

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2015

September Services

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

September 7

Labor Day weekend – no service.

September 13

Annual In-Gathering and Water Ceremony

We will celebrate the start of the church year with our annual water ceremony. You are invited to bring a small amount of water, gathered during your summer travels or representing your summer activities, to add to the collective basin. We will reflect on the nature of water and its sacred qualities.

This is an intergenerational service.

September 20

The State of the Bay – Jonathan Stone

What impact have humans had on Narragansett Bay, and what impact will we have on the Bay in the future? If we believe in the Seventh UU Principle— "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part"— don't we have a responsibility to care for the Bay for the benefit of our grandchildren and their grandchildren?

Jonathan Stone is executive director of Save the Bay, a graduate of Brown University, and a former member of First Church and Parish (Unitarian) in Dedham, Mass.

September 27

We May Be Sinners, But We're Not Into Guilt – Rev. Jan Knost

"If God is God, he is not good. If God is good, she is not God. Take the even, take the odd."

- Jan Knost, with apologies to Archibald MacLeish



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 ■ **Michael Galib**, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

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Roni Meyer, Flower Committee ■ *Dennis Bowman*, Publicity

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For the Time Being . . .

by Rev. Jan Knost

He had just been graduated from seminary and was in his first month of ministry. His Dad was minister of a large liberal church in suburban Boston.

"Hello, Dad," he said in a nervous voice.

"Yes, son?"

"You have to help me. I've got a sermon to do and all these pastoral calls and a board meeting tonight and tomorrow I have to go to the hospital and . . ."

"Son, son . . ."

"Yes, Dad?"

"Before you go off the deep end, listen to me. Live each day and don't try to live all the days ahead. You'll never get by that way."

"Okay, Dad, I'll try."

So he followed a career of ministries in which his work was appreciated and his feeling of being useful was mostly fulfilled. And yet, that little twinge of panic about what was ahead never went away each September.

As I look to the coming months, there are so many things I hope we can accomplish together. First among them is to call a fine minister as your new spiritual leader. Together, you will grow this congregation and the small "hiccups" that will surely arise will be sweet to solve.

There are other challenges. One is to create an enhanced atmosphere of hospitality. All are warmly greeted in the vestibule each Sunday by very welcoming members. I feel that after visitors enter the Sanctuary, it has been "everyone for themselves." Visitors don't know to pick up a hymn book. They may need to know where special seats are for the hearing impaired. That means a new beginning. Thus, I have spoken of creating a Corps of Ushers in the Sanctuary each Sunday. I have already approached some members to get this started. Also, we need to address our building needs as regards sexton care, especially when we rent the sanctuary for special outside occasions such as weddings and memorial services.

Another is to smooth out times where there are emergencies we might be able to ameliorate. Our Caring Connection committee and the Lay Pastoral Associates Team are second to none. But they could use more assistance. We can't leave everything to the same group of people. There is also a need for a "telephone tree" for church cancellations, etc. Not everyone is internet connected.

Then there is the yearly schedule of speakers. I am personally inviting a number of guests to our pulpit. Each brings a new and different perspective on life and the human condition. They are accomplished ministers, environmentalists, artists, former priests, executives, newspaper editors and police officers and they are all personal longtime friends of ours. For each of their visits, I will fill the role of your worship leader on those Sundays, in addition to my contracted twenty Sundays. And so, in the words of Jackie Gleason on those joyful Saturday nights, ". . . and AWAY WE GO!"

With love, hopefulness and joy,

"The Rev"

Jan Vickery Knost (with a little help from my best friend, Lorna)

The President's Letter

Greetings to all in the UUCSC Community—Members and Friends alike!

Let me begin by welcoming you all back to UUCSC. While we do hold a full program of great lay-led services in the summer—and this summer was no exception, due to the organizational and musical skills of Helene Gersuny and the many creative and talented individuals (speakers, musicians, and volunteers) who contributed their time and their talents to the summer program of services this year, and for many years past. It is wonderful that we are able to offer such a diverse summer program, with our minister on summer break and the many AC challenges we have had - so congratulations and thanks to all involved!

For this month's message, I am focusing on a particular topic that will significantly impact our congregation: communications.

During the past few years, the Board, the Publicity Committee, and the communications workgroup have been working to coordinate and update the many ways that we communicate with each other as a congregation, and how we communicate with the community beyond UUCSC. This began with the development of a new website about four years ago. This effort, led by Barbara

Pagh and supported by many others, brought the website into its current format, with images from the various "faces" of our church and with features such as the on-line interactive calendar (managed very effectively by Kathy Carland) that shares the regularly-scheduled and special events that take place each month at UUCSC. Now the congregation also has direct access to many church documents, as well as monthly minutes of Board of Directors meetings.



