



The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2018

October Services

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

October 7

Why Culture? – *Raymond Two Hawks Watson*

What is your culture, and why is it important to remember? Raymond, of African American and Native American heritage, will talk about his spiritual path to an understanding of his own culture. *Raymond Two Hawks Watson founded the Providence Cultural Equity Initiative, and received the Rhode Island Foundation's 2016 Innovation Fellowship. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in community planning.*

October 14

A Portable Sanctuary: Rituals for Challenging Times – *Rev. DL Helfer*

Many people of faith (or no faith) have been marginalized or persecuted. At those times, it's the inner resources that sustain one's hope. Today, we will remind ourselves of those who paved the way for us to worship freely, and consider what we might do to sustain hope for ourselves and future generations.

October 21

History, Rewritten – *Rev. DL Helfer*

We know by now that the history we learned was told through the lens of white men—the patriarchy invested in perpetuating the status quo. Today, we will question some of the history we know, and ask how it influences our faith and our actions.

From 11:30 to 1:00 today, Rev. DL will lead a class called "UU 101" for those interested in joining the congregation.

October 28

It Isn't Nice: A History of Nonviolence in the U.S. – *Charlie King and Candace Cassin*

Through songs and stories, King and Cassin will chronicle the progression of nonviolent direct action in the United States, from the Boston Tea Party onward.

Charlie King is a singer-songwriter and political satirist. He is the current recipient of the annual Phil Ochs Award for social and political justice. Candace Cassin is a social services provider and teacher of Buddhist practice. They are married and live in Shelburne Falls, Mass.



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. DL HELFER, MINISTER

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

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At the Water's Edge

Rev. David L. Helfer



Dear UUCSC Members and Friends,

Small group ministries are coming! Small Group ministries are coming!

Sometime this winter, likely in January and February, we'll test run an eight-week Small Group Ministry format. This is nothing like the covenant groups that some of you have participated in; for those who don't know, a covenant group is a set group of individuals with an established format (chalice leading, topic for the day, and a process for each to share) that meets on a set time frame (e.g., every other week).

This isn't that.

What we're trying is a model used elsewhere, one that is intergenerational, with a shorter time commitment, and the sharing of food. Sound good? Then read on . . .

This is an eight-week format. We'd begin at 6:00 p.m. with a shared potluck. At 6:30 we'd disperse to one of four classes offered by you and myself, with one for children as well. Childcare would also be available. At 7:30, we would come back together to share potluck dessert and clean up together. At 8:00, it's off to home.

There are several possible classes, including lessons of less, meditation with a concentration on the work of Pema Chodron, "how to pray," and more.

I hope as many of us as possible choose to be part of this. This format creates opportunity for linkages between generations, fosters opportunities for new connection and friendship, and allows us seekers new ways to explore the world.

If this sounds good, and you want to be part of the planning team, do let me know.

And if you have knowledge or ideas to share, I welcome that as well!

With joy and excitement,

Rev. DL

A note from the President

It is a blessing to be. It is a blessing to be here. It is a blessing to be here together. It is a blessing to be here together now. Those are words we at UUCSC used to recite as an affirmation during Worship.

We are back. We are back together. We are back together now, in our 27th year of our beloved community. So many familiar faces. And so many faces of varying degrees of familiarity. So many relationships to renew, and so many to build.

There are events and elements of our faith circle that are familiar and comforting in their familiarity. There are changes that are happening.

Some committee restructuring and such is an effort to better

serve and minister to the needs of all.

Some changes are because some folks have had their turn, and are moving on to new tasks—and are making way for new energy and new ideas for some of our needs and ministries.



One such thing is our annual Dining for Dollars (D4D) event. Nancy Rose introduced it to us. It's a variation in a silent auction in which folks bid on mostly meals in

homes. Friendly fun and fabulous fare have been offered, sometimes even with travelogues or crafts.

Nancy has moved on to other ministries in UUCSC.

A past incarnation of this type of event has been live and silent auctions. We'd love to see new energy and new ideas for a fun event. Talk amongst yourselves. Maybe you and an old friend, or a soon-to-be good friend—or friends—would be interested in trying this once. I would love it if you approach me for more info.

