

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 7

JULY - AUGUST 2016



Summer Services

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



July 24

Welcome House: The Role of Faith Communities in Ending Homelessness – *Joseph Dziobek*

Homelessness is a long, lonely road to nowhere. Welcome House, in Peace Dale, is where the road to nowhere ends.

Local faith groups such as UUCSC can help Welcome House end homeless in our community.

Mr. Dziobek is the executive director of Welcome House.

July 31

What Would the Universe Think? – *Mac Richardson*

Where do we fit in this vast universe? How can our appreciation of the universe help us preserve our sanity and keep our perspective?

August 7

Coming Together, Keeping Together, Working Together: The Personal Theology of Edward Everett Hale – *Joan Youngken*

Hale (1822-1909) was an author and Unitarian minister. From 1873 to 1910, the Hale family spent summers in Matunuck. Hale's summer writing was greatly influenced by his surroundings, which he called "a temple consecrated to nature."

Joan is project historian at the Hale House museum on Commodore O. H. Perry Highway.

August 14

Confessions of a Truth Addict: Finding the Real in an Age of Overload – *David Floyd*

Are you comfortable with what you're told about the events that shape our world, or do you feel compelled to go deeper? Does our society encourage in-depth inquiry— or subtly discourage it?

August 21

The River is Everywhere – *Johnette Rodriguez and Dorothy Devine*

In the 19th century, power from the Saugatucket River drove looms that wove cloth for the clothing of Southern slaves and woolen blankets for Union soldiers. In the 21st century, the river is a natural habitat home to fish, birds, and turtles— a natural world in the heart of South Kingstown.

August 28

Life Launch: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Lift Off! – *Rev. David Proctor*

In September, UUCSC begins a new chapter when we welcome Rev. David L. Helfer as our settled minister.

How will we handle this change? Rev. Proctor specializes in working with individuals, congregations, and nonprofit organizations facing life-changing transitions.

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. David L. Helfer, Minister

Pam Santos, Religious Education Director ■ **Michael Galib**, Music Director

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

Office Hours: The office is closed for the summer. It will reopen on Tuesday, August 30.

Board of Directors

Betsy Dalton, President (2016-2017) ■ Linda Whyte Burrell, Vice President (2016-2018)

Steve Harrison, Treasurer (2015-2017) ■ Mary Fulton, Clerk (2016-2018)

Randi Marten (2016-2018) ■ Elise Bender (2015-2017)

Sally Barney (2016-2018) ■ Leah Canin (2015-2017) ■ Natalie Herbermann (2016-2018)

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Suzanne Paton, Religious Education Committee • Mary Finnegan, Personnel Committee

Marcia Boyd, Finance Committee • Ed Burrell, Facilities Committee

Susan Moreland, Music Committee • Linda Whyte Burrell, Social Events Committee

Lisa McHenry & Val Follett, Hospitality Coordinators

David Floyd, Music at Lily Pads Coordinator • Susan Strakosch, Worship Committee

Patience Peck, Flower Committee • Dave Ruede, Stewardship Committee

Dennis Bowman, Communications & Publicity Committee

Karen R. Ellsworth, Weekly E-News Editor

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<https://www.facebook.com/UUCSC>

We belong to each other

The past few weeks, with the heightened unrest in the world, I've been thinking of you, the members and friends of UUCSC. While I don't formally begin as your settled minister until late August, it feels needed and appropriate to address, even just briefly, the intensity of this time in our history.

Of course, there have been times like this before.

I remember being a teenager, reading daily of the wars in Central America, Afghanistan, and even the Falkland Islands. I was particularly aware of the Cold War, of the seemingly eternal standoff between the US and the then-USSR, and that ever-growing stockpile of nuclear weapons that might just end the world.

That decades-old standoff showed no signs of changing . . . until one day it did. The USSR dissolved into individual countries, the wall came down, and what was Eastern Europe became part of the European Union. Before our eyes, the world was moving towards democracy.

Some might say that a miracle occurred. Not only did the seemingly impossible happen, but it did so at breakneck speed.

Hope ruled that day. If we could accomplish the end of the Cold War, what else might be possible? Change begat more change, and humanity found itself celebrating victories rather than living in fear.

