



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

February Services

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

February 4

Poverty in the Pulpit: A Call for a Jubilee Year – Rev. David L. Helfer

At a time of escalating inequality, there is often a religious call for a reallocation of resources at the most basic level. Let us imagine, together, a world in which all are fed, housed, and safe.

February 11

Why I Write, Why I Wrote, What I Learned – Hilary Salk

In 2016 Hilary Salk self-published a novel called *Eavesdropping in Oberammergau* that draws on her experiences as an American Jewish girl living with her parents in Germany three years after the Holocaust. She now asks the questions: Did I feel safe then? Am I safe now?

Hilary Salk has degrees from Brown University and Rhode Island College. She founded the Rhode Island Women's Health Collective in 1975, ran for governor in 1982, and worked as a real estate broker in Providence for 25 years.

February 18

The Ncredibull Revival – Christopher Johnson

In a spoken-word performance, Christopher Johnson will pull from his experiences of life's highs and lows to engage and demonstrate the buoyancy and resilience of the human spirit.

February 25

Loving One and All – Rev. David L. Helfer

Since its inception more than fifty years ago, our First Principle has been the source of much debate. Do we mean only to recognize humans as inherently worthy? What about sentient and non-sentient beings? Most tangibly, what about our pet companions?

Bring with you a memento— a picture, a drawing, a leash— of your animal companion, and we shall bless it in our own Unitarian Universalist way!



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

REV. DAVID L. HELFER, MINISTER

Office telephone: (401) 284-3321 • e-mail: uucscminister@gmail.com

Bethany Vaccaro, Religious Education Director ■ Michael Galib, Music Director

Karen St. Peter, Office Administrator

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

Board of Directors

Linda Whyte Burrell, President (2017-2019) ■ Emily Jacobs, Vice President (2017-2018)

Aline Couture, Treasurer (2017-2019) ■ Mary Fulton, Clerk (2016-2018)

Randi Marten (2016-2018) ■ Elise Bender (2017-2019)

Sally Barney (2016-2018) ■ Dave Hurdis (2017-2019) ■ Natalie Herbermann (2016-2018)

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

Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

At the Water's Edge

Rev. David L. Helfer



Dear members and friends,

As I write this, I am sitting within sight of my front window, where the snow is falling, softly blanketing all I can see. There's something almost otherworldly and profoundly beautiful about snow, how it quiets the world, reflects the light, and offers a soft landing space.

It helps at times like these, when the Universe says, with the weather alone, "slow down, you're going to be here a while."

Such will be our focus in February, from a worship perspective. We're going to slow down and become present. Without losing sight of the larger world, we'll spend time replenishing our spirits.

What will that look like? Some of that answer is up to you.

In the first week of February, I invite you to e-mail me, or stop me in the office, and tell me, what does your heart need these days? What makes you laugh out loud, smile unexpectedly, feel deeply and profoundly connected?

And then take that out a level. What is a joy you share with others, are there ways you're of service that fill you back up? What do you do for fun, in the midst of all the world's tumult?

I'll begin: I'm a huge fan of amusement parks of all types, am happiest out in nature, am nurtured by cooking, and stay in close contact with friends and family near and far. When I am most disconnected, I walk on the beach and listen to the waves, which brings me back to center. And at my most joyous, there is sometimes a literal jumping up and down with joy (not terribly ministerial, but . . .).

Let us remember to live our whole lives, to pull strands of the joy more deeply into our days, and to share that love with each other and those we encounter.

From my open heart to your own,

With joy and love,

Rev. David

A Note from the President

As you clear out and attempt to simplify your home and life, please save stuff for a fundraiser for UUCSC. Savers, the thrift store chain, will buy our stuff for sixteen cents a pound. Sounds like small change, but if sixty to a hundred of us (and family and friends) combine our old clothes, shoes and even books (the ones not good enough for the book corner in the Oneto Community Room) it will amount to something worthwhile. And none of it goes into the landfill!

Manufacturers buy our old stuff that is too stained or worn to be used, and shred it to make stuffing. Think of this as the rag-man of old. Please save everything. A collection date will be announced soon.

We will be re-generating the Small Group Ministry or Affinity Groups. People will be placed in groups based on their interests so they can build connections within the congregation. These groups will be ongoing intimate gatherings around a topic that will afford one bonds that can't be made with every person in a congregation of more than 140 people. Speak to

Rev. David, Sally Barney or Essjay Foulkrod to get more information and let them know you're interested.

We will be re-starting Circle Pot Lucks. These are meals shared in various homes. No cost, just bring a dish to share. There will be sign-up sheets on which you'll note your desire to attend and whether you are able to host on occasion.



