People's Climate March on September 21.

September 21

A Questioning Faith – *Rev. Sandra D. Fitz-Henry*

Sharon Salzberg, an American Buddhist, reminds us that faith is a verb— not something you have, but something you do. The question of faith really is not, "Can I believe in God?" but "To what can I commit my life?"

*Rev. Fitz-Henry is Minister Emerita of Murray Unitarian Universalist Church
in Attleboro, Mass.*

September 28

Creating Change, One Letter at a Time – *Joan Youngken*

The pen can be mightier than the sword, or it can be the sword. We'll look at the power of the written word to reveal, inspire, teach, or bring about change, with examples of letters written by Unitarian Universalist men and women.

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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

Pam Santos, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

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Harry Buffum, Treasurer • Mary Fulton, Clerk

Randi Marten • Penny Hall • Clare Sartori

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The President's Letter

Welcome to our second year of the Interim period. We have traveled quite a way in the past year as a congregation. It was not an easy journey. Our familiar and normal routines changed after our settled minister left and a new minister, one with a radically different style, arrived.

If the Interim time is supposed to be when things get shaken up, then we accomplished that quite well. But make no mistake, it has been a valuable year for our self discovery as a covenantal community. That learning came at a price that sometimes caused hurt and upset and frustration. But those things can be healed. We can heal them. We can heal each other.

As the summer wanes and we begin our new church year, let us all come together and share our determination and our optimism. Be it resolved, that we the UUCSC, will build upon our past experiences and move forward in our search for who we are and what we want to become as a congregation.

We have much to be proud of, and we cannot lose sight of the good things that we have accomplished. Our space is filled with a variety of events and activities, implemented by our members and by folks from the wider community. We are becoming more visible as an organization, both in the traditional press and in the online community through our web publishing, our website and social media. We have a vibrant RE program that just received a grant to expand its outreach. Our second annual Harvest Fair is just over a month away. Even some teeny tiny bits of good news are showing up in our budget. We are still here. We are a bit shaken up, but we are moving forward together.

But as we begin our second year of this transition time, let us leave the dual burdens of blame and justification behind. Where we are today is the result of where we were, and that past cannot be changed. A variety of discussions will be held in the

coming year to facilitate healing through communication. We learned things about ourselves last year that we never would have discovered if we had not had such a shake up. Do not underestimate the value of last year's experiences.

To ignore or minimize those lessons would be a disservice to our future. Let us join together and embrace the experience we have shared. Let us reach out to those with whom we have disagreed. Just talking to each other about the difficult things can be a valuable step in bringing this congregation to a new level of self-awareness and maturity. But let us do it with compassion for each other. Let us open the dialog without feeling a need to justify our own behavior or blame others for theirs. It serves no purpose in building a loving community. It serves no purpose as we work to affirm and promote our Seven Principles; and isn't that why we all came here in the first place?

— Steven M. Harrison



Gaden Shartse Monks at UUCSC on September 6



Eight monks from the Gaden Shartse Dokhang Monastery are touring the U.S. to share their culture, practices and paths to inner peace and compassion, and to raise money to rebuild the prayer hall and dormitories at their monastery in India, where they are in exile with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

They are offering cultural and arts performances, teachings, consultations, healings, and blessings. The monks will be at UUCSC on Saturday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. to speak on The Four Noble Truths.

Our congregation will host a small, private potluck supper for the monks from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

If you'd like to take part, please contact Sally Barney at sbarney07@aol.com.

Ministerial Search Committee preparing survey for distribution this month

The Ministerial Search Committee is searching for answers to the questions "Who are we?" and "What are we looking for?" The answers are critical to finding the minister who will be the right fit for us.

As a congregation, we'll be looking at ourselves in different ways during the coming months to find the truest answers. One of the best ways we can discover those answers is through a survey.

The committee has been thinking long and hard about the questions, finding questions that other congregations have asked in their own surveys, and

weeding out the less useful and confusing ones. Brevity is a concern!

Our survey questions are now almost complete. We plan to send the survey out in digital form, and on paper, for those who prefer it, during the next few weeks.

Your response is crucial to our success. We hope you'll take the fifteen minutes or so necessary to complete the survey.

*– Amber Kelley Collins, co-chair
of the Ministerial Search Committee*

History Pot Luck on Sunday, September 14

Come to listen and share what you know at a UUCSC history pot luck lunch on Sunday, September 14. We'll be sharing out history at 11:30, and we'll be sharing lunch at 12:30. Linda Whyte Burrell is in charge. Contact her at gmahlw@hotmail.com.



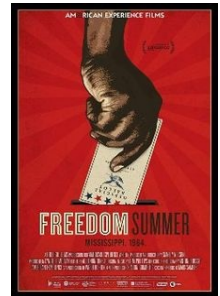
REAL to REEL

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

Friday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m.

“Freedom Summer”

Over ten memorable weeks in 1964, 700 courageous student volunteers from around the country joined organizers and local African-Americans in a historic effort to shatter the foundation of white supremacy in Mississippi. Fewer than 7% of African-Americans in Mississippi were registered to vote, compared to 50% to 70% in other southern states. The volunteers' voter registration drive led to formation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.



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

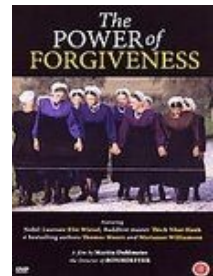
“William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe”

In this intimate biography of their famous radical attorney father, Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler seek to recover the real story of how William Kunstler 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, as well as interviews with Thich Nhat Hanh, Elie Wiesel, and others.