But history is often cyclical, and a quarter century later, we find ourselves at a similar precipice, looking for safety in a world flirting with fascism and anarchy, embedded in racism and fear, living with the impacts of changing climates, and with militarization and violence on the rise.

The question, the unavoidable question, is clear— what might shift us from this precipice and reorient us in a direction of justice and peace? Can we shift the course of our nation and our world?

We can and we must, one person at a time.

For as much as the Cold War was about national pride, what allowed for the compromise and healing, in part, were two leaders able to sit and negotiate with each other. Both held faith that the impossible was possible, that they might find common ground.

And they were right.

So too here.

In the midst of this week marked by international and national attacks, hate and fear also took hold close to home this week. As most of you know, our local mosque was vandalized and defaced. Anti-Muslim violence, of the sort all too prevalent in much of the world, exists too in our beloved South County.

As a faith community, we at UUCSC can imagine what it might feel like to enter our own sanctuary one day, and find it broken and embedded with slurs. And in that knowing, we showed up for our Muslim siblings, both in the vigil and in individual offers of assistance.

This is faith, and this is hope. We know that we are more together than alone, that we belong to each other.

Perhaps this sounds simplistic, but it is also truth. We have love and an ability to keep reaching out.

Reach out when you feel despair for the world. Reach out when you have faith that might buoy others. Reach out when you encounter someone whom differs from yourself. Reach out in ways that shift the world toward a more just place.

In the words of Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

It is with joy that I will join you formally in late August, and it is with delight that I will serve as UUCSC’s settled minister, as we share our time and talents to help build the world we dream of.

With faith and love,

Rev. David



The President's Letter

Summer, Summer, Summer!

Greetings everyone!

What a wonderful and touching month June 2016 has been for our UUCSC congregation. First came our annual meeting, followed directly by Candidating Week, with numerous chances to meet and talk with Reverend David Helfer. So many members and friends came out and took part in the week's activities. The Board sends a hearty and sincere thank you to all for your participation. It was so interesting and confirming for me to sit in on many of the excellent and deep discussions that took place. On his second Sunday with us, Rev. David delivered a very moving sermon honoring those who died in the Orlando shooting and providing a path through which to process this terrible event. After the service, the 84 members of the congregation attended the special meeting (a very healthy quorum). A total of 97.6% of those present voted (there were two abstentions), and 100% of those voting voted to call Rev. David as our new settled minister. Rev. David has happily accepted this call to ministry with us, and will officially begin on August 24, with fall services beginning on Sunday, September 11. Please

be sure to join us on that day, as it will surely be a day to remember, for many reasons. We welcome Rev. David, his fiancé Julia, and both of her sons to our UUCSC congregation with the warmest wishes for a long and happy relationship for us all!



The next important event in June was our happy-sad, joyous-yet-tearful farewell to Reverend Jan Knost, our amazing interim minister for the past two years. Rev. Jan came out of his second retirement to serve the UUCSC congregation, and I know that we all are so thankful that he did! Rev. Jan has been our guide, our mentor, our spiritual leader, and our cheerleader—and we will love you forever, Jan. We can only hope that you and Lorna and your wonderful family realize how very, very much we love and care about you. And we'll be

looking for you both at the Matunuck Oyster Bar often! We will never forget you, and we send enormous prayers for peace and healing to Keith. Thank you so much.

Summer is upon us, and the UUCSC is up and running for summer services. Our Worship Committee has organized a diverse series of Sunday services for everyone to enjoy, and we do hope that you'll take some time to check out the summer service schedule, which is posted on (<http://uusouthcountyri.org/wp/>), our UUCSC website. In addition to the summer services, our website contains much more information for you to enjoy, to learn more about our congregation, and to keep up with the latest events posted to our online calendar. Special to note is that UUCSC will hold a summer picnic and potluck gathering on Sunday, July 24, at noontime (directly following our Sunday service). By popular demand, and the graciousness of our host, this picnic-potluck will take place at the home of Virginia Carter. More information and directions are available on the UUCSC website calendar. Just click on the Picnic tab for July 24. continued on page 6

Two church picnics this summer

Our congregation is having two “everybody is invited” church picnics this summer.

The first one is at noon on Sunday, July 24 at Virginia Carter’s home, 619 C Ministerial Road in South Kingstown. Virginia’s home is next to Round Pond.

