

THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2016

September Services

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

September 4

Labor Day Weekend – No Sunday service.

September 11

Looking Back and Moving Forward – *Rev. David L. Helfer*

Join us to celebrate our past and our present— UUCSC's 25th year as a congregation, the beginning of a new ministry, and the launch of our congregational year. Bring water to share in our Annual Water Communion, the commingling of our shared lives.

September 18

Where Shall We Begin? – *Rev. David L. Helfer*

In each new ministry, there are hopes and expectations, dreams and longings.
Let us begin to explore, together, what may be in the years to come.

September 25

Our History – *Linda Whyte Burrell*

Some UU congregations can celebrate three hundred years of history. Not UUCSC— we're celebrating our twenty-fifth anniversary this year. But like those ancient congregations, we have successes of which to be proud and lots of stories to tell, some of them pretty amusing.



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

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

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

Kathleen Carland, Office Administrator and Calendar Keeper

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ■ Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ■ Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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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Linda Dupuis & Carla Bowman, Membership Committee

John Glasheen, Social Action Committee • Judi Marcy, Caring Connection

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 • Amber Kelley Collins, Worship Committee

Patience Peck, Flower Committee • Dave Ruede, Stewardship Committee

Dennis Bowman, Communications & Publicity Committee

Karen R. Ellsworth, Weekly E-News editor kellsworth6@verizon.net

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At the Water's Edge

Rev. David L. Helfer



I remain in awe of South County's gentle beauty. The waterways in particular— ocean, marshes, ponds, lakes, rivers— all gloriously beckon one forth. I love most, though, the tiny, unnamed bodies of water, what I like to call the "highways and byways," those small areas where clean water meets brackish water, where children of all ages drag their feet through ponds that last for a mere few hours each day, and where impermanence is expected. Day after day, week after week, those areas pop back up, slightly or greatly changed.

I can't help but think of you, UUCSC, similarly. You began humbly, and somewhat impermanently, at first a small group existing in temporary quarters. You were in your teens, as a congregation, before a settled minister could be called and home became permanent. You've had some tidal shifts, and re-emerged stronger. You continue to grow and deepen as a congregation.

It's what drew me to you.

As you searched for a new settled minister, one of the questions asked was "What is the glowing coal at the center of the congregation?" To my recollection, there wasn't one, but rather multiple overlapping and intersecting areas of passion. Worship, children and youth, social justice, environmental protection— it was clear to me that your path is neither singular nor predictable.

You keep growing and changing, and asking for more of the same.

As I get ready to begin my ministry with you, this is what I already love about you. I speak to colleagues of your recent growth, attained in part by the risk of trying a new means of marketing via Facebook, of your humble beginnings and your impending 25th anniversary, of your flexibility and your openness to what may come. The possibilities of what we can accomplish, over time, feel almost endless.

And so it begins. A new phase, a deepening permanence, and an evolving path.

May the joy we feel at this time carry us through years of shared ministry, joy, growth, and exploration.

In faith and joy,

David

The President's Letter

Welcome, Everyone, to our 25th Anniversary year!

We have so much to be thankful for, and so much to look forward to. At our last board meeting, we shared our great joy in being able to welcome our new settled minister, Rev. David L. Helfer. Because of my correspondence with Rev. David, I know that he feels this same joy as he starts his ministry with us. No one could have anticipated exactly how our ministerial search would come to fruition. We had some setbacks and some disappointments along the way, but as is often the case, these setbacks make the final results taste even sweeter. I'd like to thank our very dedicated Ministerial Search Committee one more time for their fine work and their determination. It is so wonderful not to be searching any more—we have found our minister, and he has found us! We also welcome Rev. David's fiancée, Julia, and her two sons into our UUCSC family. I am certain that there will be many opportunities in the coming year for us to come to know this wonderful family. Life is so exciting!

Over the summer I hope that each of you had the opportunity to relax, enjoy the beauty of South County, and perhaps even have some adventures. I was fortunate to travel to Denmark for the 70th birthday of

one of my dearest friends, and then to travel by train to areas in Denmark I had never visited. I even went to the very tip-top of the Danish peninsula, to the lovely artists' village of Skagen. I brought home many, many fond memories. Now that I am back, it's time to get ready for the upcoming year.



Your UUCSC Board will have its annual retreat on September 10, when we will set the priorities for action in the year to come. We are so pleased that Reverend David will participate in this retreat, and we look forward to working hand-in-hand with him to help his transition to UUCSC be smooth and spiritually fulfilling for all. Each of us has certain things that we are most passionate about. Speaking for myself, as someone who has dedicated my professional life to education and disability service, I plan to double-down on my efforts to improve our accessibility for persons with

differing needs or disabilities.

