



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

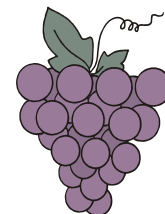
VOLUME 22 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2013



September Services

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



September 1

No service.

September 8

In-Gathering & Water Communion – *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

Welcome back one and all from reduced summer activities and programs. Bring yourself and a few drops of water and we will ritually recognize its sacred qualities together.

This is a multigenerational service.

September 15

A Day of Atonement – *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

The Jewish High Holy Days have something to teach us as we travel this path of transition together as a congregation. Come to reflect on a facet of one of the world religions we revere.

September 22

UUA General Assemblies, Past (Louisville in 2013) and Future (Providence in 2014) – *John Glasheen*

Those who love to attend General Assembly are referred to by some as "GA Junkies." John Glasheen, who could fit this tongue-in-cheek description, will discuss the meaning and directions of these two important gatherings. Come hear about the life of our denomination beyond the walls of our Lily Pads home.

September 29

Walking on Water and Other Skills: Reflecting on the Tasks of a Minister – *Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley*

I once accepted the contract before I saw the published job description.



OUR HOME IS AT LILY PADS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, 27 NORTH ROAD, PEACE DALE, R.I.



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

PUBLISHED ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR
KAREN R. ELLSWORTH, EDITOR

DEADLINE: THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

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 • <http://www.uusouthcountyri.org>

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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In Between Time

Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley

Accredited Interim Minister



Your interim minister has been settling in.

I have been on site in Peace Dale now a short time. Already I can make my way around your rural roads, even sometimes without my loyal GPS. A UU couple from Pennsylvania, hearing from a UUCSC member that I was looking, graciously offered their summer home to me while I am your interim minister. (Fortunately I will be on vacation next summer when they want to use it themselves.) The UUCSC minister's study has taken on my bookcase and basic books, while my laptop has found a beautiful secretary desk to rest upon. All is ready but to meet and know you. I anticipate all the many relationships we will form as I assist UUCSC in transition during the next two years.

Our nights are cooling off this week and remind me that fall is but a month away. We can count on some of the best weather we have. More importantly, our program year will be starting on September 8th with a traditional Homecoming service and Water Ceremony (or Communion). Please bring a small amount of water from your summer to the service— even if that water is from the kitchen sink. We will pour it into one bowl to signify how we come together each year to pour ourselves into our spiritual home. (We will have a pitcher available for visitors or those who forget.) This sacred water will be kept for use in our naming and dedication ceremonies during the year.

We will spend the first couple of months getting to know each other. I will be interested in your connections to UUCSC, whether new visitor or founding member and in leadership or that important position of participant. The telephone number in the study is 401-284-3321; e-mail is revjsv@gmail.com. Come offer to know me.

Come, come whoever you are,
Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving,
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again come.

*– Adapted from Rumi for #188,
'Singing the Living Tradition'*

Blessings,
Rev. Judy

What we disagree about is not as important as how we deal with each other

“Community – A group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society.” – *Merriam Webster on-line dictionary.*

What is UUCSC's common characteristic or interest? Perhaps that is where we should start our discussions as we begin our Fall season with Rev. Judy. What are our boundaries? What are our ground rules for engagement of discussions and disagreements? How do we handle situations where we get upset or angry with each other?

Topics and issues in the past have generated heated discussions and intense anger on the part of some members. Sometimes we have had splits and divisions within this community. It will happen again. How do we confront each other when we disagree?

There appears to be but two choices:

1. We can set boundaries for topics and mandate that we will “not go there” as a congregation.
2. We can welcome an open discussion on any topic by any member as long as it takes place in a respectful and compassionate manner.

At some level we all came here looking for the same thing: A refuge, a safe place. For me, our worship service is a place to recharge the core of my being. But we cannot exist as an insular and segregated



entity. We cannot thrive if we shut out the greater community around us. If we cannot hold open and respectful discussions on controversial topics, then I do not hold much hope for any other group in the world to be able to do the same.

