



The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

Volume 27 Issue 6

JUNE 2018

June Services

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

June 3

Bridging, Changing, and Growing – *Rev. David L. Helfer*

Traditionally, Unitarian Universalist congregations celebrate the transition of those graduating high school or otherwise moving forward into young adulthood. And while we'll celebrate that, we'll also ask what thresholds we celebrate and why. Might the many transitions in our life be worth equal consideration and celebration? Join us for joy and celebration, and a special guest.

June 10

A Celebration of Spring – *The Music Committee*

In astronomical terms, spring is the period between the vernal equinox and the summer solstice, the time when the Earth's axis is increasing its tilt relative to the Sun. But for many of us, spring is a feeling as much as it is a season. This year's annual Music Committee service will be all about spring.

June 17

Our Annual Flower Communion

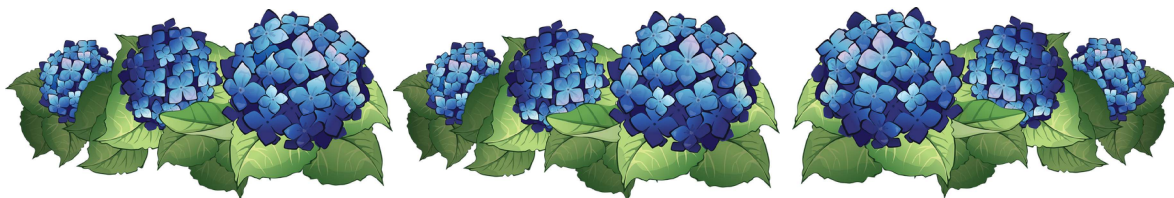
Each year, we bring flowers in celebration of both the beauty in the world and the many ways it manifests. For this multigenerational service, all are invited to bring freshly cut flowers to share. Please leave the flowers on the altar when you arrive. *Rev. David L. Helfer and Religious Education Director Bethany Vaccaro will lead the service.*

June 24

Appleseeds: The Words of Pete Seeger – *Dan Berggren*

Folksinger Pete Seeger (1919-2014) was a humanitarian, peace activist, environmentalist, and Unitarian Universalist. His songs and his ideas will be the focus of this service.

Dan Berggren is a State University of New York professor emeritus, folk musician, and founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Northern Chautauqua in Fredonia. Dan and his wife Nancy are active members of the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs.



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

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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

Board of Directors

Linda Whyte Burrell, President (2017-2019) # Mary Fulton, Vice President (2018-2020)

Mary Alice Kimball, Treasurer (2018-2019) # Linda Dupuis Clerk (2018-2020)

Emily Jacobs (2016-2018) # Elise Bender (2017-2019)

Kai Migliaccio (2018-2020) # Dave Hurdis (2017-2019) # Natalie Herbermann (2018-2020)

Committee Chairs

Carla Bowman, Membership

Jean Bowen, Social Justice Team • Judi Marcy, Caring Connection

Barbara Pagh & Etta Zasloff, Religious Education • Mary Finnegan, Personnel

Marcia Boyd, Finance • Chris DePaola, Facilities

Susan Pavlow & Ann Seemann, Music • (vacant), Social Events

Mike Henry, Hospitality Coordinator • Dave Ruede, Stewardship

Johnnie Rodriguez, Worship • Cindy Cole Berry, Pastoral Care

Betsy Dalton, Communications & Publicity

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

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

Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

At the Water's Edge

Rev. David L. Helfer



Dear UUCSCers,

There are certain meetings I know not to miss as minister. The Board meeting, for example.

Still, though, I know all would understand why I chose instead to be present for one among us, fighting for his life, rather than attending the May Board meeting.

And yet when I found myself unexpectedly free about 45 minutes before the Board meeting's conclusion, my car seemed to drive itself to UUCSC almost on its own.

"Okay," I thought, "I feel responsible. Certainly, it is a good idea to catch the last half hour of the meeting, with so much, including the budget, under discussion."

