



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2013



October Services

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



October 6

"You're so vain, you probably think this sermon's about you." – Amber Kelley Collins

Are you, or someone you know, vain about your appearance or abilities? Do you suffer from self doubt?

Ask your doctor if this sermon is right for you. This sermon is intended for consumption by teenagers as well as adults, but may not be suitable for young children.

October 13

Join the Move: 25 Beacon to 24 Farnsworth – Rev. Judith Smith-Valley

Why would the Unitarian Universalist Association move from its historic headquarters at 25 Beacon Street to an area in Boston called the Innovation District? Because 25 Beacon was built for another time. We will recognize, celebrate and support this exciting (and scary) change.

Special Collection - please bring your checkbooks and cash.

October 20

Baseball as Gospel Truth – Rev. Jan Vickery Knost

In *Baseball as a Road to God*, NYU president John Sexton argues that faith and doubt are at the heart of both religion and baseball. Rev. Knost, a retired Universalist minister who lives in Charlestown and is a frequent and most welcome pulpit guest, will share some thoughts of his own about our National Pastime.

October 27

Healing Ourselves: Connecting Mind/Body/Spirit

– Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley and the UUCSC Wellness Team

This is an area of connection not new to Unitarian Universalism. With the assistance of the Wellness Team, Rev. Judy will explore the relationship of wholeness that has the power to assist us every day.

November 3

In the Face of Death, How Do You Find Meaning and Fulfillment in Life? – Al Killilea

Earlier this year, Al, a retired URI professor, edited a book of essays his students wrote for his Death and Politics course. He and Professor Michael Vocino are working on a second book of one-page essays addressed to the question above. Al will talk about the themes he finds most compelling in those essays, including the idea that allowing death into our consciousness forces us to acknowledge that life is brief and precious.



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

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.*

Rev. Judith Smith-Valley, Accredited Interim Minister

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Pam Santos, Religious Education Director

Michael Galib, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Administrator

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In Between Time

Rev. Dr. Judith Smith-Valley

Accredited Interim Minister



Days are cooling off and the trees and other vegetation are starting to turn in preparation for the coming season. The sun is setting earlier as autumn begins. There is still time to take a short walk in daylight before dinner. This is a favorite time of mine once the weather settles and my allergies quiet. I love the color of the season and the abundant harvest. I find I have to be observant to see the distinctions between fall in Peace Dale (I am living close by in Kingston) and that at home in Kennebunk, Maine. The Weather Channel usually posts only a couple of degrees difference. It is wonderful to be by the ocean so often.

In the past several weeks I have had an opportunity to meet individually with lay leaders and staff of UUCSC. I've met many of you at church in worship services, meetings, the Board Retreat, or the office. Your welcome is much appreciated. You are sharing your personal selves, as well as your aspirations and hopes for UUCSC. I anticipate getting better acquainted as we go along. The interim does not come to "fix" what's not right— or to criticize. I am here to walk with you during your transition so that you can appreciate who and what you are; so that you can define who you will be.

The Transition Team (John Glasheen, Val Follett, Gail Burchard, Clare Sartori, and Essjay Foulkrod) is gathered to support and advise the interim minister. They will be assisting with several activities this year planned to fulfill the goals I bring to an interim ministry and those proposed by the Board. We will keep you informed as plans evolve. Your participation will be critical to meeting our objectives.

I had a delightful and insightful conversation with several members of the congregation in reference to UUCSC worship services. The #1 quality they appreciate in worship is the blending of the music, words and space to offer a spiritual flow within a familiar structure. I was so happy to hear them say they feel that way about the services. I expect to work with staff and the worship committee to reach that continuity. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with your thoughts on worship at UUCSC. If you have been in worship with us, you have noticed that my style is more relaxed than some. I feel we sometimes get "too serious" about our spirituality. We need more fun.