The site also has a special accessibility feature that allows the reader to enlarge print or hear read aloud any text posted on the website. Lots of new pictures are posted, too. There are so many excellent features on the site that it is not possible to list them all, so I invite you to visit the site often at

<http://uusouthcountyri.org/>

With the new church year, the Communications and Publicity Committee has a new chairperson, Dennis Bowman. I want to thank Jean Bowen for

the great work that she did for many years as chair (and lead writer, editor, and contact-maker) of the Publicity Committee. I welcome Dennis and thank him for taking on the communications responsibility, along with the other hard-working members of the group—Will Bender, Karen Ellsworth, Barbara Pagh, and Amber Kelly Collins (working in coordination with Kathy Carland). Their regular work behind the scenes keeps the many online paths of communications humming along. Thank you, all.

I want to talk a bit about the many other ways that communication is achieved within UUCSC. How about our E-News? Every Thursday evening (or Friday morning), each UUCSC member or friend for whom we have a current e-mail address should be receiving an e-mail that reads "News from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County." Open this e-mail and you will find our very informative and attractive E-News, each week lovingly prepared by Karen Ellsworth as a means to keep you updated on upcoming events or items of importance to the congregation. The E-News includes links to our website and other sites where additional information is posted. If you are not receiving

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The President's Letter

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the UUCSC E-News and want to get it, just contact Kathy Carland, our office administrator, and she will add your e-mail address to the recipient list.

Now is a good time for me to remind you to keep your e-mail addresses up to date with our office, and try to be sure that you are not using old e-mail addresses to communicate with others in the congregation. There have been several instances where the use of out-dated e-mail addresses embedded in past messages has caused misunderstandings or loss of important messages. If we all try together to pay attention to this, it will help a lot!



How about Facebook? I know that some folks just do not like using Facebook, but it's good to know that we have a current and quite interesting FB page— and it provides a nice alternative way to reach out to the community at large. The link to the UUCSC FB page is <https://www.facebook.com/UUCSC> Why not give it a try? If

you “like” our page, you'll get messages when things are posted to the page. (We have 200 “likes” right now, but we'd love to have lots more.) Right now, I am serving as the contact person for Facebook. This will probably change soon, as I have a lot to do now as your president, but until further notice you can forward posting requests to me. See you on FB! It would be a big mistake not to mention our UUCSC newsletter, the *South County Unitarian Universalist*. The newsletter has been a major means of communication for our congregation for many years. The purpose of the newsletter is to share, on a monthly basis, information of significant length that is of interest to our community. All upcoming services for the month are included, as well as the monthly President's Letter, along with timely stories and announcements. News Flash! Although the newsletter is posted to our website each month, anyone who would prefer to receive a print copy of the newsletter by mail can do so. Just request it through Kathy Carland. As has been the case for many years, the newsletter is produced by Karen Ellsworth (Thanks again, Karen, for continuing to provide so many excellent communication services for our community).

And communications would

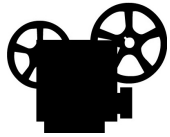
not be complete without including three tried-and-true means— e-mail, telephone, and face-to-face.

E-mail has become part of almost everyone's daily life, and for this President, it is hard to remember the days before e-mail— I know they were there, but e-mail is truly ubiquitous now. We receive it on our computers, our tablets, and on our smartphones. If you are like me, you check e-mail numerous times each day.



At UUCSC, the Board uses e-mail to communicate with each other, with committees, with the UUA, and with individuals in a timely way. We even have a process for e-votes on issues that are time- sensitive. Our policy is to try not to overwhelm the congregation with too many “all- congregation” e-mails, so we reserve these for emergencies or issues of significant importance. We ask each of you to try to use the other means of communication to share information with the congregation or with

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REAL TO REEL FILM SERIES

The theme of this fall's Real to Reel Film Series is transitions— how individuals, classrooms, and communities are transformed when ordinary people are willing to try something different, challenging and new.

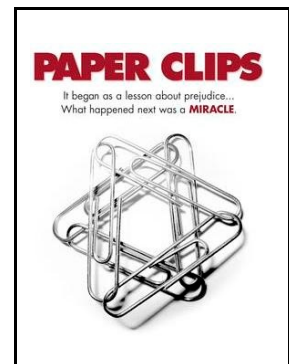
This is the second year of the Real to Reel Film Series, which screens documentaries that broaden our view of the world. Each film is shown at UUCSC, 27 North Road, Peace Dale, at 7:00 p.m. The films are free and open to the public.