Participants will be grouped (and re-grouped in future months) so that from long-time members and friends to our newest members, friends and visitors, folks can get to make social connections beyond exchanges at coffee hour or a meeting. Watch for the sign-up sheets for a good time!

Speaking of a good time, attend a Board of Directors meeting! We meet at 6:30 p.m. every third

Wednesday, and our meetings are open to visitors. We have a great Board. Meetings are fun and short. . . the January meeting was scary short! We are so efficient. Folks cheerfully volunteer and carry out tasks. We work well together. There is a warm and respectful camaraderie between us. The proof is in the minutes of each meeting, which are posted on the UUCSC website.

Directors will once again read the announcements at the Sunday service, and we'll do some ushering-all with the intention of you getting to know us better. We want to exercise every opportunity to serve UUCSC to the best of our abilities. We want to know you, and hear from you. Tell us what you think and what can be done to increase and improve the shared ministry to our congregation. Read past minutes. Visit a Board meeting. Greet us at church- we now have "Board Member" labels on our name tags. And maybe we'll dine with you at a Circle Pot Luck!

Peace 'n' Love,
Linda

Do you know how to reserve a time and location for an event or meeting?

Go on the UUCSC website (<http://uusouthcountyri.org>). At the top of the home page, point your mouse on the "What's Happening!" box and click on the "Calendar Page" link to open up the calendar.

Find the date you want and see if the time and location you want to reserve are available. (Clicking on the name of the event will open a small window with additional information about the event.) If nothing else is scheduled for the time and location you want, contact Karen St. Peter, the office administrator (uucscri@yahoo.com or 284-2297) and ask her to reserve the time and location and to post the event on the calendar. She will need to know which room or rooms will be used, how long the event will be, including set-up and clean-up time, and whether you will need to pay a speaker or performer at the event.

If you have any questions or need more information, just call Karen St. Peter at 284-2297.

Learn how to keep in touch!

Do you know how to visit our UUCSC website or our UUCSC FaceBook page from your smart phone, tablet or laptop? Would you like to learn?

Members of the Communications and Publicity Committee will show you how, and explain some of the helpful features on the website, at an information session immediately after the service on Sunday, February 18.

You'll be able to check the website's interactive calendar of events, use the on-line directory of members, and take advantage of the on-line library resources. Committee members and volunteers also will demonstrate accessibility features that make the website easier to read, and you'll learn how to download an application to your smartphone for instant access to the members directory.



You'll also see a demonstration of how to find our UUCSC FaceBook page.

On the two Sundays after the February 18 information session— Sunday, February 25 and Sunday, March 4— committee members and volunteers will be available after the service to give you one-on-one help. Be sure to bring your smartphone, tablet or laptop with you to church if you'd like to take advantage of these individual learning sessions.

Our website and FaceBook page contain timely information about what's happening in our congregation. The members of the Communications and Publicity Committee want everyone to be able to have access to this information. Don't let inexperience or lack of technical knowledge hold you back! It's easy to access the website and FaceBook page, and it's amazingly convenient.

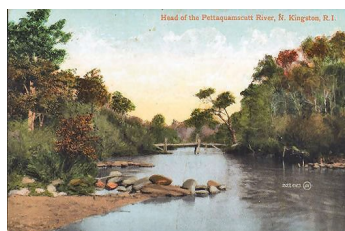
Please plan to be there after the service on February 18. The committee members want to answer your questions and they also want to hear your ideas about how we can continue to build our communications system and make it even better. If you'd like more details about this information session, contact committee chair Betsy Dalton at elizabethmdalton@gmail.com.

Narrow River Preservation Association is this month's Share the Plate partner

Narrow River, also known as the Pettaquamscutt River, is an even-mile-long tidal inlet connected by a narrow channel to a series of kettle basins fed by a small stream. Since 1970, Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) has worked to preserve the river's rich biodiversity of animal and plant life and protect the quality of life in the estuary and watershed.

The nonprofit association's work includes an extensive river

monitoring program in which volunteers test water at fourteen sites on the river and its freshwater inputs;



educational programs and recreational events that build aware-

ness of the watershed and the need to protect its environment; and support of and cooperation with other non-profit environmental and cultural groups in the three watershed towns of South Kingstown, Narragansett, and North Kingstown.

NRPA (<http://narrowriver.org/>) is our Share the Plate recipient for January and February. Half of the collection at our service on Sunday, February 4 will go to the NRPA.

