

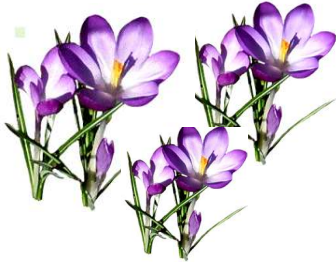


The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2019



March Services

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



March 3

And With a Great Leap Forward . . . – *Rev. DL Helfer*

Capital campaigns— including UUCSC's Our Living Legacy, which formally kicks off today— can sound like they're all about the money. They're not. They're about faith— faith in who we are, faith in our shared journey, and faith in who we will become.

A workshop to discuss the refugee work of the Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR) will take place after coffee hour.

March 10

Baring Our Souls: Truth-Telling as Survival – *Rev. DL Helfer and Martina Muller*

During this service, we will explore the work of eco-philosopher Joanna Macy and others, as we consider and practice radical truth-telling as an entry point into healing ourselves and our world.

March 17

Men, Women, and More: Moving From Oppression to Freedom

– *Rev. DL Helfer, Religious Education Director Bethany Vaccaro, and special guests*

Throughout human history, there have been oppressors and oppressed. At this service, we will tell stories about how the oppressed fought back, became free, and redefined what it means to have faith.

Our children and youth will present a pageant and then will continue downstairs for religious education.

March 24

An Atheist's Prayer – *Sally Fritsche*

What does it mean for an atheist to learn to pray? As a secular humanist serving as a hospital chaplain, Sally Fritsche made compassionate interfaith connections during life's major transitions.

Sally Fritsche, a lifelong UU and a recent graduate of Harvard Divinity School, is a ministerial intern at First Parish UU in Needham, Mass.

March 31

To Dedicate Ourselves: Honoring the Youngest Among Us

– *Rev. DL Helfer and Religious Education Director Bethany Vaccaro*

We will joyfully dedicate babies and children, tell stories of what it means to grow up in community, and explore the possibilities of intergenerational community.

This is an intergenerational service. Children will remain in upstairs. Childcare is available for children under five.

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

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)

Elise Bender (2017-2019) • Kai Migliaccio (2018-2020)

Dave Hurdis (2017-2019) • Natalie Herbermann (2018-2020)

Committee Chairs

Elise Bender & Betty Bogutt, Membership • Jean Bowen, Social Justice Team

Barbara Pagh & Etta Zasloff, Religious Education • Chris DePaola, Facilities

Marcia Boyd, Finance • Mary Finnegan & Nick Smith, Personnel

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

Betsy Dalton, Communications & Publicity • Dave Ruede, Stewardship

Johnnie Rodriguez, Worship • Heidi Kranz and Sarah Bell, Wellness Committee

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

Johnnie Rodriguez, Coordinator, Music 'n' More at Lily Pads

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

Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

At the Water's Edge

Rev. DL Helfer



Dear Members and Friends,

On a recent Sunday, I was admiring the good work of a few folks here. And I laughingly said, “A minister’s job is to get out of the way, and let the magic happen!”

It’s true. Yes, I’m called to offer guidance from a faith perspective, and to help guide in ways that offer deepening of self . . . and then get out of the way!

As I reflected to the Board this week, to my eyes, some of the best work we’re doing is finding ways to work together, to find overlap between music and spoken word, between different generations, and across staff and committees.

The message is getting out there: we are all responsible for our future, and it is one we build together. While this might seem obvious, what’s different is that committees are understanding their interrelatedness better, coordinating with each other, and sometimes even sharing budgetary costs.

I can hear the growth in the questions and feedback.

“Can we have more of that type of music?”

“It’s so good to have all these youth present in worship. Look at all the families!”

“There are new people each week!”

“How can I help with what’s going on in the larger world?”

“Do you think _____ is working well? Is change needed?”

These are all indicators of a congregation that’s broadening its understanding of what we’re here for. It’s a community that needs sustenance, of course, but is ever more committed to taking that out into the world. It’s a group that makes room for new folks, each and every week.

I’ll continue to invite you into ever deeper work, both inside ourselves and in the larger world. But here, at UUCSC, you’re on it— you’re doing amazing work. Keep going, friends. You’re on a roll!