According to the poet Allen Ginsberg, spirituality should be like singing in the bathtub. Yes, that's exactly right. Singing in the bathtub is spontaneous. You don't have to plan for it . . . you just do it.

In Faith,

Rev. Judy

The President's Letter

HELP WANTED

VICE PRESIDENT for vibrant, welcoming, liberal, non-profit, non-dogmatic religious institution in Peace Dale, R.I. Previous committee/board of trustees experience preferred. Candidates must be able to hear both sides of arguments on almost any topic. Term ends first Sunday in June; automatic promotion to president with similar duties but increased visibility. About 3-4 hrs. e-mails, 4 hrs. phone calls per wk. Must attend monthly executive planning, board meetings; quarterly program council meeting; occasional seminars, ad hoc meetings. Positive attitude, organizational skills, compassionate demeanor helpful. Somewhat tough skin a plus. Pay is zilch, rewards boundless. For questions, see current or past presidents of organization.

We are now one-third of the way through our first interim year. Rev. Judy has arrived from the wilds of Kennebunk. Her role is different than that of a settled minister. She comes with training and skills to guide us through this period. She is a minister first, but a transition consultant as well. Her responsibility to us is to offer advice based on her expertise; it is up to us to either take that advice or not. Sometimes it will come as a welcome breath of clarity, and sometimes it will make us uncomfortable, maybe even angry. At the very least it will get us thinking and talking and working on the process of change. We will have lots of stories to tell future members about this period in our history.

We do have a strong organization and we are moving into the new church year stronger than ever. The Harvest Fair planning is going full steam. We have a group looking at how communications and technology can better serve our congregation. The policies and procedures for use of our space are being revised for consistency and clarity. We have a coffee hour with coffee. Amazing things happen here.

The Help Wanted ad is to remind the congregation that we need to formalize a process of transition for our leaders. We may not have a vice president this year, and we have a contingency plan for that. But we need to be aware that as we grow,

we need experience at the helm. While the office of president carries little extra actual authority on the board, it is a position of visibility, and at times becomes a person of focus, both positive and negative. Committee and board experience are needed for one to be aware of the varied and complex nature of our congregational culture.



We have some board members who were relatively new to the church when they were asked to serve, and each one has done an exemplary job, but it was not easy for them, nor was it really fair. So it is important for us to all be aware of where our future leaders are coming from. For our potential leaders, let's encourage progressive participation in committee service, committee chairmanship, and possibly board service as the preferred process of preparation for assuming the office of president.

One of the board's continuing tasks this year is determining how we should govern and manage ourselves. We stand at 150 members as

of last June. The conventional wisdom is that once a congregation approaches 160 members, the nature of the organization changes. It is no longer a group where everyone knows everyone else. Effective means of communication become critical to keep everyone connected. The minister and board can no longer become involved in day to day management of the organization. Decisions must be decentralized to a committee level. The board must set the policy to guide committees in making those decisions, but the decisions must reside with the committees.

The position of office administrator will become more involved and will have to expand as we expand. As building use increases we will need a sexton on staff. Creating an effective process for maintaining day to day affairs will allow our minister to devote his or her time to ministering to the congregation as our spiritual leader.

I speak of our growth as a foregone conclusion. I see it as a natural progression for us. We will have to deal with parking and seating limitations, but there are solutions to those issues.

Change is disquieting to some, exciting for others. But we cannot remain as we were. This transition time is a time to figure out what we want to be in the next several years.

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Our summer Share-the-Plate collections are becoming micro-loans

Our summer Share-the-Plate collections, a combined total of \$702 for July and August, are being used to purchase a Global Community Note to finance micro-loans to cooperatives and other development groups to start businesses.

When we have sought donor comments about Share the Plate collections, a number of people have suggested that we use the collection to empower the recipients as opposed to simply giving alms. This summer's collection addresses that concern. We will invest the money in people through a Global Community Note issued by an established microfinance organization called Oikocredit.