There are three ways to handle “hot” topics: ignore them, fight about them or discuss them. The first usually begets the second and the third is all-too-often underutilized. I believe we should consciously and diligently pursue a policy of embracing differences within our community. The Letters to the Editor section in last month's

South County Unitarian Universalist is just such an attempt.

Will such a venue stir up some controversy? Will it upset some folks? I believe it already has and no doubt it will again. But is that something to be avoided, or is it something to embrace? If this community is a place of safety and refuge where we respect the earth and all that lives upon it, shouldn't that include those who don't think the way we do?

I ask that we embrace a policy of active yet respectful engagement with each other when disagreements and misunderstandings arise. Let's talk to each other. Let's try to work things out by discussing the things that come up and make us upset.

The Letters to the Editor in our newsletter is but a first step. I invite everyone to keep this venue in mind and use it if you feel your voice needs to be heard. Please, just remember to be respectful of others and their opinions as you present your opinions. Let us be an example for how the greater community should act. If it can't happen here, then where can it happen?

– *Steve Harrison*

Setting Boundaries for Congregational Duties

As president, I am one of eight voting members of the governing body for the UUCSC community (it should be nine, but right now we have no vice president). But folks will often see the office of president as the go-to person when matters come up.

Each leadership position at UUCSC carries its own set of duties and responsibilities. It is important to remember that each member holding such a position is a volunteer, and many of us have career and family obligations. For that reason, we need to set limits upon our time commitment to the congregation. Each committee chairperson needs to set his or her own policy.

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Third Annual Local Food Banquet

Sunday, September 22

UUCSC and the Green Task Force present the Third Annual Local Food Banquet, Sunday, September 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the community room at UUCSC. Come celebrate the fall harvest, and bring a dish or beverage to share.

This has turned into a very nice community event. A good number of UUCSC members and old and new friends from the area took part in the first and second Local Food Banquets.

A short "open mic" time will take place after the dinner. People will be encouraged to share a song, a poem, news about upcoming events, or just their thoughts and concerns about food and the environment. We'll sing a few songs together, too.

In addition to a food (locally sourced if possible) or beverage item, please bring your own plate, flatware, cloth napkin, and cup, so we can cut down on waste and make cleanup easier.

We hope to see you there!

– David Floyd, for the Green Task Force



This month's Share-the-Plate recipient

The September 8th Share-the-Plate collection will support the good work and advocacy offered to Rhode Island women and men by Planned Parenthood. The Providence clinic offers services that include pregnancy testing, birth control, HIV testing, abortion services and women's health care.

The mission of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is to protect the fundamental right of

all individuals to manage their own fertility and sexual health, and to ensure access to the services, education and information to realize that right.

With the numerous political and legislative assaults on women's reproductive freedom in Rhode Island, and around the country, UU men and women in South County stand with women who choose this vital service.

– Jean Bowen

Setting Boundaries for Congregational Duties

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As president, I feel it is my duty to set the example, so I request that folks respect the following policy:

- E-mail is my preferred means of contact, and I am at chefsteve@cox.net. I normally check and answer e-mail early in the morning, and occasionally during the day.
- Phone calls for routine matters should be made weekdays in the afternoon, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. when possible. The number is 741-7262. I am better able to give calls my full attention after working hours. Please leave a message if I do not pick up and I will return the call as soon as I can.
- For critical matters and emergencies requiring the president's attention, call any time.

Setting time boundaries is something each of us must consider. For those who seem to try to do too much, it means limiting participation to a level that is comfortable and fun. For those who have been reluctant to take on responsibilities, it is vital that you consider helping at a level where you feel comfortable and not overwhelmed. The only way to make this successful will be for each person who has taken on a particular task or position to examine how it can be divided up into smaller tasks so more people can help without being locked in or buried.

We are all in this together . . .

