



THE SOUTH COUNTY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 7

JULY - AUGUST 2018



Summer Services

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



July 15

Art, Spirituality and Megalithic Europe – *Barbara Pagh*

Barbara created three installations, exhibited at URI's Main Gallery, that interpreted Neolithic-period stone circles, passage tombs and stone alignments. Little is known about the religion of people who built these sacred sites; the installations allowed viewers to create their own spiritual experiences.

July 22

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

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.

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. How does their work feed the social justice passion of Unitarian Universalists?

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?

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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 • uucscminister@gmail.com

Bethany Vaccaro, Religious Education Director uucscdre2@gmail.com

Michael Galib, Music Director

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

Summer Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

Board of Directors

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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)

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

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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 UUCSC Members and Friends,

If you ever wonder “What does Reverend David do?” during his time away, I’d like to answer that question a bit. I find myself, along with hundreds of thousands of others, moved into action. Under all the terrible policies, processes, and actions of this Administration, a singular truth is out there: Todos somos humanos. We are all humans.

This means that I can’t— none of us can— watch silently what is unfolding in our country.

In the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

My work won’t stop this summer. I will continue to offer my heart and hands, my spirit, as part of the resistance. I’ll be in the desert, at the border, with hundreds of clergy and laity in early August. We’ll be providing humanitarian aid, mostly in the form of water, to those trying, still, to arrive here. This is not a legal action, but it is a moral one.

I hope you’ll help, too. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, along with Tucson-based nonprofit No Mas Muertas/No More Deaths, is asking for donations. Items needed:

- ! Thermometers (oral or temple/ forehead swipe types; no mercury)
- ! Tweezers
- ! Instant cold packs
- ! Antibiotic ointment
- ! Antifungal cream in small tubes
- ! Anti-itch cream (Benadryl and hydrocortisone)

Karen St. Peter will leave a basket outside my office door. Please leave any of these donations there before Friday, July 20.

With love, and a prayer that with enough of us, the arc will bend towards justice,

Rev. David

Highlights from this year's UUA General Assembly



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's UUA General Assembly took place in Kansas City, Missouri from June 20 to June 24.

UUA President Susan Frederick Gray introduced The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith Campaign, a fundraising effort to help the UUA take the lead in addressing past support of white supremacy through financial contributions to the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism organizing collective.

Brittany Packnett, an educator, organizer, writer, and speaker, delivered the 2018 Ware Lecture. Her message: 'The more you benefit from supremacy the more responsible you have to be to dismantle it,' You can see a videotape of the lecture at <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2018/ware>.

The UUA website has complete coverage of the 2018 General Assembly at <https://www.uua.org/ga>. Open the links to watch video, look at the program, and read *UUA World's* reports.

UUCSC member Larry Kelland was a delegate to this year's General Assembly. His report:

Like last year, this year's GA was very much focused on white supremacy.

The opening address was given by UUA President Susan Frederick Gray. It focused on white supremacy but also on our climate crisis. The speech was superb! She discussed diversity hiring and introduced The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith, a fund that will match individual contributions. She reported that nine congregations have protected immigrants. As a delegate I attended the general sessions where business issues were discussed and voted on. There were many detailed bylaws revisions.

In addition there were two Congregational Study/Action issues, "Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy" and "Dismantling Intersectional Oppression." It came to a vote, and like many others, I got my two minutes before the mic. I defended the more environmental one, "Dismantling Intersectional Oppression." "Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy" got more than 1,100 votes, and we got 108 votes.

I also attended two programs, one called Advancing Racial Equity Through Impact Investing, and the U.U. History and Heritage Society's Conrad Wright Lecture on "The Contested History of Religious Freedom."

The Ware Lecture was given by Brittany Packnett, who has leadership roles in organizations promoting racial equality. She gave a fiery speech about racism, discussing the expectations people of different races have of each other, and received incredibly vigorous applause.

The convention center, one half mile in length, was the largest I have ever seen.

– Larry Kelland

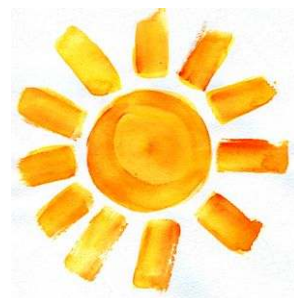
UUCSC Summer Schedule

Here's everything you need to know about what's going on at church during July and August

Sunday Services – During July and August, Sunday services will be lay-led. There will be no insert in the Order of Service.

Religious Education – There are no RE classes until Sunday, September 9. During the summer, parents may use the nursery space if a child needs a break during a service. Please leave the space as you found it.