The spark for the creation of Oikocredit came in 1968 at the World Council of Churches annual meeting. Young, politically engaged delegates called for an ethical investment option that put people first and respected their dignity. Then, the micro-loan concept was both innovative and controversial. With major world unrest over issues including South Africa's Apartheid and the Vietnam War, church members wanted assurance that church investments were promoting peace and positive development. The concept of loans (investment) instead of donations (charity) was a controversial notion for many, and it would be nearly ten years before Oikocredit was organized, funded and making its first investments in India

and in Ecuador.

A Global Community Note is similar to a CD, but it is not insured by any government or agency. While our money is theoretically at risk, Oikocredit has had a nearly spotless record of loan repayments from its clients. We had the option of select-



ing an interest rate of 0%, 1% or 2% and an investment term of one, three, or five years. We have selected 2% and 3 years. Our intention is to roll over the note when the invest-

ment term ends. We intend to use the future summer collections to make additional investments in the Global Community.

The roll-over strategy will allow us to see the growth of our investment through the years as we continue to empower economically disadvantaged people with credit. Oikocredit will completely manage our investment and may subdivide the donation among recipients or combine our capital with that of others for bigger projects.

The Social Action Committee invites anyone interested to visit the web sites of Oikocredit USA (<http://www.oikocredit.coop/>) for a more detailed description of the microfinance process.

— Rich Evans

The President's Letter

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We need to determine what success will look like if we realize our vision. No matter what that vision is, it will require effective means of communication, competent management, and visionary governance.

And we, as independent minded, strong willed individuals, will need to remember why we came here in the first place. It is up to each and every one of us

to preserve and nurture that essence of our existence no matter how the outer organizational structure may change.

Each of us has our own take on what that essence is, but at some level, I believe we all are at the same place. We just have to stop sometimes and remind ourselves how deeply connected all of us are.

— Steven M. Harrison

The Tree of Life

For a memorial gift of \$250 or more, a leaf can be inscribed on the UUCSC Tree of Life located in our Sanctuary.

Please contact Kathy Carland at uucscri@yahoo.com or

783-4170 for more information.

"Do the Math" movie from 350.org at URI on October 14

"Do the Math," the new movie from Bill McKibben's nonprofit 350.org, tells the story of the rising movement to fight the fossil fuel industry and change the terrifying math of global warming. This powerful 42-minute documentary also explores the logic of divesting from fossil fuels and the burgeoning national (now international) movement to make it happen.

Divestment campaigns have sprung up on more than 300 college campuses across the nation, the Providence City Council recently voted to divest, the United Church of Christ voted to divest in July, and our sister UU congregations in Cambridge, Mass., and Portsmouth, N.H. have already divested.

At the UUA General Assembly in Louisville in June, delegates passed a resolution calling on congregations to consider divesting from fossil fuels, as John Glasheen announced in his recent sermon.

Should the State of Rhode Island and its public universities divest? Should UUCSC? Where do you stand on this, one of the critical debates of our time? Watch this ground-breaking new film and decide for yourself!

The film will be shown on Columbus Day, Monday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. in Weaver Auditorium at the URI Coastal Institute Building, 1 Greenhouse Road, on the Kingston campus. There is a special guest speaker to be announced (keep your fingers crossed for Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, another divestment proponent!).

This event is free and open to the public. Mark your calendars; invite your friends!

– L isa Petrie, for the Green Task Force



2013 Action of Immediate Witness: Consider divestment from the fossil fuel industry

Delegates to the 2013 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly approved an Action of Immediate Witness calling on congregations to consider withdrawing their investments in fossil fuel industries. The resolution suggests that congregations discuss:

- Stopping any new direct investments in fossil fuel companies, as listed in Carbon Tracker reports;
- Divesting of all direct securities holdings in fossil fuel companies within the next five years;
- Investing in diversified, socially responsible, and climate-friendly securities, and securities in the renewable energy and efficiency sector;
- Investing in making their own facilities more energy efficient, make widespread use of renewable energy, adopt conservation and efficiency measures;
- Evaluating the effectiveness of shareholder advocacy; and
- Retaining the option of owning the minimum number of shares necessary to be an activist shareholder. These shares would be considered "influence payments" and not investments.