Steve

Our UUCSC Harvest Fair is Saturday, October 5th

Plans are moving along so well for our Harvest Fair! Every member and friend of the congregation is invited to pitch in and help make this event a success. Everyone who has been asked has agreed to take on a task. Please don't feel that there's nothing you can do. Everyone can do something.

Please clean out all jewelry that you no longer need. Jean Bowen will have a jewelry booth. Do you have fine collectibles, either yours from an earlier life, or from a family member? Essjay will run a booth of collectibles.

Gail Burchard is in charge of nice White Elephant articles. We're in need of good quality knick-knacks, bric-a-brac, or vases that are far too nice to throw out. (Folks will be doing early Christmas shopping.) Got Hallowe'en costumes and kids' dress-up outfits hanging around taking up space? Folks will want to buy those for Hallowe'en, and Jean Bowen is the person who can take those off your hands.

You could knit scarves, hats, mittens, anything you like. Woodworking your hobby and skill? You could make toys, games, meditation stools, any items at which you are skilled. A larger item like a bookcase could even be raffled, if not sold outright.



We want to make money for UUCSC, and this could be a great success. If fifty people each make things that are sold for \$100 dollars, all together they will have brought in \$5000!

We have five raffles planned. We are having petting animals, games and crafts to make for the kids. Speak to Elise Bender if you can offer something for the young ones.

There will be food to eat on the

spot. If you bake, you can donate to the Bake Sale. Let Mary Finnegan know what you can bring. Mac Richardson is hoping that folks with extra produce— squash or pumpkins, for instance— will offer them for sale.

Whatever excess plants you'll be thinning out can be sold by Helene Gersuny at the Plant Sale. Can you sew up some small items? Dolls, hats, whatever you like. Make greeting cards or note paper? We can't have too much. Speak to any one of the people named here to see what you can do for UUCSC.

And don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors. When the flyers are ready to be posted, take a few to put up— anywhere in Rhode Island and Connecticut. There will be publicity in all area newspapers and regional magazines. This Harvest Fair promises to be interesting, fun and entertaining. Get talking and working. All of us are all willing to answer your questions.

— Linda Whyte Burrell

Big Changes in Coffee Hour!

Welcome to the fall season of our UUCSC fellowship! Our new coffee hour coordinators are Stephen and Dieneke Andrus. Many thanks to them for stepping in to help us organize coffee hour this year. But in order to have a dependable, consistent coffee hour, it is important for the majority of members to volunteer to act as hosts at least once a year. We have reduced the expectations considerably in order to entice more of you to participate. Weekly hosts will be responsible for beverages, but they will no longer be responsible for food service.

When you volunteer to host, we will ask you to set up the coffee pot and hot water urn and to provide half-and-half and a bottle of juice for the children. The instructions for making the coffee are on the door to the



right of the stove and are easy to follow. If you are doing it for the first time and would like assistance, a mentor will be available to show you the routine. You will be responsible for cleaning the beverage service table to prepare for the next week.

Anyone attending a service is welcome to bring a plate of finger food to share, but please make sure you clean up leftovers and bring all plates home with you. Stephen and Dieneke will put a sign-up board in the fellowship room. When you sign up, they will send you a reminder e-mail.

We will also need a volunteer to buy the coffee and keep it stocked. You will be reimbursed for the cost. In the past, some people have bought fair trade coffee in bulk and monitored the freezer to make sure there is a supply on hand.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Stephen or Dieneke.

— Vikki LePree



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

Gardens are overflowing, smiles are shared, children are sun-kissed; Mother Nature has indeed provided us with a beautiful summer. We now look toward the more predictable patterns of the autumn routine.

Our Religious Education program is ready to welcome curious children and youth into this year's activities. Classrooms have been cleaned, volunteers are prepared, and projects are ready to go! Here is a glimpse of what is planned for this year:

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade: "Walking the Rainbow Path"

Using the colors of the rainbow, we will learn about each of the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. Red = Respect all beings. Orange = Offer fair and kind treatment. Yellow = Yearn to learn. Green = Grow in spirit and mind. Blue = Believe in my ideas and act on them. Indigo = Insist on peace, freedom, and justice for all. Violet = Value the connections in creation.