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

The D4\$ Fall Auction is next month!

Our next Dining for Dollars fundraising auction will take place in October, so now is the time to volunteer to be a host.



We need hosts willing to offer events that will take place during the Fall, Winter, or early Spring. If you like the idea of gathering together with great folks as we greet new seasons, please consider offering a dining experience. Your events can be casual, it can be black tie, or it can be anything in between. All types of dining events are welcome!

If you need help thinking of an event to host or planning the event, please get in touch with Nancy Rose at neecanancy@gmail.com.

The People's Climate March is on Sunday, September 21

On Sunday, September 21, while world leaders meet at the United Nations for a summit on climate change, thousands of people are expected to take part in the people's Climate March in New York City. A group from UUCSC will be there as well.



Our Green Task Force, in partnership with Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light, has issued a friendly challenge to our fellow congregations of all denominations to see who can send the greatest number of marchers. That's why it's important to register if you plan to attend the march and rally. For details, please visit

<http://www.ri-ipl.org/WebsitePages/ClimateMarch2014.html>.

The Sierra Club of Rhode Island has arranged transportation from Providence and URI to New York City. You can leave at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20 or on Sunday, Sept. 21, and return on Sunday night. The cost is only \$30 round trip (\$15 low income), but you must reserve your seat by September 10.

Don't miss this memorable event. Sign the sign-up sheet on the Social Action table in the Community Room or contact Lisa Petrie (364-3002 or teonlisa@juno.com). — Lisa Petrie

Women's Spirituality and Creativity group

Have you tried the UUCSC women's spirituality and creativity group? Newcomers are very welcome, and they'd love to see you at one of their meetings.

The group meets on the last Wednesday of every month. After a chalice lighting, and meditative time, and some personal check-in time, they take part in some activity related to creativity or spiritual life.

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the RE area (Middle classroom and Youth rooms). Plan to arrive at 6:15 for a little socializing. The chalice lighting is at 6:45. We'll announce the topic in the e-news. Bring poetry or prose (your own or your favorites from other authors) to share, bring spiritual practices related to the topic, and bring your receptivity to community nurturing through gathering together.

If you plan to attend but you will be unable to get to the lower level of the church using the stairway or the pathway (there are no steps leading from the parking lot to the lower rear entrance), please get in touch with Sally Barney (sbarney07@aol.com), or Tracy Hart (tracy.lifeisterrific@gmail.com) before the meeting.

Please share this message with other UUCSC women you know. The Women's Spirituality and Creativity group is a warm place to bring your gifts and receive from other women. — Sally Barney



Local Foods Banquet Friday, September 5

Our fourth annual Local Foods Banquet is on Friday, September 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Bring a dish made from local or sustainable ingredients. Celebrate the bounty of the season, the taste of real food, and the pleasures of good company. After dinner, we'll have an open mic session when folks can share songs, poems, and announcements with an environmental or social justice theme. Feel free to bring an instrument.



Please RSVP to John Glasheen (jdglasheen@cox.net or 782-2797) so we know how many to expect.

— Lisa Petrie, for the Green Task Force

The floral arrangements in the Sanctuary, designed by Roni Meyer and Patience Peck, are entitled "Hauling in the Seine." They are dedicated to the Third Principle, "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

As our summer days become shorter, it's time to look toward the familiar, even comforting, routines of the cooler weather. Families gather school supplies, gardens are harvested, and UU families head back to church.



This year we will feature a Project of Peace during September. Our youth and children will be working with young people from other faith communities to recognize the UN International Day of Peace on September 21st. On that day we will march from the UUCSC to the Village Green in Peace Dale. There we will listen to readings about peace and folk songs about peace, and display our Peace Flags. We look forward to this interfaith Peace Gathering as part of Rhode Island's Month of Peace.

Our regular RE schedule begins on Sunday, September 28. These classes will be offered:

Kindergarten through 2nd grade – *Moral Tales*. Children will explore a sense of right and wrong through stories, observation, and crafts. They will be encouraged to look for good deeds throughout their week as they fill their jar with “Gem of Goodness.”

3rd grade through 5th grade – *Toolbox of Faith*. Children will reflect on the tools they will use while living their lives. Actual tools are used to symbolize qualities such as flexibility (duct tape), justice (flashlight), and morality (compass).

6th grade through 8th grade – *Heeding the Call*. Our middle school children will explore the qualities of a justice maker to encourage personal growth. Workshops about empathy, courage, and abundance lead toward lessons in conflict resolution and justice work.

Please remember that all young people who will participate in RE programs must complete a registration form to ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information on each child. Forms will be available at church and they also will be mailed home. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

COMING EVENTS IN RE

September 7 - Multigenerational Water Communion Service

September 14 - RE classes work on the Peace Project

September 21 - Interfaith Peace Gathering after RE classes

September 28 - Regular RE schedule begins

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27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Hurricane

The tree lay down
on the garage roof
and stretched, You
have your heaven,
it said, go to it.

— *William Carlos Williams (1883 - 1963)*

Williams, a poet, novelist, and practicing physician, was a lifelong member of the Unitarian Church of Rutherford, New Jersey, a community founded with the help of his parents. He was born in Rutherford on September 17, 1883.