For more information, contact socialjustice@uua.org.

Let everybody know about it!

Are you planning an event that you'd like the community to know about? The recently-reorganized Publicity Committee would like to hear from you. Please contact Jean Bowen or Myrina Cardella-Marengi. They need to receive the information about your event at least six weeks in advance.



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education



"If we are to reach real peace in the world we shall have to begin with children; and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have to struggle; we won't have to pass fruitless ideal resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which consciously or unconsciously the whole earth is hungering."

– Mohandas Gandhi

During our first Sunday last month, the children, big and small, decorated peace prayer flags that will hang in our back yard, gracefully sending peace out into the world.

It is said that as the wind blows against and through prayer flags, the prayers are released into the world. Over time, our flags will wear and tear, further releasing their prayers with each fiber that falls. We hope that everyone can share in the prayer for peace that the children have created.

Conversations from the children and youth overheard today in Religious Education included:

- Appretiation and joy at the treasure our church community is to us.
- Exploring the profound differences between religion and spirituality.
- Contemplating various life situations, and how inherent worth needs to be acknowledged for all.

The wisdom shared, by young and old on Sunday mornings is indeed profound. Take a moment to talk the children of our congregation— they are simply inspiring.



Our new Book Corner opens on Sept.29 in the Community Room

Beginning on Sunday, September 29, our new Book Corner will open in the Community Room, on our new bookshelves. We plan to sell donated books in good condition for low prices on the honor system -- we will provide a box in which to leave your payment., and prices will be posted. We will also provide a box where you can leave books you would like to donate. (Please don't put them on the shelves.)

Virginia Carter will be the grand poobah of this endeavor. She will gratefully received your suggestions.



Letters to the Editor

Common ground to stop unwanted pregnancies?

To the Editor:

The new head of the Roman Catholic Church has called upon its members and clergy to follow a more compassionate, loving and human-centered approach in applying its doctrine. This offers us a unique opportunity to find common ground between folks who support a woman's right to choose whether or not to terminate a pregnancy and those who believe that protection of the unborn supersedes this right. Given this shift in church emphasis, perhaps it will be possible for all sides to work together to significantly reduce the incidence of unwanted pregnancies, which, after all, are the cause of most abortions. It will not address the basic issue of whose rights are paramount, but reducing the need for abortions will prevent a lot of pain, violence, and suffering.

Pope Francis has told Catholic doctors that they should not perform abortions, which is within his right as

spiritual leader of that organization, but is this approach a compassionate solution? Women denied safe clinical abortions will be inclined to seek out unlicensed "back room" abortions, which have a much greater risk of complications resulting in unnecessary suffering, long term injury or death. The compassionate approach would be to work to prevent unwanted pregnancies in the first place, thus eliminating the need for most abortions. I believe this is an issue where women's rights advocates and abortion foes agree; the disagreement comes over how to achieve this goal.

If the Catholic Church is truly serious about focusing on a more loving and compassionate interpretation of its doctrine, then it could start by stepping back from its attempts to limit women's access to birth control. Stop hindering the free flow of information regarding all aspects of this issue. Family planning is a personal matter best left up to well informed women.

This includes age-appropriate sex education that is based on biology and physiology, information regarding all available forms of birth control, from abstinence to abortion, and factual information on the potential risks, benefits, and ramifications of each.

Unwanted pregnancies often bring forth children who are left without loving and nurturing parents. Let's help to prevent this unnecessary suffering, each in our own way, while respecting others who pursue the same goal in their own way. We can all take action now that is rational, loving and compassionate.