3rd through 5th Grade: "We Believe"

Through stories, games, songs, and discussion, the children reflect on the seven principles and create ways to actively and intentionally live those principles.

6th through 8th Grade: "Neighboring Faiths"

We will provide young people an opportunity to explore a variety of faith traditions. Lessons will include learning about a particular faith, listening to a guest speaker who was raised in that faith, visiting the place of worship, and following up with thoughts and questions.

9th through 12th Grade: Coming of Age

In addition to the support, creativity, and camaraderie of Senior Youth Group, our high school youth will be deeply focusing on Unitarian Universalism, their own congregation, and the development of their personal faith statement in the Coming of Age Program.

Additionally we will be involved in monthly community service with our Service Sunday projects. This year looks to be one of growth, energy, and maturity.

There is no cost to participate in our Religious Education program, but registration is required. Forms are available at the RE table in the community room.

If you have any questions about the program, about registration, or about volunteer opportunities, please feel free to contact me at pamsantos@room35.com.

I am grateful for the good energy of the volunteers, committee members, and the young people we serve. I look forward to a year in RE that we can all be proud of! Who knows what wonderful moments of discovery are in store for us?

Unitarian Universalists in the News

Ready to Rumba

On August 19, the Auckland Unitarian Church in Auckland, New Zealand hosted the first same-sex marriage in the country.

The New Zealand House of Representatives voted to legalize same-sex marriage by a vote of 77 to 44 on April 17. Thirty-one same-sex couples intended to marry on August 19, said a spokesman for the Department of Internal Affairs, and 977 marriage forms were downloaded during the week, three times as many as usual.

The Rev. Dr. Matt Tittle, minister of the Auckland church, performed the ceremony for Tash Vitali and Melissa Ray at 8:00 a.m. on August 19. The sanctuary was filled to capacity.

"It was a fabulous moment of grace," said Rev. Tittle, an American, who has been the minister of the Auckland church for six months. "It was perhaps he most honored day of my life."



Tash and Melissa with dance instructor Candy Lane

In preparation for the reception, the couple took a week of rumba lessons with celebrity dance instructor Candy Lane.

Lord of the Rings

The Rev. John Buehrens, former UUA president, officiated at the June wedding of Napster and Facebook co-founder Sean Parker and singer-songwriter Alexandra Lenas.

The ceremony took place in Big Sur, California, under towering 500-year-old redwoods. Each guest was custom-fitted in Tolkien-esque garb by Ngila Dickson, the costume designer who won an Academy

Award for *The Lord of the Rings*. Men wore silk-brocade vests and jackets. Women arrived in silk and velvet.



This is not the wedding party. The attire was similar, however.

Parker said the wedding was meant to be "a performance-art project" set in a modern-day enchanted forest.

What would Roger Williams do?

In a friend-of-the-court brief filed in the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention argued that prohibiting Christian pastors from delivering opening prayers at town council meetings would be like imposing Unitarian beliefs on the nation.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit ruled last year that Greece, New York violated the First Amendment by holding Christian prayers at town meetings. Though a Christian pastor delivered nearly every opening prayer, the town insisted it was not favoring Christianity over other religions.

"The Town of Greece case is about a government seeking to establish a state-ordered civil religion that crowds out the most basic rights of freedom of speech," ERLC President Russell D. Moore said in a statement. "That is not what our ancestors, and their allies among the American Founders, meant by religious liberty. We shouldn't have a state-sponsored Baptist church, I agree, but we shouldn't have a state-sponsored Unitarian church either, and that's what some are attempting."

The Court is expected to rule on the case by next June.

Unitarian Universalists in the News

It's about time!

The congregation of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Scituate, Mass. has called a female minister for the first time in its history. The congregation is one of the oldest in the United States.