In faith and admiration,

Rev. DL

A note from the President

UUCSC has held three gatherings to introduce newcomers to another level of life at UUCSC. What a wonderful bunch are considering becoming members on Sunday, May 5th! Welcome to you all.

One of the exercises for newcomers is filling out a form naming interests. We want to know what new folks are interested in doing, AND, we want to know the interests of longer-standing members and friends of UUCSC. Interests as well as free time change over time.

What would you like to do? What would you like to attend? Our beloved community is centered around the Sunday ser-

vice, yet there is so much more one could do at UUCSC.

We currently have a book group, a breakfast group for men, a lunch group for women, occasional dancing, walks and bicycle rides. Lectures and films have been offered.



Needlework and knitting groups have met. Circle Pot Lucks will begin again on the

24th of March. Groups have gone to a movie and dinner, and to a Red Sox game.

We want to do more. We want you to find more to build your connections at UUCSC. Got ideas or wishes? Please tell a Board member, or a Membership Committee member, or simply write it down and drop it into the offering plate on Sunday. It will get to the right person.

Of course, there are committees to join to carry on the good work of our beloved community, which will enrich one's spirit. Sometimes the spirit says fun!

Peace'h'Luv,
Linda

The Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR) is our Share the Plate recipient for March and April

The Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR) is a rapid response network to address the needs of individuals who experience violence because of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status.

Members of AMOR-RI (<https://amorri.org/>) include Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE), a multi-ethnic and multi-racial organization founded in 1986 that organizes to solve problems in Providence communities; Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM), which organizes Southeast Asian young people, queer and transgender youth of color, and survivors of police violence to eliminate the causes of official and interpersonal violence; the FANG Collective, which opposes the fracked gas industry and supports other justice movements; the Refugee Dream Center, which offers post-resettlement services to refugees; and Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics RI (COYOTE-RI), which fights human trafficking and works to decriminalize prostitution.



AMOR-RI operates a 24-hour bilingual support line to connect people with resources such as emergency legal representation and culturally-attuned counseling services. AMOR-RI also tracks immigration-related and other incidents of violence.

AMOR-RI is our Share the Plate recipient for March and April. Half of the non-pledge collection at our Sunday services on March 3 and April 7 will be donated to AMOR-RI.

On Sunday, March 3, a representative from AMOR-RI will be at UUCSC to update us on their work and tell us how we can aid their efforts.

Circle Pot Lucks are back!

So much fun . . . so many good meals . . . get ready for the return of Circle Pot Lucks.

Circle Pot Lucks are small circles of folks who gather around a dinner table that offers good food and good conversation aplenty. Think extended coffee hour, but without the noise and crowding— and with enough comfortable seating for all.

People will be grouped, and groups will be rearranged each month. The size of the host's table will determine the size of the circle. Gatherings

may be in the afternoon or evening. Each host will suggest an item a guest might bring to complete the meal.



To ease newer folks into this good time, the first Circle Pot Luck will be at UUCSC on Sunday, March 24 at noon.

Hosts will each facilitate their own circle and menu at this Circle Pot Luck. Each separate table will be the host's dining room for this gathering. And children can attend with their adult associates.

Holding this at UUCSC will also allow people with limited dining space a chance to host a group. There are dishes and tableware available for use.

To join in, look for the sign-up sheet in the Oneto Community Room after the service each Sunday, or speak to Linda Whyte Burrell.

Sign up to be a Dining for Dollars host

Each year, the UUCSC community holds one of its most successful (and fun) fundraisers, Dining for Dollars. There are two ways to participate in this fundraiser— as host, or as a guest.

March is when members and friends who want to host a D4\$ event need to sign up and decide what type of event to host. Will it be a themed dinner (focused on certain foods or foods from a certain country, for example), or perhaps a luncheon, or even a breakfast? Will you plan it around some activity or game, or do you have some other ideas about what you might want to offer? All ideas are warmly welcomed. This is an annual event, so the date of your event can be any time between mid-May 2019 and April of 2020.



This year, the role of coordinator has passed from the experienced hands of Nancy Rose, who organized D4\$ in each of the past ten years, to Etta Zasloff and Betsy Dalton. We wholeheartedly thank Nancy for all of her work and dedication.