We will continue to improve access to services and programs for those who have hearing challenges. Physical access also needs improvement. If you have access concerns, or ideas for improving access, please share them with me. What are you passionate about? What UUCSC activities or efforts do you want to become more involved with? Social action? Environmental protection efforts? Anti-discrimination? Social events? Raising funds? Whatever touches your heart the most, I encourage you to step up this year and take an active role in moving your heart-felt passions forward. The UUCSC is a community—people who come together spiritually, personally, and purposefully. What is your deep purpose in, with, and for the UUCSC? Follow it! Be active. Be involved. There is much to do, much to learn, and much to share with each other.

One final thought. On Sunday, September 11, Reverend David will deliver his first sermon at UUCSC as our settled minister. I hope you will mark your calendar to attend the service on this important day. Summer is over. Our new year, and our new life, are starting. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you very soon!

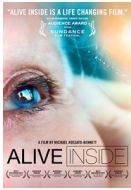
In faith,

Betsy Dalton



Real to Reel: Fall 2016

UUCSC's documentary film series continues with three offerings on the theme of music. Each film will be shown at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a discussion. Admission is free.

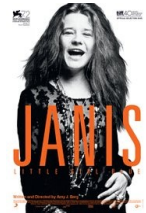


Saturday, September 17: *Alive Inside*

This 2014 documentary chronicles the experiences of people with Alzheimer's or dementia who have been revitalized and awakened simply by listening to the music of their youth. The film left the audience cheering at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival.

Saturday, October 15: *Janis: Little Girl Blue*

Musician Cat Power narrates this 2015 documentary about Janis Joplin's evolution from Texas country girl to iconic rock star, reconstructing a tragic young life.



Friday, November 18: *What Happened, Miss Simone?*

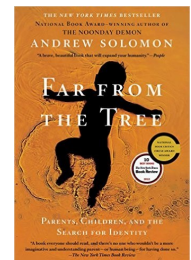
This film portrays Nina Simone's harrowing life and includes rare archival footage of her career as a performer. A child prodigy who studied music at the Juilliard School, Simone became an uncompromising activist.

Want to read a really big, really good book?

Nancy Rose is looking for other UUCSC members and friends who want to take on a big-book read. The book she has in mind is *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity*, Andrew Solomon's award-winning book that explores what happens when children bear little resemblance to their parents. It's a huge book (the paperback edition has 976 pages) that deserves to be read slowly and discussed.

Nancy's idea is that the group would read and discuss a few chapters each month, and in April would hear the author speak at Johnson & Wales University.

If you're interested, please attend a meeting after the service on Sunday, September 11 or contact Nancy at 837-4647 or at neecanancy@gmail.com.



Help wanted with UUCSC's emergency management plan

Every church should have an emergency management plan that to address weather, security, health, and other issues that might occur suddenly. The Board of Directors has done some preliminary work toward establishing an emergency management plan for the safety and security of those who use UUCSC facilities.



Now the board is seeking some additional members of the team to help with the formulation and implementation of the plan. They're looking for people who understand the importance of being prepared and would like to work together on this ground-breaking plan. If you're interested, please contact Leah Canin at (518) 423-8386 or leahcanin@aol.com.

THE MIGHTY SAUGATUCKET

From a talk by Johnette Rodriguez during the service on Sunday, August 21.

We UUs of South County gather beside the Saugatucket River, whose dammed-up power in the 19th century drove looms that wove fabrics of several kinds and built a textile industry that spanned more than 150 years. The mill owners and the mill workers also created communities of faith and of social justice. I'd like to tell you a bit about those early mills and mill owners and the village of Peace Dale.

Very shortly after the first English settlers put down roots in the southern half of Rhode Island, they began to harness the power of its many streams and ponds to mill wheels. The first mills ground grain into flour or meal; the next mills helped harness machinery that would process raw lumber into building materials. But it was the fulling mills, which washed and pounded the raw wool from the region's abundant sheep population, that were a direct inspiration to those businessmen who set up South County's first textile mills.

Rowland Hazard in Peace Dale followed close on the heels of Samuel Slater in Pawtucket, who, in 1790, set the Industrial Revolution in motion in the US by connecting the water power of the Blackstone River to machines that carded raw cotton and spun it into a fine thread that could be used to weave fabric. In 1802, Hazard bought a fulling mill and a sawmill from John Knowles, and by 1804, he had begun processing raw wool on that site, naming the village after his wife, Mary Peace.

