



The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

Volume 27 Issue 4

APRIL 2018

April Services

Sunday Morning Services are at 10:00 a.m.

April 1

Spring's Blooming— With Celebrations! – *Rev. David L. Helfer*

What an odd happenstance, when Easter, Passover, and April Fool's Day all coincide.

How will we celebrate this abundance of holidays? You'll have to come to find out!

This will be a multigenerational service, and all are invited to wear festive spring attire.

April 8

“The Beauty in Us All” – *Human Creativity*

Deanna Camputaro and her Central Falls performance troupe, Human Creativity,

will present “The Beauty in Us All.” There will be drumming and dance

and the beauty of expression throughout the service.

April 15

Life and Death: Making Meaning of Our Lives – *Rev. David L. Helfer*

In this season of rebirth, we will explore, with joy and possibility,

how we enjoy now while also getting ready for later.

A workshop on end-of-life planning will follow coffee hour.

April 22 - Earth Day

Borrowed from our Children: Climate Change and Intergenerational Justice

– *Lisa Petrie and UUCSC Youth*

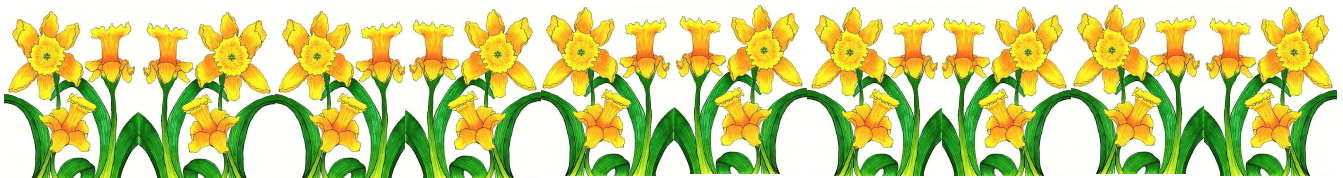
Just as millions of youth are rising up to demand safe schools, a growing number are rising up to demand a safe climate. Twenty-one courageous young people have taken the federal government to court to demand climate action. What do we owe to our youth and future generations, and how can we support them at this critical time?

April 29

Calling Forth the Sun – *Rev. David L. Helfer*

Join us for this day of pageantry, ritual, and celebration, as we welcome in

the season, new members, and perhaps some special guests.



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

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Karen St. Peter, Office Administrator

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday

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At the Water's Edge

Rev. David L. Helfer



Dear Members and Friends,

I think most of you know I went to California a few weeks ago, to visit family and especially my beloved 5-year-old nephew, Will.

Will was changed. All the sudden, he's not a toddler, but a boy! Tall, talkative, full of opinions and laughter. He's already mastered his father's sense of irony, even!

So, I suppose I wasn't surprised when this boy wanted to play a board game. "Monopoly!" he insisted.

I consented, but also figured that a 5-year-old hadn't mastered the complexity of that game.

I was wrong.

"Uncle David," Will asked, batting his long eyelashes at me, "don't you want to buy that property?" Always these were the less useful properties, the ones he didn't want. My nephew was trying to bankrupt me!

In the end, he succeeded. To his great joy.

I was more joyous about the conversation that followed. We talked about what it means to buy property, whom he thinks owns property and who he thinks doesn't, and if the notion of ownership is fair at all.

What did I learn, you ask?

That this kindergartner has a deep sense of right and wrong, a curiosity about the world, and a strong sense of identity.

This made me think about you, about UUCSC, and about our religious education. We're fortunate to have—and have had—DREs who truly center the children's needs. And, the congregation is doing a fantastic job of working with staff to create ever more meaningful multigenerational approaches to worship.

This past Sunday, a colleague conducted a "reverse" RE. This meant that the children and youth stayed in worship for the full hour, and the adults were sung out to one of several RE offerings.

It made me wonder—what's possible here? What are the opportunities to capture our hearts, minds, and spirits across the lifespan?

I don't know the answer. But you can be assured we'll keep trying, experimenting, and engaging with you in ways foster faith formation, religious learning, for all of us.

With love and curiosity,

Rev. David



A Note from the President

Energy is building. Things are awakening and growing.