My entrance surprised everyone, including me. One Board Member even commented, "You should have just gone home," seeing the tiredness in my eyes. "I know," I acknowledged, "but I needed to be here."

What I realized, and then said, is this: I wasn't there for the budget. Or any other "important" matter on the budget. I was there to remind the Board members— and I did so— that I'm here to love you. All of you.

This is what our covenant reminds us, each and every week.

*Love is the spirit of this congregation,
and service is its prayer.*

*This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.*

As we end our second year together, it is surprising to me how many among us have already been through major events— births, deaths, marriage, divorce, mental illness and addiction, homelessness, and endless of other life changes. And more broadly, how our families, friends, communities, state, nation, and world have been impacted and changed.

As we head toward summer, I invite us to remember that we don't ultimately meet for budgets or committees or planning. Or even Board meetings! We meet to embody love in the ways we know how and ways we are just learning.

With so much love,

Rev. David

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Didja' know?

A couple of weeks ago our Sanctuary had a gorgeous floral arrangement in memory of Charlie Alper. Charlie's treasured family were active members of UUCSC several years back in our congregational story.

To mark the anniversary of Charlie's passing, his family sent the beautiful floral tribute. Thank you, Alpers.

Didja' know that you, too, can honor some special occasion or person with flowers in our Sanctuary? Graduations, weddings, memorials, birthdays, anniversaries or a thank you can be noted, the honor being shared with us all.

Didja' know that there is another more permanent way of arranging an honor for some

special person or occasion? Our Tree of Life is the painted tree with brass leaves, which is mounted near the front of our Sanctuary on the pond side wall. With a gift to UUCSC in any amount of \$250 or more



you can have a leaf engraved according to your wish. Take a moment to read the leaves that symbolize our treasures. Our three deceased Founders are the trunk of our Tree of Life.

Didja' know that there is a third way to honor a treasure? So you read the bookplates in our hymnals? Because our hymnals are passed out and collected every time they are used, one could have a different bookplate to read every usage. One can purchase a new hymnal, the grey or the teal. A bookplate can be inscribed as you choose. Any kind act or event can be noted in a hymnal. By doing so, you can add to the rich story that we are creating here at UUCSC.

Add to our story in any or all of these ways. Your presence is a treasured part of our story. Bring our attention to what you treasure. Didja' know how important you are to us?

Peace'n'Luv, Linda

Service trip to Puerto Rico planned for April 2019

UUCSC is planning a multi-generational service trip to Puerto Rico in April of 2019 for adults and children 13 and older.

The trip, which is being arranged through Community Collaborations International (www.communitycollaborations.org) will be April 13 through 20.

The estimated cost is \$885. That price does not include airfare, but we expect we will pay charter rates, which are lower than standard airfare. Fundraising should cover at least a third of the cost for everyone who goes, and a few scholarships also might be offered.

Information about fundraising, opportunities to learn a little conversational Spanish, and cultural literacy programs will be available soon.

It's important for the trip organizers to have an idea of how many people will want to participate. So if you are interested, please fill out a registration form, available on our website and in the Oneto Community Room. If you register, please give Karen St. Peter, the office administrator, a \$25 check made payable to UUCSC for the registration fee.



Say hello to our newest members

On Sunday April 22, 2018 we welcomed four new members to our congregation— Vanessa Gibbons, Paul Pollock, Caleb Grant, and Sharon Kernan, all pictured below. Vanessa and Paul's son Henry and Caleb's three daughters, Aila, Maisey, and Elsie, also participated in the ceremony.

Whenever we welcome new members, we ask them to tell us briefly why they decided to join our congregation. The answers Vanessa, Paul, Caleb, and Sharon gave us are with their photographs.