Or maybe you have another idea . . .

It truly is a blessing to be here any day together.

Peace'n'Luv,
Linda

Important news about our coming service trip to Puerto Rico

The visit from Steve Boisert, Director of Community Collaborations International, on Sunday, September 16 energized the trip planners and inspired more people to sign up. Here are some of the details:

→ The trip is planned for April 13 through 20. We will return home in time for Easter, but we'll be in Puerto Rico to enjoy some of the Easter preparations.

→ The cost is \$895 plus the airline ticket. We're working to charter a group flight. Everyone 13 and older is welcome. If you're 80 and asking, "Does this include me?" the answer is "Yes!"

We're also reaching out to recently-bridged senior youth and other local UU congregations. A dozen people have signed up, and we're hoping for a group of 20 to 30. If young people want to bring a friend from school, you're welcome to do that.

The \$895 cost covers all expenses, including food (vegetarian options will be available), sleeping accommodations, and transportation.

→ The work will be varied. There will be opportunities to work with youth at a Boys and Girls Club, assist in native plant restoration, help repair structures damaged by Hurricane Maria, and much more. Specific types of work cannot be promised in advance, but Steve assures us that he'll split us into teams based on skill, need, and ability. Everyone will have an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution.

While the focus will be on work, we will also have some time to enjoy the gorgeous Puerto Rico beaches, see Old San Juan, and maybe visit one or two other locations of cultural importance.

→ The weather is not likely to be extremely hot and humid. Steve says April is typically mid-80s and breezy.

If you're interested in taking part, please give office administrator Karen St. Peter a non-refundable deposit by Monday, October 15. — Rev. DL

Responding to the Changing Pastoral Needs of UUCSC

For years, this growing congregation has lovingly cared for its members through illness. In particular, the leadership of Judi Marcy and Penny Hall (and likely others unknown to me) have kept the Pastoral Care Team and Caring Connection going for years.

But it became clear, at least a year ago, that the leadership and many of the committee members had served amply and had a right to move on to other interests. In fact, UUCSC bylaws specifically limit committee chair terms to three years. So, with deep gratitude for the work done, but a sense of change needed, we— Cindy Berry as Pastoral Care chair, Judi as Caring Connection chair, and myself—agreed that these committees would be retired as soon as I figured out next steps.

As I sat with other UUCSC leaders to explore this further, a few themes emerged:

- ! At times, the expectations of our ill members or friends were more than we could address;
- ! Similar questions emerged, again and again, about resources for food, low income housing, and the like; and
- ! What "support" looks like is unclear— is it sitting with someone in the days leading up to death, or bringing food, or something else entirely? And sometimes, we unintentionally got too involved in other peoples' lives, trying to fix family dynamics outside of our control.

With this understanding, we can move forward. I am beginning to ask some specific individuals to serve on a reformatted Pastoral Care team. A Caring Connection will not be recreated.

The new Pastoral Care team will:

- ! Support the minister in visits to the ill and housebound as requested to provide "ministry of presence," something they will be trained or re-trained for;
- ! Meet with the minister as needed;
- ! Work with the minister to invite a panel of local resource experts for a post-worship workshop (date to be determined) so that all might know of local resources.

We will not be providing meals in the same way as in the past, as this isn't sustainable for a congregation of this size. Going forward, upon request, UUCSC will provide three meals after a hospital stay or severe illness of a member or friend. *If you are interested in providing meals, please send an email to Rev. DL or Karen St. Peter noting your interest. Rides to doctor appointments will be something that individuals might work out between themselves, but will no longer be a centralized function. All pastoral care needs should be communicated to Rev. DL or a member of the new pastoral care team (to be announced shortly).*

Some might hear this as a pulling back of care. It is actually the opposite. As we free ourselves from some of the ways the work has become overwhelming, we will be better able to care for all UUCSCers. There is always more need than can be congregationally provided. With some clear guidelines in place, all will have access to care.

– Rev. DL Helfer

“This Changes Everything” to be shown on Tuesday, October 16

What if global warming isn't only a crisis? What if it's the best chance we're ever going to get to build a better world?