Friday, September 25

'Paper Clips'

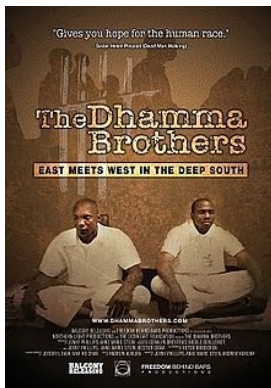
Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee is the setting for this documentary about an extraordinary experiment in Holocaust education.

The middle school students in this heavily Christian community were studying the Holocaust. To better understand the extent of this crime against humanity, the students decided to collect six million paper clips— one for each person who perished in a World War II concentration camp. During the project, the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world. The film shows how the experience transformed the students and their community.



Wednesday October 14

'The Dharma Brothers'



In 2002, psychotherapist Jenny Phillips begins intensive meditation retreats for inmates at a maximum-security prison in rural Alabama. Based on the principles of Vipassana meditation, the ten-day retreats are conducted in total silence. This documentary explores the lives of four convicted murderers before, during and after the arduous retreats, as well as the reaction of residents of the nearby town of Bessemer, many of whom object to the program on religious or social grounds. The Dharma Brothers tells a dramatic story of human potential and transformation, challenging assumptions about the nature of prisons as places of punishment rather than rehabilitation.

Wednesday November 11

'The Orchestra of Piazza Vittorio'

An immigrant neighborhood in Rome is transformed by the creation of a unique multi-ethnic orchestra that combines the sounds and traditions of European, African, and Middle Eastern cultures. Filmmaker Agostino Ferrente captured the entire incredible five-year journey that resulted in the creation of an orchestra of twenty-some musicians from eleven countries on four continents who speak eight different languages.



For more information, contact the film series producers, Nancy Rose (neecanancy@gmail.com) or Iris Donnelly (charlieandiris@verizon.net).



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

As the parent of five children, the autumn often feels like a new year. For our children this is a time for new beginnings. It may be a new school, meeting new friends, or a new grade level with new expectations. Kids stock up on new pencils, notebooks, and clothes (although "previously loved" clothes are our favorites). Stepping in to something new is sometimes scary, for both the child and the parent. As a generally optimistic person, I love this time of year for its possibilities.

This year our religious education program is lining up to offer new and ambitious possibilities. As in past years, we will offer weekly Sunday morning classes for the children. Topics will include celebrations of various religious holidays, themes and stories from the Bible, and explorations of one's own individual expression of spiritual thoughts and beliefs. Throughout classes, our Seven UU Principals will be held up, encouraging open thought, religious tolerance, respect for the earth, and the dignity and worth of each and every person.

The teens from our Senior Youth Group have offered to host an overnight youth conference ("CON") in November for UU teens from the New England region.

Our children will be involved in a multi-faith peace event on October 2, the International Day of Non-Violence. Together we will learn about the concept of non-violence and how children can use this to solve problems large and small.

There is interest in participating in our first service trip sponsored by the UUA's College of Social Justice. I have been in contact with the UUA looking into the service trip to Haiti.

Additionally, each month we will involve ourselves in a local community service project. The children will experience the good feeling of making a difference in your own community.

This year RE registration will take place on-line. Keep your eyes open for more information on this.

This year is one of great possibilities. Let's get busy!

Upcoming dates in Religious Education

Sunday, September 13 - Multigenerational Service - Water Communion

Sunday, September 20 - First day of RE classes

Friday, October 2 - International Day of Non-Violence

Sunday, October 4 - Service Sunday - Harvesting our own garden for the food bank.

Celebrate fall with local foods

You can celebrate the bounty of the season, the taste of real food, and the pleasure of good company at the Green Task Force's fifth annual Local Foods Banquet at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 26 in the Oneto Community Room.

Bring a dish made of local or sustainable ingredients. After dinner, we'll share news about upcoming



events and ongoing projects, enjoy some live music, and sing some songs together. Bring an instrument, bring your friends and family, bring a song to share, or just bring yourself and join us for a relaxed evening!

The Local Foods Banquet is free and open to the public. Please let Lisa Petrie know if you'll be there— an RSVP appreciated, but not required. You can reach Lisa at teonlisa@juno.com or 364-3002.

The next Dining and Doing for Dollars Auction is on its way

Since the spring of 2010, we have held eight Dining for Dollars silent auctions, raising more than \$42,000 for our congregation. Everyone— hosts as well as guests— has a great time at these events.