Church Office – During the summer, the office administrator, Karen St. Peter, will be in the office only on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She will check telephone messages and mail only on Wednesdays. Karen will not be in the office on Wednesday, August 1. She will return on Wednesday, August 8. Regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday) will resume on Tuesday, August 28.



Calendar – Please continue to send calendar requests to Karen St. Peter at uucscri@yahoo.com and remember to write "UUCSC Calendar" in the subject line. All e-mails will receive a reply within one week.

Weekly E-News – We continue to send the weekly E-News throughout the summer. Please submit material to the editor, Karen Ellsworth, at kellsworth6@verizon.net by Wednesday afternoon.

Newsletter – This issue of the newsletter is the only one published during the summer. The deadline for the September issue is August 20.

Website – The UUCSC website (www.uusouthcountyri.org) is maintained throughout the summer. Send materials and information for posting to Will Bender at wxb@cox.net or Karen Ellsworth at kellsworth6@verizon.net.

Pastoral Care – To request pastoral care, call Cindy Berry at 783-8278 or e-mail her at jberrycberry@verizon.net. Cindy will contact Rev. David L. Helfer in emergencies or for memorial services.

The Caring Connection – The Caring Connection provides meals and transportation in times of difficulty. If you need the assistance of the Caring Connection, call Judi Marcy at 792-1338 or e-mail her at judimarcy@verizon.net.

Keys – If you will need access to the Sanctuary or the Oneto Community Room during the summer and need to borrow keys, e-mail Karen St. Peter at uucscri@yahoo.com.

Reimbursement Requests – If you have a request for reimbursement, fill out one of the forms available in the green folder on the office door, and leave the form for processing.

Our congregation is headed to Puerto Rico to help rebuild

It's not too late to sign up for our service trip to Puerto Rico on April 13 through 20, 2019. The planning committee for the trip (Rev. David Helfer, Bethany Vaccaro, Gail Burchard, John Glasheen, Elizabeth Donovan, Etta Zasloff and Betsy Dalton) has been busy working on the many details involved, as well as on fundraising ideas to help with costs and scholarships. The trip is being coordinated through the non-profit organization Community Collaborations International.

Registration for the service trip is open to all in the UUCSC community 13 years and older.

The island continues to work to recover from the devastating hurricanes of a year ago, but the systemic issues run deeper than that— Puerto Rico's basic infrastructure has been degrading for years, and is in some cases nonexistent due to massive under-funding. Let's be clear: we're not going there because "they need our help," but because we see our shared humanity, we can imagine what it would be like to not have

access to even the most basic utilities, and we have the desire to work in collaboration with others to rebuild this beautiful and culturally important part of the United States.



This will not be an easy trip, with the creature comforts of home, but if you join us, your relationships with other members of the congregation, with new friends in Puerto Rico, and with yourself will shift, change, and deepen. There is nothing like putting our shared values into action to propels us deeper into faith and commitment.

To register for the trip, send a note to office administrator Karen St. Peter at 27 North Road, Peace Dale, RI 02879. Include your name, address,

telephone number, e-mail address, and the \$25 registration fee (made the check out to UUCSC and write "service trip registration" on the notation line). Space is somewhat limited, so register soon. The deadline is October 1.

The projected cost per person is \$885 for eight days/seven nights, not including airfare. We're attempting to arrange special charter air rates. The trip includes pickup from the airport and return to the airport, if we all arrive at the same time. If you make other arrangements and fly on your own, you will be responsible for arriving in Fajardo on April 13, 2019.

The planning committee has scheduled a special informational meeting with Steve Boisvert, director of Community Collaborations International, on Sunday, September 16 at 11:30 a.m. at church after the service and coffee hour. Steve will share information and answer your questions. – *Betsy Dalton*

Share the Plate with Youth Pride, Inc.

Our Share the Plate recipient for July and August is Youth Pride, Inc. (<http://youthprideri.org>), which gives LGBTQ young people a place to build community, develop connections and be themselves. It offers counseling, discussion groups, social events, and wellness activities, all free of charge. Half of the collection on August 5 will go to Youth Pride.



UUCSC member Patience Peck, an artist, is showing her paintings during the entire month of July at AS220, 115 Empire Street, Providence. It's the biggest art show of her career.

What brought me to this church

Betty Bogutt gave this talk during the Sunday service on June 3.

The editor received Betty's permission to print it here.

When I was asked to speak in front of the whole congregation, my initial response was to say, "Oh, no," but then I thought, "Every once in a while it's good to take that trip outside your comfort zone." So here I am— my comfort zone is where you all are . . . "So close, yet so far away."

I apologize for reading rather than just talking but I think I might forget everything I wanted to say if I tried to do that.

"I had traveled a long and winding road of spiritual seeking during my lifetime."