The morality of sexual relations is a religious issue that must remain separate from issues of personal freedom. Let us hope that this fresh new approach by the Pope will allow us to move forward in providing universal access to both the information and the means to end unwanted pregnancies.

Steven M. Harrison

Letter of appreciation from Peter Morales

The Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, has sent the congregation a letter thanking us for our full financial support for the UUA's Annual Program Fund.

We should be proud of this accomplishment, as not all congregations provide full financial support (\$60 per year for each active member). We have always taken this responsibility very seriously, and each and every member of this congregation deserves a heartfelt thank you for this financial support.

— Steve Harrison

From the Office Administrator

The UUCSC office is open every week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our new assistant office administrator, Christine Giroux, will be here on Fridays.

Beginning in October, all submissions to E-Weekly Highlights and the insert to the Sunday order of worship should be sent to the office (uucscri@yahoo.com) by Tuesday evening. This will allow adequate time for office staff to prepare all publications for Thursday printing.

Please send your information in the most concise form possible—a bullet format, for instance—whenever appropriate. Thank you!

— Kathy Carland, UUCSC Office Administrator

We're working toward better communication

Your UUCSC Board of Directors has put together a small ad hoc committee to consider how we can improve the ways in which we communicate with each other.

Our new web site, the monthly newsletter delivered by e-mail or regular mail, the e-mailed Weekly Highlights, the insert in the Sunday order of worship, and the occasional listserve e-mails provide information to members and friends of the congregation, but often it's duplicate or overlapping information. For the most part, they operate independently of each other, and right now, we don't have a unifying plan for how they should work together. That's what we're trying to address.

So far, the committee includes Barbara Pagh, who worked with Will Bender (current interim webmaster) to develop the new web site; Jean Bowen, publicity coordinator for the congregation; Karen Ellsworth, editor of the monthly newsletter; Dennis Bowman, a newcomer with extensive commercial web-based experience; and Betsy Dalton, the technology and communications liaison for the Board of Directors. Steve Harrison and Rev. Judy also will participate.

We're discussing how we can do a better job of coordinating the flow of news and information, and what changes we need to put in place so it's easier for you to receive information.

We know that many of you rely heavily on e-mail and other electronic venues as your main sources of information. We want you to enjoy reading the messages you receive from the congregation, and we don't want to overwhelm you with too much stuff to read.

We also know that some of you prefer to read something you receive in the mail. We want you to know we haven't forgotten about you.

You will soon see changes in the way we distribute news and information. We expect to rely more on new technology. Our goal is to improve the quality and decrease the quantity of the news and information you receive.

We would love to hear from you while we are considering these improvements. Your suggestions, complaints, questions, and comments are more than welcome. Please contact Betsy Dalton or speak with any other member of the ad hoc committee. If you'd like to join this group, please let Betsy know.

Thanks for your help.



Don't forget about the **UUCSC Blood Drive** on Sunday, October 6. The drive will kick off at 9:00 a.m. and will run until noon. The Bloodmobile will be parked in front of LilyPads. Please consider parking at the Peace Dale Library or the Peace Dale Elementary School. To make an appointment to donate blood, please contact Charlie Donnelly at charlieandiris@yahoo.com or 401.788.7754 or you can use the Rhode Island Blood Center's on-line donor system by visiting the Blood Center's website at www.riba.org. Our sponsor code is 3373. – *Charlie Donnelly*

MUSIC AT LILY PADS

Saturday, October 12th

An Evening with Matuto



Our Lily Pads world music journey continues with Matuto, a band called “blazingly tight” by Style Weekly. Led by guitarist Clay Ross, New York’s Matuto brought their Brazilian/American roots hybrid sound to Africa in August, and returned to play Lincoln Center in New York City, where Mayor Bloomberg honored them as Cultural Ambassadors. “This band aims for the heights of world-music sophistication.” — *Chicago Sun Times*

This will be an incredible night of brilliant musicianship and exuberant songs. Join us. There will be room for dancing. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the music starts at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 26th

Joe Fletcher and the Wrong Reasons

with Christopher Paul Stelling and Dan Blakeslee

Joe Fletcher and the Wrong Reasons return to Lily Pads for their third full band show on our stage. Fletcher curated the special Nashville to Newport portion of the Newport Folk Festival this year, and continues his relentless touring schedule. His new album, released in September, is ‘You’ve Got the Wrong Man.’