And spring is springing, too.

The energy at UUCSC is what I see building. New faces appearing all of the time. New folks joining, and happily finding areas of service to try out as they figure out their best way to serve the congregation. If the fit isn't the best, we understand any need to change, and try another task.

Newer folks will learn what we longer-standing Members and Friends know. Some task are serving on committees, some are behind the scenes . . . like folding Orders of Service. Thank you. Some are front and center like ushering. Thank you. Some are one-time things . . . like the day someone lugged in carpet cleaning equipment and greatly improved the appearance of the carpet in the Sanctuary. Thank you.

Many of us have sprung forward, moved by the community energy. Some feel that they have had a turn, and are taking a breather . . . a respite from active duty. Everyone gets to take turns and to take a break.

Some have not yet found something that feels right for them. Committing to a task or a committee can feel like a big step. One way to explore one's options is to do the exploring away from UUCSC. The New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association offers day-long and half-day workshops that guide congregants in ways to serve their faith communities. You can see all the offerings for spring on the district website (<https://www.uua.org/new-england/>). The activities are held at various UU locations. One is as close as East Greenwich, Rhode Island. There are usually opportunities to carpool with other folks, a great chance to get to know each other better . . . even when you've known each other for years! Then, one gets to meet UUs from other congregations, too.

Maybe I'll see some of you at an event, and even give you a ride— I love a road trip!

*Peace 'n' Luv,
Linda*

Dining for Women on April 3

Our Dining for Women group will meet for a potluck dinner in the Oneto Community Room on



Tuesday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m. Bring a simple dish and share in the camaraderie of “women helping other women, one meal at a time” through our giving circle donations.

Dining for Women (www.diningforwomen.org) has chapters throughout the country. Ours meets on the first Tuesday of every month, and all women are welcome. For more information, call Gail Burchard at 294-6789.

See The Gnomes on April 28

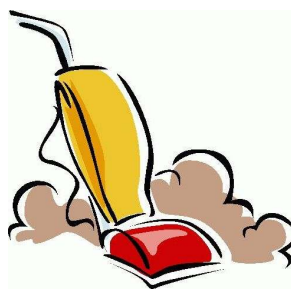
Music ‘n’ More at Lily Pads will present The Gnomes on Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

An infectious and eclectic group, The Gnomes will make you clap, stomp and dance to their dynamic folk-rock blend of Celtic, Scandinavian, Easter European, Asian, African, Caribbean, Klezmer and Native American music. Tickets are \$15.

The past three shows sponsored by Music ‘n’ More at Lily Pads have raised more than \$1,500 for UUCSC.

Test drive a Covenant Group

Would you like to enrich your connections by engaging in deeper conversations about life and spirituality? One type of Small Group Ministry at UUCSC is the Covenant Group. Eight to ten individuals commit to meeting together twice a month for at least six months. Meetings follow an established format. Please join us for a sample Covenant Group experience on Sunday, April 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The topic will be, “How did you find Unitarian Universalism or our congregation?” Questions? contact Sally Barney or Essjay Foulkrod.



Spring cleaning work party on April 14

Everyone is welcome to our spring cleaning work party on Saturday, April 14 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

We’ll be working indoors and, if weather permits, outdoors as well. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies and yardwork tools.

Womensphere Spring Event April 28 in New Bedford

Womensphere is a sacred circle gathering of women in the UUA’s Ballou-Channing District.

The theme of the spring 2018 Womensphere event is “Empowering Women of All Ages – Developing Inner Resilience.” The event will take place on Saturday, April 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at First Unitarian



Church of New Bedford. For more information, open this link:

http://uusouthcountyrri.org/wp/cpt_news/womensphere-spring-event-is-on-april-28-in-new-bedford/.

The Path to Membership continues on April 8

Our second spring Path to Membership class, “How Our Congregation Functions,” will be on Sunday, April 8 from 11:30 to 12:30. The Membership Committee will lead the discussion.

The Path to Membership classes are for newcomers who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and for those interested in becoming members of our congregation. For more information, contact Carla Bowman at 804-380-9936 or cbow5@aol.com. A New Member Ceremony will take place during the service on Sunday, April 29.