Pink Dining for Dollars host sign-up forms are available through mid-March every Sunday at the visitors' table in the foyer as you enter. Just return completed form to Betsy or Etta in person or by mail as soon as you can. Or, for an even easier way to sign up, go to this link, <https://goo.gl/GvBUr9>, fill in the information, and click "submit" to send in the completed form.

Guests will be able to bid on seats at every event from April 28 through May 5. Watch for more information. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with Etta (zasloff.etta@gmail.com) or Betsy (elizabethmdalton@gmail.com).

Dining for Women is a global giving circle that empowers women and girls

Dining for Women (www.diningforwomen.org) is a global giving circle dedicated to transforming lives and eradicating poverty among women and girls in the developing world. Through member education and engagement, as well as the power of collective giving, Dining for Women funds grassroots organizations that empower women and girls and promote gender equity.

Members of each local chapter meet once a month to share a meal and donate the cost of a meal to a nonprofit organization.

The local chapter of Dining for Women meets on the first Tuesday of each month for a potluck dinner in the Oneto Community Room. The March gathering will take place on Tuesday, March 5 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

In March, donations will go to Her Future Coalition (<https://www.herfuturecoalition.org/>), an organization that helps women who have been the victims of sex trafficking in Calcutta, India. The mission of Her Future Coalition is to provide shelter, education, and employment to survivors of gender violence so they can remain free forever. Diane Conyers will be at our March meeting to talk about the work done by Her Future Coalition.

Everyone is welcome to attend Dining for Women potluck dinners. For more information, call Gail Burchard at 294-6789.



Rose Weaver stars in "The Life and Times of Ethel Waters" on Saturday, March 30 at Music 'n' More at Lily Pads

Ethel Waters (1896-1977), who began her career as a blues singer, was the first African American to star in her own television show, the first African American woman to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy award and to star on Broadway, and the second African American nominated for an Oscar. A movie star and recording artist, Waters was a mid-twentieth-century superstar.



Ethel Waters in 1943

Rose Weaver has long been fascinated by Waters. Now, Weaver is bringing Waters to life through stories and songs in "The Life and Times of Ethel Waters."

Weaver and pianist Delbert Collins will bring "The Life and Times of Ethel Waters" to Music 'n' More at Lily Pads on Saturday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults; free for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at <http://musicatlilypads.org/>



Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

Dear families + friends of RE,

Although we haven't seen much snow, it has felt like a long winter in some regards! The bugs have been strong and numerous and cabin fever might be starting to set in.

Every year, I learn this more and more: getting through winter practically requires a return to creativity.

I remember losing myself in art projects when I was a kid . . . sketching with colored pencils or getting into watercolors and watching them blend. Color, line, and shape are a great antidote to just about anything that ails! It's one of the reasons we have the art projects going strong in RE.

If you haven't been downstairs recently, please come visit us and view the artwork displayed in our hallways. Every week, kids add to the collection of sculpture spicing up our hallways. And the collective artwork created during our multi-gen events this year are on display as well. Come get some color therapy!

It's good to remember that entering into creativity is not about making something to be proud of, but about allowing the process of being in the moment to unfold, stroke after stroke. It's about not knowing where you will end up.

With our March theme being journey, we are celebrating the notion of traveling but not arriving, of beginning without an end in sight, of allowing space (both literally and figuratively) for questions. This is a crucial practice for any faith journey.

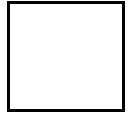
With the idea of journeying forefront in our minds, we will be exploring one of the biggest questions in our Spring Pageant— the idea of “God.” Our play will give us the opportunity to allow space for questions that don't need answers, or that may have an answer that is more simple than we had imagined. Come journey with us as we present our pageant during Sunday worship on March 17.

Other things to keep in mind for RE:

- ★ We are looking for new bits and bobs for our Sculpture Table. We invite you to bring in small household objects (pen caps, shoelaces, anything that is small and not dangerous!), and we will add them to our collection of art supplies.
- ★ If you have a craft or mindfulness process to share in RE, please contact me at uucsdre2@gmail.com.

With love,
Bethany

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.”

– Oliver Wendell Holmes , Jr.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., the son of physician and poet Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., served on the U.S. Supreme Court for 30 years. Born in Cambridge, Mass. on March 8, 1841, he was an active layman at First Parish (Unitarian) in Cambridge.