The second one is at noon on Sunday, August 21, after our service celebrating the Saugatucket River. The location is 99 North Road, Peace Dale, the home of Brian Maynard and Nancy Dean. It’s just up the road from Lily Pads and next to Saugatucket Pond. Leave your car at Lily Pads and walk to the picnic. There is limited parking available for those who can’t walk there.



Please bring a dish to share, your beverage of choice, your bathing suit, your towel, and your chair to both picnics. Because both picnics will take place next to a pond, parents must remember to keep a close watch on their children at all times.

We hope to see you there!

The President’s Letter

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I want to take this opportunity to thank a few folks for their efforts on behalf of UUCSC. Thanks go to our Communications team for their work in reorganizing and updating the UUCSC website. If you have not been to the website lately, check it out! And please share it with others. Also, thanks go to Linda Dupuis for her dedication and determination to complete our new pictorial directory of UUCSC members, friends, and families. Linda put innumerable hours of work into this effort and I encourage everyone to take a look at the directory online, either by using

the link in each week’s E-News or directly on our website. For those who would like a print copy of the directory, these are available through the UUCSC office for a small fee (for the printing). Linda Dupuis can answer any other questions you may have about the directory.

Additionally, I want to thank our dedicated Equal Exchange crew, who have brought our Sunday store to a new level—and always greet you with a smile, and a nice bar of chocolate (fair trade, of course!). And finally, to everyone who helped and worked so hard to make Candidating Week such a success— hosts, volunteers,

Board members, committee chairs and members. We came together in this week. We shared together. We worked together. Let us move forward into the new year in September with joy, with love, and with confidence in ourselves and each other, and in our new minister, Reverend David Helfer. It will be the 25th anniversary year for UUCSC—and I know that it will be fantastic!

With much love to all, and best wishes for a fabulous summer.

Betsy Dalton,
President, UUCSC

To the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County,

Lorna and I just wanted to thank you all for your very generous and unexpected gifts to us on our last Sunday, June 26th. We plan to put them away for future plans, including inviting family to the restaurant and a possible trip to England. Jan's always wanted to re-visit his college at Oxford and we have a number of friends in the Manchester area where we served their congregation at Queens Road Unitarian Church way back when. So thank you all. It was a wonderful, touching gift which we will never forget.

– Ever with affection from Lorna and Rev. Jan

March for a clean energy revolution

On Sunday, July 24, at noon in Philadelphia, Food & Water Watch and allied groups are staging a march on the eve of the Democratic National Convention. Some people at UUCSC are exploring the possibility of sending a contingent to the March from the congregation. If you'd be interested in going, either by train or by car, please contact Lisa Petrie as soon as possible. To find out more about the march, visit <http://www.cleanenergymarch.org/>

Two Mindful Journeys for UUs and their friends

The Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Toronto, Canada (www.nuuc.ca) is planning two mindful journeys in 2017. All UUs and their friends are invited to join them.



Peru: March 25 through April 5, 2017

Always wanted to experience Machu Picchu? Join us! Our journey will be filled with comfortable places to stay, Shamanic conversations, lovely food, water blessings at an old Inca spring, beautiful natural vistas and reflections while sitting on a mountain top.

Portugal and Spain: May 14 through 24, 2017

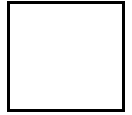
We'll travel from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, we'll enjoy soulful Fado music, a tile-making workshop, wine, port, and culinary tastings, and a bit of a walk on the Camino. Imagine cruising down the Douro River sipping port while reflecting on the scenic vineyard-covered hillsides.



This is the tenth year the Neighbourhood UU Congregation of Toronto has planned mindful journeys. The journeys are led by the Rev. Wayne Walder, a Unitarian Universalist minister from Toronto. To receive a detailed itinerary for either journey, please e-mail Beverly Carr at Beverlz@me.com .

To learn more, go to <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys%20/>.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

All lovely things will have an ending,
All lovely things will fade and die;
And youth, that's now so bravely spending,
Will beg a penny by and by.

- Conrad Aiken

Conrad P. Aiken, a Unitarian, was a poet and novelist. He held the position now known as U.S. Poet Laureate from 1950 to 1952. Aiken was born in Savannah, Georgia on August 5, 1889.