Our Living Legacy

Eleven years ago, our congregation was holding Sunday services at the Post 37 American Legion Hall in Peace Dale. We had been sharing the space for several year and were desperately longing for a home of our own. The dedication, tenacity and determination of our search committee enabled us to find our Lily Pads property. We launched a capital campaign, led by the Joyful Giving Task Force and the Finance Committee, to raise the money we needed to purchase the property and complete the necessary renovations.

Our goal was \$300,000 to \$400,000, a hefty sum. The Ballou-Channing District told us it was impossible to raise that much money immediately, and that we would need a two-to-three-year capital campaign. But they were wrong. It took us only a hundred days to raise \$800,000 in cash and pledges from seventy members and friends who believed that our dream of having a home of our own could become a reality.

Eleven years later, our congregation is planning its second capital campaign. This time, our dream is to have financial security. The Board of Directors has appointed a task force to explore how we can realize that dream. The Our Living Legacy Task Force is currently preparing an initial envisioning document for the congregation to review.

During our first capital campaign, we used "cottage meetings"— small gatherings of members and friends— to explain our goals and solicit pledges. The Our Living Legacy Task Force will host cottage meetings in the coming months to share our vision, ask for your ideas, and listen to your suggestions. With the support of 150 members and more than 80 friends, the Our Living Legacy Task Force members— David Ruede, Jean Burke, Nancy Rose, Elise Bender, Sky Kimball, Edward Avizinis and April Ruedaflores— are confident that this campaign will be as successful as the first one. Let's join together and make our dreams come true.

UUCSC is now at Amazon Smile

If you shop on the Amazon.com website, there's a new way you can support our congregation financially at the same time. For every eligible item you buy on the website, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to UUCSC.

Here's how to do it: Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. On the right-hand side of the screen you'll see "Select a Charity." Type "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County" (not the abbreviation UUCSC) in the box and press "Search." On the next screen, press "Select" next to "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County." The website will automatically remember your selection, and 0.5% of the price of every eligible item you buy will be donated to UUCSC.

Remember that you have to shop on the <https://smile.amazon.com> site— not the amazon.com site— to trigger the automatic donation. If a product you're considering is eligible for the automatic

donation program, you will see the words "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" in the product details.

If you shop regularly on Amazon, please visit <https://smile.amazon.com> and designate UUCSC as your charity of choice. Remember to tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the program and ask them to choose UUCSC as their charity, too.



Fun things to do in April and May from the Wellness Team

The UUCSC Wellness Team continues to plan programs for your enjoyment. From monthly activities such as hikes and gong meditation to special events such as dances, cooking classes, and bike rides, we aim to support your well-being of body, mind, and spirit.

The Wellness Team also has been hosting coffee hour after the service once a month. You may have noticed more fruit, vegetables, and other healthy snack options. We encourage you to support this effort by bringing your own healthy favorites to share at coffee hour.

Here are the programs we're offering during April and May:



Sunday, April 8 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Meditation and Gong Bath in the Sanctuary. Gongmaster Marion Hearn invites you into deep relaxation as she creates a sound vibration healing environment with her gongs. This event occurs one Sunday a month near the time of a full moon. The next one is on Sunday, April 29.

Saturday, April 7 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., hike at Tri-Pond Park, an easy-to-moderate one-hour hike through the woods. We offer a hike at a different location on the first Saturday of each month.



On Sunday, April 8, the Wellness Team will host coffee hour after the service. The team will provide healthy snacks and the opportunity to talk with Wellness Team members.



Saturday, May 12 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., wild foods foraging with Brett Mayette. The group will meet at Roger Wheeler State Beach in Narragansett to harvest local seaweed and other wild foods, and return to church for a cooking demonstration and tasting. The fee for this event is \$20. Please register with Sarah Bell in advance.

Saturday, May 12 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., the Cajun band Magnolia will perform in the Sanctuary. The evening will begin with Cajun two-step and waltz lessons. Admission is \$15.

Saturday, May 19 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., a local bike ride. Teen and adult riders will meet at church and enjoy a moderately-paced bike ride to a scenic local destination.