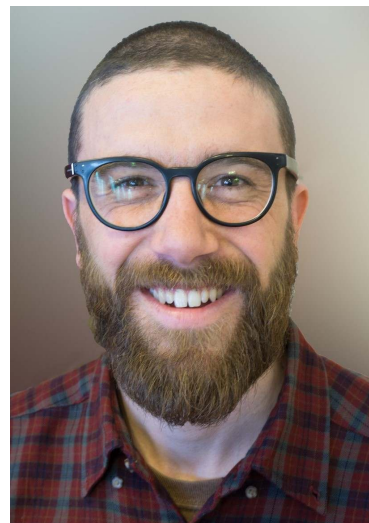
– Paul Pollock

"I am becoming a UUCSC member because I don't believe there is one true answer. But I believe we should all be respectful and compassionate to all life on this planet. I am also joining this community for my son and to grow spiritually here with my family."

– Vanessa Gibbons

"I am becoming a UUCSC member because it helps me to see so many different perspectives and ideas. I am also joining this community for my son and to grow spiritually here with my family."

"I am joining because Unitarian Universalism makes sense to me, and because I believe the principles, teachings and works of this congregation will help my three daughters on their own paths to becoming strong women." – Caleb Grant



"I have recently retired from full time employment and moved to Narragansett. I have been a member of First Unitarian Church in providence and look forward to making UUCSC my new home."

– Sharon Kernan

Some tips for using our on-line directory

The UUCSC online photo directory is a wonderful tool for keeping in touch with members and friends of our congregation and for matching a face with a name. It can be accessed on your desktop or laptop computer, tablet or smartphone. But it can be tricky for those who aren't too tech savvy or who don't use a computer regularly. Here are some tips and information to make the directory easier for you to use.



You can download the mobile app to your smartphone. The directions for downloading the app are on the directory page upper left corner. You can use the app to find anyone in the directory, touch the telephone number, and automatically place a call to that person. Or you can touch the address and touch "go to map" for directions.

Household listings show everyone living at the same address. Individual listings show each per-

son in a single listing with the cell phone number and address. Click on the "groups" tab to see a listing of all members of the congregation, members of the Board of Directors, choir members, and some committee chairs. The "staff" tab shows UUCSC staff members.

You can change the photograph or any of the information in your own listing. Remember to click "update" after the changes are made.

You can download a PDF (portable document format) copy of a household page or an individual page. Just go to that page and click on "print" at the upper right corner, then go to the downloads on your computer and drag or copy the page to your desktop.

If you attend services regularly but are not a member of the congregation, you can be included in the directory as a "friend." If you'd like to be included in the directory as a friend, call the Office Administrator, Karen St. Peter, at 783-4170, or contact Linda Dupuis at ldupuis4@cox.net.

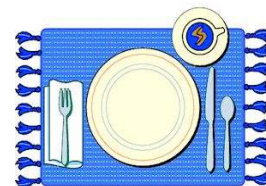
– Linda Dupuis

The July-August issue of the newsletter will be published in mid-July. The deadline for submitting articles is Monday, July 9.

Dining for Dollars needs a new coordinator—is it you?

Dining for Dollars is the most successful fundraising program our congregation has ever sponsored. It has raised more than \$50,000 since 2010 and, more importantly, it has enabled many members and friends of the congregation to get together in an informal setting and become better acquainted.

Many, many members and friends have volunteered to host meals and events for Dining for Dollars. But long-time coordinator Nancy Rose is the person most responsible for the success of D4\$. Now, it's time for Nancy to pass that responsibility on to someone new. Will you be that person?



Nancy has the whole thing down to a science. All you need to do is follow her instructions. Would you like to know more about what the job entails? Contact Nancy at neecanancy@gmail.com.



Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

Dear Families and Friends of Religious Education,

Our RE year is beginning to wind down, and what a year it has been! As I've settled into my new role as DRE here, it's been such a pleasure to get to know this wonderfully vibrant community.

Here's the run-down of what we have in store for the rest of the year.

On Sunday, June 6, we will celebrate Bridging to welcome our high school seniors into their adult roles, both as citizens of the world and as members of our congregational community.