Share a meal and help women in developing countries

Dining for Women, a non-profit organization, provides grants to organizations and projects in developing countries that promote gender equality. The money comes from members of local chapters who meet regularly to share a meal. A new local chapter is forming now. Gail Burchard has volunteered to become the chapter leader, with Val Follett and Kate O’Kula as co-leaders. An informational meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Started by two women in Greenville, South Carolina in 2003, Dining for Women now has chapters throughout the United States. Chapter members meet regularly, usually once a month, share a meal together, and learn about the organizations and projects that will receive grants. Each member makes a voluntary donation. No particular amount is expected; some members contribute the amount they might spend for a weeknight dinner out. Dining for Women chooses twelve grant recipients each year for grants of up to \$50,000. For more information, visit the Dining for Women website (<https://diningforwomen.org/>) or contact Gail Burchard at 294-6789 or gailburchard@gmail.com.



“Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock”

The Green Task Force will screen the new documentary “Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock,” on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The film follows the dramatic rise of the peaceful resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. Thousands of activists from throughout the country converged to protest the construction of pipeline, which would cross sovereign land, sacred sites and ancestral burial grounds.

Academy Award-nominated directors Josh Fox (“Gasland”) and James Spione (“Silenced”) created this documentary in collaboration with Myron Dewey, indigenous filmmaker and founder of Digital Smoke Signals.

After the screening, Lorén Spears, Director of the Tomaquag Museum, will moderate a discussion with John Gonzalez (Taino/Cree), Hartman Deetz (Mashpee Wampanoag), and Christian Hopkins (Narragansett). Dewey, who directed the film, will take part in the discussion by live video.

Light refreshments will be served. The Green Task Force organized the screening in partnership with the Tomaquag Museum, Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light and its South County Action Team, and Fossil Free RI.

It’s Dining for Dollars time. Will you be a host?

It’s time to start thinking about Dining for Dollars, our fundraising auction where folks get to bid on a seat at the table at a meal hosted by fellow congregation members.



Have you ever hosted a Dining for Dollars event? This is a great time to do it.

The meal can be lavish or simple, indoors or outdoors, large or small— all kinds of gatherings are welcome. Do you love to cook or plan a party, but feel your house is too small to host an event? Some of our most successful offerings have been collaborations between cooks and hosts.

The spring Dining for Dollars auction will take place in May, so now is the time to start planning. If you have some ideas that need fleshing out, get in touch with Nancy Rose at neecanancy@gmail.com. She’ll guide you through the process. Nancy will begin planning for the spring auction this month, so don’t wait too long to pick a date and create an event.



Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

The past few weeks in RE have provided some incredible moments for us all!

Some of the things our kids have done in the past month:

- ♥ They took a stand for our core UU values, making signs to hold at the Women's March in Providence that celebrate unity and urge for respect for others and for our ecosystem.
- ♥ They honored the lives of those who have died because of injustice during our multi-generational service for Martin Luther King Day. During the vigil in this service, they joined with the whole congregation in pledging to do our best in the continuing fight against all kinds of hatred and prejudice.
- ♥ They participated in the creation of "blessing shawls" for elders in our congregation. In another multi-generational service, they were part of a beautiful ceremony dedicated to the young ones and honoring the elders.

These activities are the proof to me that the work we are doing in Religious Education is not only tremendously timely, but of great impact as well.

One of the best things about these moments is that they occurred with the thoughtful collaboration of the adults in our congregation. We had visits from the Racial and Social Justice teams, and during our multi-generational services, we saw it was possible to share not only space, but a vision.

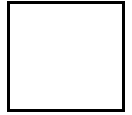
Through our upcoming service work projects, which are open to those beyond RE, we will be providing the opportunity for the best kind of learning— for all ages!

Here's how you can get involved:

- ♥ Make sure your name and e-mail address are on the list for our upcoming inter-generational service trip to Puerto Rico tentatively planned for sSpring 2019. It will be open to ages 13 and up. More information will be forthcoming.
- ♥ Join us downstairs on a Service Sunday on the first Sunday of each month. Speak to me if you are interested in spending some time with kids while working on a shared project to benefit the local community— all are welcome to join! It's a great way to be a part of RE without making a big commitment.

For information on how to get involved, please send me e-mail at uucscdre2@gmail.com.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"A person who can't pay, gets another person who can't pay, to guarantee that he can pay. Like a person with two wooden legs getting another person with two wooden legs, to guarantee that he has got two natural legs. It don't make either of them able to do a walking match."

– Charles Dickens

Dickens, born in Portsmouth, England on February 7, 1812, was the foremost English novelist of the Victorian era, as well as a vigorous social campaigner known for exposing the wretchedness of the downtrodden. Although he remained attached to Anglicanism, Dickens denied the divinity of Jesus and attended a Unitarian chapel in London.