By approximately 1814, Hazard had connected a mill wheel driven by the waters of the Saugatucket to operate four looms that could weave narrow webbing fabrics for suspenders or bootlaces. These looms are

believed to be the first water-powered looms in North America. Prior to that time, the spun cotton thread, wool yarn or a combination of the two was distributed to local weavers, who used handlooms in their homes.



The business passed to Hazard's sons in 1819 (and would remain in the Hazard family for 114 years), and by 1823, there were five houses and thirty villagers in Peace Dale, plus the woolen mill and a gristmill. By 1847, when a stone mill replaced a fire-destroyed wooden one, Peace Dale Manufacturing Company began to turn out the woolen fabric that secured its reputation and made it a major supplier of blankets to Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Prior to the war, the Hazards spent three decades doing trade in "Negro cloth," or "kersey," (think Kersey Road). Kersey was a mixed cotton and woolen material that was made into clothing for enslaved workers in the South, whose labor harvested the cotton that was sent to Rhode Island to be spun and woven. By the late 1850s, there were many Irish immigrants employed at the Peace Dale mill, and by 1872, there were over 700 workers.

During that period of growth, Rowland G. Hazard and his son Rowland Hazard II built the stone buildings that still comprise the village of Peace Dale. A portion of the

sprawling mill complex, characterized by its bell tower and by an expansive weave shed with a monitor roof for light, was still in use just a decade ago for dying and finishing textiles, by Palisades Industries.

Hazard Memorial Hall, built to be a community auditorium and library, is still the South Kingstown Public Library. The three-tiered stone basins to one side of the library were intended for horses, oxen and dogs. The stone building across the street from the library, now home to the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture, once housed the company store, the post office and boarding rooms for mill workers.

Nearby is the Neighborhood Guild, founded by the mill owners in 1903 to offer domestic arts courses to women in the village. It is still maintained as a place for community classes through the South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department. Other Hazard family projects were Stepping Stone Kindergarten, a small stucco building on Spring Street, now a child-care center; Peace Dale Congregational Church, designed by Rowland Hazard II; and the stone arch bridge on Church Street, one of five that Hazard built in Peace Dale. Peace Dale is unusual among mill villages across Rhode Island for its continuous use and preservation of the public buildings that were erected for the 19th Century mill workers.

And now, in the 21st century, the Saugatucket is a place for fish and birds and turtles and glowing fires, and for people who walk its banks and cross its bridges with renewed appreciation for the natural world in the heart of their town and beside the building where Unitarian Universalists congregate.



Religious Education News and Events

By Pam Santos, Director of Religious Education

The rhythm of our Religious Education classes calls us together to begin our church year again. For children, the summer schedule often allows for delightfully unscheduled time, opportunities to relax into nature, the flavors of sun-sweetened fruit, and a general feeling of childhood happiness. Such a gift.

As we begin our RE classes again, we strive to honor our healthy connection to the earth, lift up the dignity of all human beings, respect each person's search for the truth, and realize that even the youngest of us can make a difference in the world.

This year our youngest classroom, grades K through 2nd grade, will be learning about the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. Grades 3 through 5 will be introduced to influential Unitarian Universalists in history. Our middle schoolers, grades 6 through 8, will participate in the Neighboring Faiths program and explore a variety of faith traditions.

In order to maintain a safe environment for all of our children, each family will be required to complete a registration form. This allows us to have the most up-to-date medical and contact information. You can get a PDF copy of the registration form on our UUCSC website at <http://uusouthcountyrri.org/wp/religious-education-gallery/>. Print out the form, fill it in, and bring it with you to RE class.

Adults in our congregation have the chance to become involved in our RE classes as volunteers, RE Committee members, or advisors. If you are interested in helping out with our programs, please do not hesitate to contact me. All volunteers are provided with training, support, and encouragement.

It is with great enthusiasm that I look forward to this church year with our UUCSC families.

With Faith and Gratitude,
Pam

Upcoming Dates in RE

- September 11 - Multigenerational Water Communion Service – Feel free to bring a small container of water that you gathered during your summer travel, from your back yard, or from the ocean.
- September 18 - RE classes begin.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“None of us is fully able to perceive the truth that shines through another person’s window, nor the falsehood that we may perceive as truth. Thus, we can easily mistake another’s good for evil, and our own evil for good.”

– Forrest Church (1948 – 2009)

Frank Forrest Church IV was senior minister at the U.U. Church of All Souls in New York City. He was born on September 23, 1948 in Palo Alto, California, while his father, Sen. Frank Church, was attending Stanford Law School.