On Friday, June 8, the UUCSC Board and RE will host our first Parents' Night Out, an evening of free childcare for our hard-working parents! Pre-registration is required. Please let me know by June 5 (at uucscdre2@gmail.com) if you plan to drop your kids off to enjoy some fun programming and hanging with some of the members of our Board.

Saturday, June 16 will be our final Family Meditation Walk of the year. Join us at 10:00 a.m. for some family-friendly breathing and sacred awareness beginning at the Asa Pond Nature Center on Asa Pond Road in Wakefield.

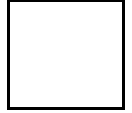
Sunday, June 10 will be our last day of religious education. We will have a sweet celebration downstairs, a trip down Memory Lane, and some closing rituals for kids to prepare for our summer break. If the weather cooperates, join us in the backyard after the service for some fun and games!

On Sunday, June 17, we will share in the traditional multi-generational service featuring Flower Communion— a lovely closing ritual for the whole congregation!

This year has been a pleasure! A *huge* thank you to all of our teachers and volunteers who've made all this fun possible. To our parents, you are doing an amazing job. And to our kids, keep being awesome! Can't wait to see you next year!

With love,
Bethany

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“The way I change my life is to act as if I
am the person I really want to be.”
– Ashley Montagu

Montagu, a Unitarian, was an anthropologist who popularized the study of topics such as race and gender and their relation to politics and development. He was born in London on June 28, 1905.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County
SUMMER SERVICES



July 1

What Can We Learn from a Modern Leonardo? – *David Floyd*

Walter Bowman Russell (1871-1963) was an artist, musician, author, and philosopher, but his theory that the universe was founded on a unifying principle of rhythmic balanced interchange might be his most lasting legacy.

July 8

Giving is Good for Your Health – *Gail Burchard*

Giving helps others and it helps you at the same time.

July 15

Art, Spirituality and Megalithic Europe – *Barbara Pagh*

Over a 15-year period, Barbara created three installations, exhibited at URI's Main Gallery, that interpreted Neolithic-period stone circles, passage tombs and stone alignments, including Maeshowe and the Ring of Brodgar in the Orkney Islands, Newgrange and Knowth in County Meath, and Carnac in Brittany. Little is known about the people who built these sacred sites; the installations allowed viewers to create their own spiritual experiences.

Barbara is a Professor of Art at the University of Rhode Island.

July 22

Revisiting the Civil Rights Struggle – *Penny Hall, Guy Latour, Carolyn Hurdie, and Dave Hurdie*

In November 2016, Penny, Guy, Carolyn and Dave traveled with other UUs from Memphis through Mississippi to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, visiting iconic locations in the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s and talking to older people who were there and younger people who carry on the work for justice today.

July 29

Gun Sense and Social Justice – *Jean Bowen*

The Rhode Island Chapter of Moms Demand Gun Sense in America works with gun violence survivors and the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence in Providence to reduce gun violence. Their work includes advocating for legislation. How does this work feed the social justice passion of Unitarian Universalists?

Jean is leader of UUCSC's Social Justice Team and "Faith Lead" of Moms Demand Gun Sense in America's R.I. chapter.

August 5

The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person – *Natalie Herbermann*

Being a Unitarian Universalist has helped Natalie see the importance of meaningful rehabilitation for our prison population and how it can benefit society.

August 12

Life Lessons – *Betsy Dalton*

Last year, Betsy traveled around the world. The people she met taught her the importance of living a good life— one that is open to new ideas, new experiences, and new perspectives.

August 19

Lookin' on the Bright Side – *Mac Richardson*

Tilting our outlook to be more positive can shift the outcome of our actions.

August 26

Overcoming Social Bias – *Sandy Ketrow*

Research has revealed that all of us have implicit biases.

As Unitarian Universalists, how do we identify and handle those biases?

Sandy is a Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Rhode Island.