The Reverend Pamela M. Barz, who has been a minister for 27 years, started at the church on Aug. 1.

"In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, Reverend Barz was chosen by the entire congregation after a lengthy search process," said Leslie Kilduff, co-chair of the Parish Committee. "That is because the minister and the congregation have a collaborative relationship. They share responsibility for the leadership and ministry of the congregation."

"From the very first interview, we were all enthusiastic about Pam Barz," said Wendy Ballinger, chairwoman of the five-member ministerial search committee. "Her experience, her energy, her compassion and her intellect made her, we felt, the best minister for us," she said.

"The vote was unanimous, reaffirming that we had found the right person. That she makes history as the first woman to serve our parish as its minister is certainly wonderful, as well."



Rev. Pamela M. Barz

No wonder Roger Williams decided to leave

In July, the United Kingdom's 5,000 Unitarians commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Unitarian Toleration Act, which removed penalties against Nonconformists who did not recognize the trinity.

On 21 July 1813, Parliament enacted "An Act to relieve persons who impugn the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity from certain Penalties."

The statute repealed the Blasphemy Act of 1698, which said, "Whereas many persons have of late

years openly avowed and published many blasphemous and impious opinions, contrary to the doctrines and principles of Christian religion, greatly tending to the dishonour of Almighty God and may prove destructive to the peace and welfare of this Kingdom," it is enacted that "if any person . . . having been educated in, or at any time having made profession of the Christian religion within this realm, shall by writing, printing, teaching or advised speaking, deny, any of the persons in the Holy Trinity to be God, or shall assert and maintain there are more gods than one, or shall deny the Christian religion to be true or the holy scriptures of the old and new testament to be of divine authority" and is convicted, he would be unable to hold any ecclesiastical, civil or military office or position.

A person convicted a second time under the act would serve a three-year prison sentence and would be unable to bring suit in any court, be appointed a child's guardian, or serve as executor or administrator of an estate.



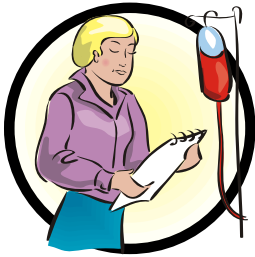
Newington Green Unitarian Church, founded in 1708, London's oldest Nonconformist place of worship still in use.

"The most significant effect of the Act was that it aided the emergence of Unitarianism from the shadows. The name 'Unitarian' could now be used in public without fear. Unitarianism was now a distinct and separate movement within Dissent rather than being purely an intellectual position held by individuals," said Derek McAuley, Chief Officer of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.



Letters to the Editor

We're waiting to hear from you.



Give some blood on October 6

UUCSC will host a Blood Drive on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The Bloodmobile will be parked outside the front door. Contact Charlie Donnelly at barlieandiris@yahoo.com or 788-775 with any questions or to make an appointment. You can also use the Rhode Blood Center's on-line donor system by visiting the Blood Center website at www.ribc.org. Our sponsor code is 3373.

– Charlie Donnelly

Rev. Frederick E. Gillis (1940-2013)

A memorial service for the Rev. Frederick E. Gillis, Minister Emeritus of Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich, will take place on Sept. 14 at Westminster. Rev. Gillis died on July 14, 2013 at the age of 72.

Born in Cambridge, Mass., Rev. Gillis was a graduate of Tufts University and Harvard Divinity School. He was ordained in 1966, and served at Westminster from 1977 to 2003. He was a founding member of the Congregation of Abraxa, the Unitarian Universalist liturgical group. He served on the UUA Commission on Common Worship, and was a board member and officer of the Memorial Society of Rhode Island. Rev. Gillis was a 42-year member (as well as a "saint") of the Greenfield Group, the oldest Unitarian Universalist study group in North America.

A lover of music, especially organ music, Rev. Gillis designed and built his own organ, and helped to design and build the organ at Westminster. He loved

the outdoors and could often be found hiking, kayaking and bird watching on camping trips with his family in Newark Pond, Vermont.