Also on the bill are two exceptional solo artists, Brooklyn’s Christopher Paul Stelling and Somerville’s Dan Blakeslee. American Songwriter says Stelling is “what a real self-contained, modern-day troubadour looks and sounds like.” Dan Blakeslee is a singular live performer and fine songwriter who played a great short set at Lily Pads in June, 2012.



This will be another night to remember. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., music starts at 7:30.

Tickets are available at BrownPaperTickets.com and locally at Sweet Cakes Bakery and Café, the Alternative Food Co-op, and Looney Tunes II.

Music at Lily Pads is online at www.musicatlilypads.org and on Facebook.

The Harvest Fair is Saturday, October 5th

We who are your Harvest Fair committee are very excited to inform you that the Fair currently has the potential to be a fabulous success!

We will sell organic hot dogs grilled by Chef Steve, roasted vegetables, and cut fruit. Coffee and bottled beverages, with recycling receptacles around the grounds, will be in keeping with our green values— but allowing for the need to move 'em smoothly and efficiently.

Countless members and friends are busily creating items to donate to be sold. Hats, note cards and gift bags are just a few of the items. Many of you are donating used sports equipment and tools, jewelry that you or loved ones no longer wear, and collectables (think: that lovely item a family member gave to you and you don't really use), Hallowe'en and even dance recital costumes that can be worn for dress-up.

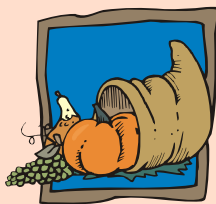
We have been blessed to have received some treasured, and little-used, family-made quilts. Some are hand-pieced! The quilts will be appraised by a quilt and fabric specialist from the New Bedford Whaling Museum. We will then offer them in a silent auction, along with some other valuable items.

We at UVCSC have been as generous as we can afford to be in our effort to financially support our beloved community. This Harvest Fair— which is an idea from our immediate past Treasurer Will Bender— has given us the opportunity to earn much-needed financial gifts from the wider community. And not only dollars!

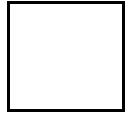
This Fair is a fabulous opportunity for us to go public! Yes, Music at Lily Pads does bring people from the public into our beautiful facility. Now, the Fair will be a grand display of our values, Principles, hearts and energy. People will come in to buy popcorn, note cards and raffle chances for the amazing gift baskets being created through your generosity. But they may also be shopping for a Faith community! Our membership committee will be present with brochures and their loving personalities to sell us to the public. And our recycle bins will sell us. And the pony rides will sell us. And the non-competitive activities for the children will sell us.

This will be a day with great potential to bring us money and members. There are several other street and outdoor events that will help to bring people out looking for a high-quality good time. We will have runners out with our flyers to direct folks to 27 North Road, Peace Dale.

– Linda Whyte Burrell



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“Will it encourage you to know that I was once as ignorant, helpless and awkward a bride as was ever foisted on an impecunious young lawyer? Together we placed many a burnt offering upon the altar of matrimony.”

– Irma S. Rombauer (1877-1962) in *The Joy of Cooking*

In 1931, Irma Rombauer self-published a cookbook that had grown out of a sheaf of recipes she compiled for a class she conducted in the early 1920s to benefit First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, where she and her husband were active members.

A publishing house picked up the book in 1936, and it has never been out of print since then. It was the only cookbook on the New York Public Library's list of the 150 most influential books of the 20th century.

Irma Rombauer was born 136 years ago this month.