In spring 2015, we mixed it up a bit by also



letting folks bid on services provided by other congregation members and friends. This became our Dining and Doing for Dollars

Auction. We had so many folks willing to host activities and events that we had to ask some of them to wait until our next auction.

Now is the time! Our fall action will be in October for events that will take place during the fall, winter and early spring. If you would like to host a dining event, or if you would like to provide a tantalizing service, your participation is very welcome.

Our congregation depends on this auction as a major fund-raiser. The last auction

brought \$5,990 in bids— a rather remarkable amount for a congregation this size. Please, please consider hosting an event or offering a service. Just about anything works, and it's a great way to meet folks in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

If you've been a host, consider hosting again. Guests at past events have raved about what a great time they had. I never hear a negative comment. If you offered to host an event for our spring auction and I asked you to hold off until this one, start planning and pick a date. If you're not sure of how you can participate, please call me, because I'm full of ideas for events that have been very successful in the past or would be in the future.

We'll start putting our next auction together in early September, so while you're enjoying the lazy, hazy and humid days of summer, let your mind wander to that special talent you have that someone would bid big bucks to win. And then let me know about it.

– Nancy Rose
(neecanancy@aol.com)

eleemosynary (el-uh-mos-uh-ner-ee) Adjective. Of or relating to charity; charitable. From the Greek term *éleos*, meaning compassion.

maverick (mav-er-ik) Noun. A person who takes an independent stand apart from his or her associates.

To be a financially stable congregation, we need to develop annual fund-raising events or activities that we can count on year after year to provide income. We need to begin doing that this year, because to recruit and keep the kind of settled minister we want, we need to be able to offer a salary at least \$7,000 more per year than we can afford today.

There's a box in the Oneto Community Room, next to the door to the Sanctuary, where you can leave your suggestions for established fund-raising activities and events. The Stewardship Committee invites you to be an eleemosynary maverick, and imagine new and inventive ways of raising the income we need.

stewardship (stoo-erd-ship). Noun. The responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

Save these dates!

On Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15, Rev. Keith Kron of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Ministerial Transition Office will present a program called "Beyond Categorical Thinking" (<http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/bct>).

The Ministerial Search Committee has invited Rev. Kron to help us think outside the box when we choose a new minister by gaining insight on how we might consider candidates from a diversity of backgrounds.

More details about this program will be available next month. Put those dates on your calendar so you won't miss a great program!

The President's Letter

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others.

However, all- congregation e-mails are certainly still possible. If you need this means, please forward your request to me or to Kathy Carland for consideration.

Sometimes using the telephone is the best means of communication for the situation. The telephone can ensure that you get connected with folks who are not regular e-mail or internet users. It also eliminates the problem of waiting for others to read and respond to their on-line messages.

Kathy Carland regularly updates our UUCSC directory of members and friends, which is available in digital or print form. If you need a directory or if you want to submit an update of your personal information, contact Kathy Carland.

And last but not least is

face-to-face communication.

There are times when other means of communications just fall short, and talking face-to-face is the best way to get your message to the right folks or to get things done. Recognizing this real need, I started regular office hours at



UUCSC. It is important for me to be in touch with you— and it is important for you to be in touch with your Board of Directors. I try to be at UUCSC each Wednesday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. to handle church-

related business, which includes meeting with you individually or in groups. If you'd like to meet, please call Kathy Carland to double-check that I will be in on a particular Wednesday (and I appreciate it if you can send me an e-mail or give a telephone call if you'd like to come by), but I hope that this opportunity to talk face to face will serve to strengthen the many ways in which we communicate as a congregation. I'd love for you to come by and talk.

I think that about covers what I want to say this month— and once again, I welcome everyone to the new UUCSC year, and especially welcome back Rev. Jan Knost, our fabulously endearing interim minister. See you all in church!

*In faith,
Betsy Dalton*

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Queen-Anne's Lace

by William Carlos Williams

Her body is not so white as
anemone petals nor so smooth—nor
so remote a thing. It is a field
of the wild carrot taking
the field by force; the grass
does not raise above it.
Here is no question of whiteness,
white as can be, with a purple mole
at the center of each flower.
Each flower is a hand's span
of her whiteness. Wherever

his hand has lain there is
a tiny purple blemish. Each part
is a blossom under his touch
to which the fibres of her being
stem one by one, each to its end,
until the whole field is a
white desire, empty, a single stem,
a cluster, flower by flower,
a pious wish to whiteness gone over—
or nothing.

William Carlos 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 on September 17, 1883.

"Queen Anne's Lace," from *The Collected Poems of William Carlos Williams, Volume I, 1909-1939*, edited by Christopher MacGowan.
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