For more information about any of these activities, contact Sarah Bell at sarahbell@earthlink.net or 207-1634. The Wellness Team members (Sarah Bell, Lynda Wells, Harry and Allison Buffum, Dave Damon, Elaine Airozo, Carolyn Gilligan, and Heidi Kranz) invite you to share your suggestions for wellness activities, and welcome new members at any time.

Biodiversity and the Invenergy power plant

Wednesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Ecologist Rick Enser will talk about the potential ecological impact of the proposed Invenergy power plant in Burrillville at UUCSC on Wednesday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m.

A founding member and past president of the Rhode Island Natural History Survey and the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, as well as author of the original Atlas of Breeding Birds in Rhode Island, Rick formerly worked as the coordinator of DEM's Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program, which documented the state's biodiversity and provided guidance for the conservation of rare and endangered species.

He will talk about the biological significance of Rhode Island's northwest corner, the impact of putting the largest power plant ever built in Rhode Island in the middle of the state's most biologically significant forest, and why Invenergy's proposed mitigation strategy won't work.

His talk, free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Green Task Force, the Southern Rhode Island Progressive Alliance, and Fossil Free Rhode Island.

The Wellness Team's "Conversations Around Death" continue

On Saturday, February 24, thirteen UUCSC members and friends, led by Sarah Bell and Sally Barney, gathered to discuss a variety of end-of-life topics, including funeral planning and burial options, and to discuss documents including Advance Medical Directives and Health Care Powers of Attorney.

The gathering was an excellent preview for the service on Sunday, April 15. Rev. David's sermon, "Life and Death: Making Meaning of Our Lives," will explore how we can enjoy life now while getting ready for what comes later. After the service, Marcia Boyd and Lou Rubinstein will lead a workshop on end-of-life planning.

At the gathering in February, Sally shared

information about funeral homes and green burial, and the planning kit called "Before I Go, You Should Know," available from the non-profit Funeral Consumers Alliance of Rhode Island (<http://www.funerals-ri.org/>)

The folks who attended appreciated the sharing and information and felt inspired to continue to explore end-of-life issues in this supportive atmosphere. Some ideas for future activities include creating a memorial garden, celebrating a remembrance service, taking field trips to view cemeteries offering green burial options, viewing videos on dying at home and home funerals, and developing a Small Groups Ministries discussion group on death and dying topics. – Sally Barney





Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

Happy Spring to our whole UUCSC family! Winter took her time on the way out this year, and we are ready to freshly cultivate the joy of being present to the Earth as she awakens. We're looking forward to spending more time outdoors during RE, building a relationship with the natural world as part of our spiritual practice.

New beginnings and fresh growth are a reminder to tune into what we really value. That being said, I'd like to offer you the words of Rev. Lowell Brook as a reminder of why we have RE:

What do our children need on a Sunday morning?

- They need to light a candle, and have a quiet moment to enjoy its mystery.
- They need to sing a song, to hear their own voice and other voices joined together, and to feel the feelings that are stirred by music.
- They need to hear a story and have a chance to share their own, remembering that we are each different and also very alike.
- They need to create something. Expressing themselves, whether using words or materials, helps to bind the different parts of ourselves and life together. That's what religion is.
- They need to be with an adult who is interested in the world and who feels the privilege and responsibility of their trust—one who is glad to be with them, and regards them positively.

Into this safe and encouraging context, we may weave the content of our religious traditions. The history and common threads of our identity are important to be sure, but without this essential loving embrace the education will not be religious.

We're looking forward to some exciting times as we celebrate the mystery of sacred experience together!

Here are some April dates to keep in mind:

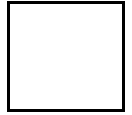
Sunday April 1: Easter multi-generational service

Saturday April 21: Spiritual Parenting group. 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Sunday April 29: May Day Celebration – Join us in the back yard after the service for a May Pole, live music, and dancing!

With love,
Bethany

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“We get our most important education not through books but through work. We are developed by our daily task, or else demoralized by it, as by nothing else.”

– Anna Garlin Spencer

Born in Attleboro, Mass. on April 17, 1851, Spencer was an educator, Unitarian minister, a founder of the NAACP, and the first woman ordained as a minister in Rhode Island.