



The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

Volume 27 Issue 5

MAY 2018

May Services

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

May 6

In Praise of Beautiful Mistakes – *Rev. David L. Helfer*

What would it look like if we affirmed ourselves and each other for that things that didn't work out? The unfinished projects, the imperfect conversations, the opportunity missed. Let us consider the beauty and the lessons of our beautiful mistakes.

May 13

Two Mother's Day Gifts For You – *Amber Collins*

Families are so complicated and feelings are so deep that some of our members skip the Mother's Day Sunday service every year out of a sense of self-preservation. This service will offer two gifts to each of you regardless of motherhood or mother-having status.

May 20

From Shallow to Deep Individualism: Education
for the Committed Commoner – *Marc Levitt*

Our education system is based on an outdated view of the individual. What changes should be made to align it with the mandates of our time?
Marc Levitt is a film maker, author, educator, and storyteller.

Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Meditative Worship

Come join Rev. David for a quieter and more meditative form of worship.

May 27

"It's All About Me!" – *Linda Whyte Burrell*

Linda will share something of her universe, and all that revolves around her. What about you?



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 • ucscminister@gmail.com

Bethany Vaccaro, Religious Education Director uucscdre2@gmail.com

Michael Galib, Music Director

Karen St. Peter, Office Administrator uucscri@yahoo.com

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

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Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

At the Water's Edge

Rev. David L. Helfer



This was Rev. David's March report to the Board of Directors. Board President Linda Whyte Burrell liked it so much that she suggested Rev. David use it as his May newsletter column.

Hello, UUCSC Board,

I often tell you I'm busy. That's true. I think that's always going to be true.

The difference between this year and last year, when we were in the last stages of preparing for my installation at UUCSC, is that I have adjusted to the role of minister here. I know my role here— at least better than I did then.

Each congregation has its own rhythm, its own unspoken ways of doing things (or not), its own sense of identity. It takes a while for a minister and a congregation to find their equilibrium, but I do believe we have found ours!

Now, an equilibrium doesn't mean that nothing is amiss. To the contrary, it means that we are able to withstand challenges, problems, losses, without losing a sense of our core mission. That's what I'm seeing here: that we've reached that point of strength and durability, and also of vulnerability and trust.

My office is beginning to welcome those who didn't think they needed their minister, who hesitate to ask for help, who are generally self-sufficient. You're trusting that I'm staying, that I'm here for you, and that I'll love you as you are. Yes, to all of it.

This allows me to bring you into deeper places. We can explore a wider realm of spirituality from that place of trust and common language, we can challenge ourselves inside and outside of our congregational home in new ways, and we can work through what might have, in the past, seemed like intractable personality differences between congregants.

I don't need to tell you of all that is happening here. The all-pervasive sense of life at UUCSC is affirmation of where we find ourselves.

I won't rest on my laurels, nor will you, I know. But it is good to take a deep breath, look around, and say "look at what we're doing! Together."

With love and gratitude,

Rev. David

A Note from the President

As we get excited about spring— starting seeds, cleaning yards, cautiously considering putting away snow shovels— I realize that as spring blooms anew, our church year is winding down yet again! Golly, how the time flies!

Annual reports are being written in preparation of our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 3. The Finance Committee is working overtime to create a budget for next year, based on your heartfelt pledges. (Thank you all so much!!) Dining for Dollars is being organized to offer social gatherings through summer and into fall. The Spring Plant Sale is on May 20. Pot up that “volunteer” flora popping up in your yard and home.

Time to plan church picnics. Anyone willing to host a picnic on a Sunday in July or August? Pot luck, noon, outdoor space for a crowd who bring their own chairs, AND room to move indoors just in case the weather requires it.

And, June 20th to 24th, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, called General Assembly (GA), will happen in Kansas City, Missouri. If anyone is planning to attend GA, you can be credentialed by UUCSC to represent us during votes at the business meetings.

There are volunteer opportunities that can reduce the cost of attending. Please let me know if you are interested. If you don't wanna' travel that far, GA will be in Providence again in 2020!

There are always workshops offered in New England. Two of us are going to Nashua, N.H. on Saturday, May 12th— there is still room for two more in the car! A half-day workshop, and a lovely ride through beautiful, newly green New England.



There are so many things to do and attend and experience, even here at UUCSC. Do you know that one of the things available at UUCSC is the Peggy Huddleston “Prepare for Surgery” program? It is a book and CD with five steps to use mind/body techniques to reduce anxiety, lessen pain and the need of pain medication, and speed healing. It is something

one can use alone or with one-on-one guidance from an experienced member of UUCSC. Several of us in the congregation can attest to surgical experiences that were positively effected by following this simple practice.