That's the question posed by Naomi Klein in “This Changes Everything,” the 2015 documentary film based on her book of the same name.

Directed by Avi Lewis, this 90-minute film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines of fossil fuel expansion all around the world, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea— that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.

This free community screening will be held at UUCSC on Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. A brief discussion will take place after the film and will include updates about the fracked-gas projects in Rhode Island and other opportunities to take action.

The film showing is sponsored by the Green Task Force and the South County Action Team of Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light. Refreshments will be served. Contact Lisa Petrie if you have any questions.



Path to Membership classes are this month

This year's autumn Path to Membership classes will take place on Sunday, October 21 and Sunday, October 28.



These classes are intended for newcomers who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and for those who are considering becoming members of the congregation.

On Sunday, October 21, Rev. DL will talk about Unitarian Universalist history. The class will be held in the nursery from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

On Sunday, October 28, members of the Membership Committee will talk about how our congregation functions. The class will be in the nursery from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A New Member Ceremony will take place during the service on Sunday, December 9.

If you'd like to attend the Path To Membership classes, please contact Betty Bogutt (783-0288 or ebogutt@verizon.net), Elise Bender (465-5103 or ejmb@cox.net) or office administrator Karen St. Peter (284-2297 or uucscri@yahoo.com). If you will need child care during the classes, please mention it when you sign up.

The Faith Alliance is an advisory committee of local pastors and congregation leaders who advise the Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC). Congregations often respond to domestic violence and offer safety for individuals and families. The Faith Alliance meets quarterly at the DVRC, 61 Main Street in Wakefield.

This is a rewarding volunteer experience and one that requires two hours every three months. UUCSC representatives attend Faith Alliance meetings, and the congregation is currently looking for a new volunteer. For more information contact Jean Bowen at jeannbowen@gmail.com



Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

We're off to a fruitful start in RE and glad to have you as a part of it! Here's a few ways to get involved in RE this fall:

We're growing!

Our congregation is booming in the youngest age groups, so we are splitting up classes! To allow for this growth, we need a few more folks who are willing to show up on Sundays and change the world. No preparation is needed and no working knowledge of any creeds/doctrines/theologies is required. Just show up and be authentically present with our children.

We are looking for adults volunteers for every Sunday during the next three months. All RE volunteers must undergo a criminal background check and sign on to a Code of Ethics. Please sign up at the RE bulletin board in the Oneto Community Room, or e-mail the RE Director at uucsdre2@gmail.com. Even if you're only able to commit to one or two Sundays, you are welcome to volunteer.

Sign up to make and serve lunch at Welcome House

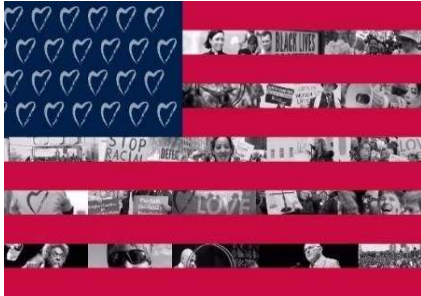
After the service on Sunday, October 14, we will take a multi-generational group over to Welcome House to prepare and serve lunch for the residents. If you would like to participate, you must sign up in advance! Please see the RE bulletin board in the Community Room for more information. All ages are welcome to join in this service project. We will find suitable tasks for all abilities!

Looking ahead

We're planning a multi-generational breakfast on Sunday November 4. RE is excited to host our first multi-gen breakfast before worship. We'll be looking for a few volunteers to contribute some breakfast ingredients and a few volunteers (kids, teens, adults, elders . . . all are welcome!) to warm and serve our feast. All are invited to enjoy a delicious start to the day, as well as some fun multi-generational mingling activities! Put it on your calendar now!

News from the Social Justice Team

The Social Justice Team has several committees and task forces whose members concentrate on specific social justice initiatives. The committees and task forces met during September to discuss future projects, and are now working to implement those projects.



The **Immigration Committee** engages in social justice activities involving recent immigrants and undocumented people in Rhode Island.