Rev. Gillis is survived by his wife, Judy Stewart Gillis, his former wife, Kate Gillis, son Andrew Gillis and his wife Karen, son Duncan Gillis and his wife Vanessa, stepdaughter Tracy Terry and her husband Marc, stepdaughter Gillian Edeus and her husband Leif, stepdaughter Erin Stewart and her husband Jeff, and ten grandchildren.

The memorial service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 2:00 p.m. at Westminster Unitarian Church, 119 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the UUA Living Tradition Fund, P.O. Box 843154, Boston, MA, 02284, or to Lewy Body Research, MGH Development Office, Attn: Shawn Fitzgibbons, 165 Cambridge St., Suite 600, Boston, MA.

Music at Lily Pads returns with a strong start to the fall season!

September marks the third year of the Music at Lily Pads series. We celebrate with a special songwriter showcase at the Edward Everett Hale House.

Saturday, September 14

Rachel Ries, Kayla Ringelheim and Dylan Lucas Block Harley

Three superb songwriters perform in an intimate setting. Rachel Ries has played Lily Pads twice with Anais Mitchell. Kayla Ringelheim, from Providence, is one of the most requested artists to play our series. Dylan Lucas Block Harley is the son of well-known New England folk artist and storyteller Bill Harley. He is a funny, engaging and honest live performer who writes great songs. We thank Lori Urso and all at Hale House for a chance to return and do another show. Hale House is at 2625A Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry Highway, South Kingstown.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert is at 7:00 p.m. BYOB

Tickets are \$18 advance, \$20 on the day of show and are available at BrownPaperTickets.com, and locally at Sweet Cakes, the Alternative Food Co-op and Looney Tunes II.



Saturday, September 28

The Sweetback Sisters

Sweetback Sisters Emily Miller and Zara Bode may not be blood relations, but their precise, family-style harmonies recall the best of country music from the Everlys to The Judds, as well as the spirited rockabilly energy of Wanda Jackson. The Sweetbacks are concerned with the traditional subjects of heartbreak, revenge, remorse and staying strong in the face of relationships gone wrong, albeit with a contemporary sensibility. "We're a renegade retro band that mixes up country, swing and honky tonk," explains Bode.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the concert is at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 advance, \$20 the day of the show, and are available at BrownPaperTickets.com and Sweet Cakes Bakery, the Alternative Food Co-op and Looney Tunes II.

Sunday, September 29

The Janusz Prusinowski Trio

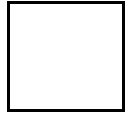
We are honored to host this amazing ensemble from Poland. Janusz Prusinowski Trio is a group of musicians who follow in the tradition of village masters, but they are also an avant-garde band with their own characteristic sound and language of improvisation. They combine music with dance and the archaic with the modern.

The show is at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 advance, \$20 the day of the show and available at BrownPaperTickets.com and Sweet Cakes Bakery, the Alternative Food Co-op and Looney Tunes II.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



In July, I bought a government homestead of sixty-four acres, twenty-three miles from Honolulu, and on August 1, 1900, I took up my residence thereon as a farmer—unquestionably of the “dirt” variety. After some experimentation, I concluded that the land was better adapted to pineapples than to peas, pigs or potatoes, and accordingly concentrated on that fruit . . .

I have been particularly interested in trying to organize our business in such a way that every employee, so far as possible, may feel that his interest is that of the company, and vice versa. I don't claim to have reached this point, but the recipe seems obvious; the Golden Rule, at least in the Confucian form, and preferably in the Christian version, backed up by the quotation from Micah, “What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly before thy God.”

– James Drummond Dole (1877-1958)
from the class book for his 25th Harvard College reunion

James Drummond Dole, “the Pineapple King,” was born in Jamaica Plain, Mass., the son of a Unitarian minister. He developed the pineapple industry in Hawaii and founded the company that later became the Dole Food Company. He was born 136 years ago this month.