This practice can actually be helpful in easing anxiety in one's life even without surgery! Speak to me if you'd like to know more.

Another good at UUCSC is you! You all are so helpful and generous with your time and energy! On the 7th of April so many of you pitched in when asked, and so many did spontaneously, to move dishes, food, chairs and tables . . . a throwback to our earlier years at the Legion Hall, St Augustine's, the Masonic Lodge . . . I guess that it's just a part of a building loving community within a congregation. So, I warmly and lovingly thank you and hold you all in my heart for your wonderful help and ministry on the 7th, and every day.

And, a reminder to submit your birthday, and those of your family members at UUCSC, to Karen St. Peter so she can “advertise” our birthdays so we can celebrate each other with a smile, a hug, a card or a song . . . building our loving community ever stronger.

Peace'n'Luv
Linda Whyte Burrell

Why are we holding Cottage Meetings?

A cottage meeting is a small gathering of friends and neighbors who share fellowship and ideas.

The UUCSC Capital Campaign Task Group has scheduled thirteen cottage meetings in May and June where you can share your ideas, discuss our future and help define our vision. As the task force continues to work on a draft of an envisioning document, they would like you to share your thoughts so they can better understand the needs of our congregation.

Our annual pledge drives provide our congregation with a budget of more than \$200,000 for operating expenses, including building maintenance, salaries, and programming. The proceeds from a capital campaign would enable us to implement programs that many members want but we cannot currently afford, and would help attract new folks to our spiritual home.

What could we do with the additional funds? We could move Rev. David Helfer to full-time status; provide more generous compensation to our staff, expand our adult RE offerings; host a ministerial intern; hire a sexton to oversee building maintenance; or build up a capital improvement fund for major improvements to the building.

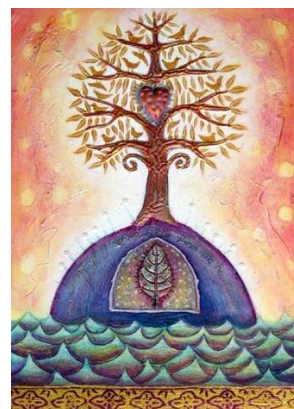
Which of these goals are important to you? What do you think our goals should be? Where should we focus our efforts and our financial resources? That's what the task force members would like to find out at the cottage meetings.

The capital campaign is in the feasibility and planning stages. The Capital Campaign Task Force will use the information gathered at the cottage meetings to determine the feasibility of a capital campaign. If it's found to be feasible, the campaign will be held concurrently with the March 2019 pledge drive.

Your attendance at a cottage meeting will help the task force hear from people in the congregation they may not ordinarily encounter. The task force wants to hear everyone's ideas about our congregation and our future.

Several UUCSC members are opening their homes to host the cottage meetings. The task force hopes the times and dates will be convenient for everyone's schedule. They urge every member and friend of the congregation to attend one of the 90-minute sessions.

Sign-up sheets are available in the Oneto Community Room after Sundays services. You can also get in touch with a member of the task force to sign up for a cottage meeting. Here are the dates and times:

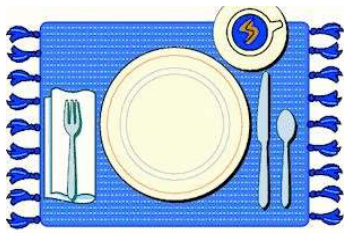


Sunday, May 6 — 11:30 a.m. — UUCSC
Wednesday, May 9 — 2:00 p.m. — Penny Hall and Guy LaTour, Peace Dale
Friday May 11 — 7:00 p.m. — Dave and Carolyn Hurdis, Narragansett
Saturday May 12 — 10:00 a.m. — Jean Burke and Aline Couture, West Kingston
Friday, May 18 — 6:30 p.m. — Dave Ruede and Carol Layne, Narragansett
Saturday May 19 — 7:00 p.m. — Carla and Dennis Bowman, Green Hill
Sunday, May 20 — 11:30 a.m. — UUCSC
Wednesday, May 23 — 7:00 p.m. — Elise Bender, Wakefield
Thursday, May 24 — 3:00 p.m. — Linda Whyte Burrell, Hope Valley
Friday, May 25 — 7:00 p.m. — Kathy Swink, South Kingstown
Saturday, May 26 — 7:00 p.m. — Marcia Boyd, Narragansett
Friday June 1 — 7:00 p.m. — Virginia Carter, Wakefield
Tuesday, June 5 — 7:00 p.m. — Betsy Dalton, Hope Valley

— The “Our Living Legacy” Capital Campaign Task Force : David Ruede, Jean Burke, Jeff Berry, Nancy Rose, Elise Bender, Sky Kimball, Edward Avizinis and April Ruedaflores

Dining for Dollars auction begins Sunday, May 20

Dining for Dollars, our wonderfully successful fundraising auction, will take place on Sunday, May 20 and Sunday, May 27 in the Oneto Community Room.