Dorie and Tom Lawson have completed the first part of the training necessary to become Sanctuary hosts at First Unitarian Church in Providence. They will offer a forum to our members and invite representatives to explain this project, which offers sanctuary to undocumented people.

The **Racial Justice Steering Committee** coordinates study and educational activities to deepen understanding of oppression.

Members will attend South Kingstown Housing Authority meetings to better understand the tensions between residents and the Authority. The Authority meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 364 Curtis Corner Road in Wakefield. Contact Carolyn Hurdis at churdis@gmail.com for more information.

The **Disability, Accessibility and Aging Committee** assures that UUCSC is a welcoming congregation for individuals who experience differences in emotional, physical, and mental well-being and aging.

Committee members have reviewed several accessibility and inclusion issues during the past year and a half, including access from the parking lot to the front doors, the need for large-print hymnals (two are on order), and the audio system in the sanctuary, which is too loud for folks with hearing impairments and not loud enough for folks sitting in the back. Committee members continue to wrestle with an approach to integrate everyone with challenges into the coffee hour.



There are plans to buy an electric door opener for the door at top of the ramp. If folks can't get into the building comfortably, we are not accessible. The committee is investigating the UUA certification program and its benefits and challenges for accessibility and inclusion.

The Social Justice Team will meet on Thursday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the Oneto Community Room. Committee leaders are encouraged to attend. The meeting is open to all congregation members.

For more information about any Social Justice Team activity, contact team leader Jean Bowen at jeannbowen@gmail.com

Music 'n' More at Lily Pads welcomes Charlie King

Veteran peace activist, political satirist and singer-songwriter Charlie King will appear on the Music 'n' More at Lily Pads stage for the first time on Saturday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Charlie received the 2014 Joe Hill Award for excellence in the field of labor culture and the 2017 Phil Ochs Award for creating and performing music that promotes social and political justice.

His latest recording, called "Life & Love, Tears & Laughter," is a mix of time-tested folk songs and new songs about the times we live in.



Tickets for the concert are \$15 at the door or at www.BrownPaperTickets.com

Charlie and his wife Candace Cassin will speak and perform at the Sunday service on October 28.

Newcomers' brunch on Saturday, October 13

Rev. DL and the Membership Committee invite newcomers and those considering becoming members of the congregation to an informal gathering on Saturday, October 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will take place at the home of UUCSC member Betty Bogutt. Brunch will be served. Please RSVP to Betty at 783-0288 or ebogutt@verizon.net.



Betty lives at 45 Pine Tree Lane in The Village at Worden's Pond in South Kingstown. From the intersection of Ministerial Road (Rt. 110), Tuckertown Road, and Worden's Pond Road, travel west on Worden's Pond Road. The entrance to the village is just past the campground on the left.

Go straight up Leisure Drive (the entrance road) and look for the clubhouse on the right side of the street. Just past the clubhouse, take a left on to Pine Tree Lane.

Join Rev. DL for a weekly book group in October

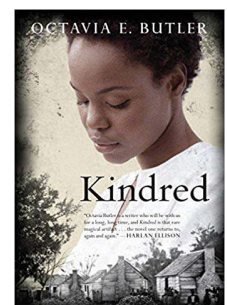
Join Rev. DL for a book group that will meet weekly in October to discuss *Kindred*, Octavia Butler's novel that explores one family's attempt to grapple with its history as slaves.

The group will meet Monday evenings October 1, 15, 22, and 29 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the library. There will be no meeting on Columbus Day. Child care is available if requested in advance.

A small number of copies of the book will be purchased in advance for anyone who cannot afford to buy one.

This is not a drop-in group. Please be prepared to attend all four sessions.

This book group is offered as part of our Racial Justice program. If you're interested in joining, please speak to Rev. DL.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"Advice is like snow: the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into, the mind."

– Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Coleridge was an English poet, philosopher, and romantic visionary. Raised in an Anglican household, he became a Unitarian in his 20s. Josiah and Thomas Wedgwood, also Unitarians, supported Coleridge financially while he wrote his most famous works, including "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," "Christabel," and "Kubla Khan." Coleridge was born in Devonshire, England on October 21, 1772.