The topic they asked me to speak on was: What brought me to this church? The answer is simple: Donald Trump. He had some assistance from my neighbors and friends, Peter and Nancy Himmel and Betsy Cook, who laid the groundwork by telling me what a great place this is, but tempting as it sounded, I don't think I would have given you a chance if it hadn't been for Donald.

I had traveled a long and winding road of spiritual seeking during my lifetime, stopping off periodically at different churches, and had yet to find a place that felt like home. I had reached the point of no return where I figured I wasn't going to try again. But when Donald Trump was elected president and I thought the world had finally fallen apart, I decided on the Sunday after the election that I needed to go to a place where others would also be in mourning. Rev. David drew everyone together with his sermon on that day and the energy in this building felt like sadness and despair

mixed in with hope and optimism. It was amazing. You are used to this, it is how you folks see the world, but for a newcomer it truly was an uplifting experience.

When my husband and I moved to South County three years ago, I was determined, in my retirement, to find interesting people and activities, to be more free, to open myself up to new ideas and experiences. I have done that and it has been wonderful. Religion is just one aspect of this new life, but for me it has been the most transformative.

What do you believe when no one tells you what to believe?

All my life someone has told me what I *must* believe. Steve Jobs had a great quote on this topic. He said, "Your time is limited, don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma, which is living the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other opinions drown out your own inner voice."

"What do you believe when no one tells you what to believe?"

I'm a product of Catholicism, which shaped my view of God into a tightly wrapped package. Being raised in a fear-based religion in the 50s and early 60s left its indelible mark. The negativity never felt right to me, even as a young child. So eventually when I grew up, I packed a bag with my beliefs and my questions and I went looking elsewhere. I attempted to speak in tongues with the Pentecostals— with no success I might add. I sang joyously with

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What brought me to this church

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the Baptists. I marveled at the presence of a woman priest saying Mass at an Episcopal church. I went to a non-denominational congregation where the minister wore jeans and a leather vest and the hymns were rock and roll with the lyrics printed on a screen. I

“I looked for God to appear in a different form . . . ”

was impressed with that until I realized that the philosophy was fundamentalist in nature. I visited Congregational churches. I even had Jehovah’s Witnesses visiting me after a close friend was baptized in their faith.

Along with this, I did yoga, meditation, retreats, spiritual readings. I looked for God to appear in a different form— a white light, maybe a tree, the ocean— but he kept popping up as his original image, the old man with a beard sitting on a throne in heaven.

Before I go any further let me just say that, now that I have found Unitarian Universalism, I don’t want to badmouth any other faiths. I

hold deep respect for the people I encountered along the way to this church. So many of them lived the kind of life I believe God intended us to live and I wouldn’t have ended up here if not for those folks showing me what faith means.

What I love about you is how you all incorporate your beliefs into one whole, how you do service outside of this community and within and how welcoming you are. As I told Rev. David, I have a few favorite saints who have helped me out on more than one occasion in my life, and I bring them and my faith to this church. It’s a perfect fit.

Because I think in visual terms, I picture myself before becoming a Unitarian as carrying a basket weighed down by missals and rosaries and statues and books of rules and holy water. Since my change of religious address, I have emptied that basket and put in stones I found by a river, a piece of driftwood from the sand, and a bouquet of white daisies. That’s all I need— my basket is full. And my God is no longer an old man on a throne. I have finally figured out he is within me and he is here helping me, especially today, in front of you, way outside of my comfort zone . . .



Planning has started for the Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair

The UUCSC Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair will take place on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Clare Sartori and Betsy Dalton will co-chair the planning group and they hope that everyone in the congregation will get involved. Last year we realized more than twice the income than the year before, and we’d love to keep up the trend. Clare will coordinate UUCSC volunteer efforts and tables, and Betsy will handle the paid vendors and publicity. We are seeking someone who can help coordinate set-up and break-down of the facility for the fair. We’ll need lots of hands on board. If you volunteered last year, we hope you will again. If you have not been involved before, we welcome your involvement. If you’d like to sell your art or crafts, please plan to register. Registration fees will be the same as 2017.

The fair will be part of the Peace Dale Christmas Weekend, as it was last year, and the trolley will be here again! Please let Clare (clare2sartori@gmail.com) or Betsy (elizabethmdalton@gmail.com) know if you want to be a part of the fair. The planning group will start to meet in September. – Betsy Dalton

*“There is no cosmetic for
beauty like happiness.”*

– Maria Mitchell

Mitchell, the first woman to work as a professional astronomer, was raised a Quaker but became a Unitarian Christian in her 20s.

She was born on Nantucket Island, the third of ten children. Largely self-educated, she learned astronomy from her father.

August 1, 2018 is the two-hundredth anniversary of her birth.