This auction has raised thousands of dollars for our congregation.

This year, as in the past, there are several amazing events for folks to bid on. There are a couple of great Sunday brunches, and the popular Boon Lake Fun-in-the-Sun day offered by our summertime friends the Casalys is a perfect event for families, as is the Stable to Table event offered by Mary Fulton and Betsy Book.

The most popular repeat events sell out quickly, and this spring there are some new events that are sure to be popular, so don't delay! The bidding book will be available on our website in mid-May.

Youth and Climate Justice conference on Thursday, May 10

As you learned if you were at the Earth Day service on Sunday, April 22, 21 youth from around the country are suing the federal government to demand climate action in a landmark lawsuit called Juliana vs. United States (<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit/>).

This novel legal strategy is the brainchild of Mary Christina Wood, Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Oregon. On Thursday, May 10 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light, Nature's Trust RI, and Fossil Free RI will host a discussion about this initiative.

Professor Wood will be there virtually to explain her approach and answer questions. Peter Nightingale, physics professor at URI, will briefly discuss the new Nature's Trust RI campaign (<https://naturestrustri.org/>) inspired by Professor Wood's work.

The event is free and open to everyone, and will be held at the URI Feinstein Campus, 80 Washington Street, Providence. To register, follow this link: <http://www.ri-ipl.org/youth-and-climate-justice-conference/>. The link to the event on FaceBook is here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2088994374710558/>. If you have questions, contact Lisa Petrie.

Dining for Women potluck May 1

On Tuesday, May 1, and every first Tuesday of the month, the local chapter of Dining for Women will have a potluck dinner in the Oneto Community Room from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., with dining starting promptly at 6:15. The group is doing its small part to improve the lives of girls and women in undeveloped countries by

making a donation that gets pooled with the donations from other chapters throughout the country.

The Dining for Women grantee in May is the Batonga Foundation in Benin, West Africa. Clare Satori, who lived in Benin as a Peace Corps volunteer, will give a presentation. Bring something to eat or drink with others.

Dining for Women chapters offer a chance to socialize with substance. For more information, visit the website (www.DiningForWomen.org) or contact Gail Burchard at gailburchard@gmail.com or 294-6789.



Renew yourself at Star Island

Since 1915, Star Island, off the coast of New Hampshire, has been a unique place to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence and gain knowledge about the world as it might be.

Founded on the tradition and values of Unitarian Universalism and the United Church of Christ, Star Island provides a sacred and meaningful space for a vibrant intergenerational community. For information about the 2018 season programs, visit www.starisland.org.





Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

Dear Families & Friends,

One of the most beautiful parts of our time in RE is when we do service work.

Every month, we participate in at least one service project for our community. Each time information about people in need is shared with the kids, I can see a genuine, clear response in the faces around me.

Our kids naturally get the common-sense ethics of showing our respect for each other by caring for one another. To me, the more we can model respect and care through building relationships with those around us, the better!

To that end, I'm pleased to announce our first All-Ages Service Project.

I hope this can become a monthly thing next year, so let's consider this our pilot project!

After the service on Sunday, May 6, we'll be heading over to Welcome House to prepare, serve, and enjoy a May Breakfast with the residents.

For those not in the kitchen, we will provide fun games and activities for all ages.

Kids who want to participate must have an adult stay with them. For those engaging in games and conversation with the residents, all kids will be partnered with an adult from our group and will be in groups of at least three.

We are also looking for food donations for this event, planning to feed approximately 30 people. Items needed are:

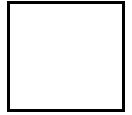
Pancake mix
Milk
Eggs
Butter
Sausage links
Orange Juice

Please email me at uucscdre2@gmail.com if you are able to provide any of these items or want more information.

With love,

Bethany

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“One should respect public opinion insofar as is necessary to avoid starvation and keep out of prison, but anything that goes beyond this is voluntary submission to an unnecessary tyranny.”

- Bertrand Russell

Russell, a Humanist, was a philosopher, mathematician, political activist, and a prolific and controversial writer on an extraordinary range of topics. He was born at Ravenscroft, in Monmouthshire, Wales, on May 18, 1872.