



The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

April Services

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

April 7

Question Box Sunday – Rev. DL Helfer, with music led by Nick Smith

What are your questions— the big questions, the ones you carry in your heart?

This is an invitation to ask Rev. DL those theological questions,
but with a special twist— Rev. DL can ask you questions as well.

April 14

The Aftershocks of Quaker Revelation – Abel Collins

The faith of the Religious Society of Friends, better known as the Quakers, is founded on a radically different conception of revelation than other Christian faiths. Join Abel Collins, whose family traces its Quaker heritage back to the 1600s, as he explores the ramifications of that difference through the lens of Thomas Paine's Quaker upbringing during the Age of Reason and Paine's renunciation of organized religion.

April 21

Easter Sunday

**All Will Be Well: Lessons of Easter and Passover – Rev. DL Helfer
and Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education**

Unitarian Universalists often ask, "But what would I pray to?" This is a service of exploration, of finding out together what the answers might be.

*This is a multigenerational service. There will be no religious education classes,
but childcare will be available for children younger than five.*

April 28

We Don't Need to Be Whole to Be Loved – Rev. DL Helfer

One of the great cultural untruths of our time is that wholeness is the goal— that if we work hard on ourselves, repair our imperfections, we will be worthy.

Universalism says quite the opposite: That we are born and remain worthy of love.
A multigenerational potluck breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m., before the service. Join us!

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

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

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

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At the Water's Edge

Rev. DL Helfer



Dear UUCSC Members and Friends,

With a lot of new members and friends, it seems worth clarifying some of the ways the congregation offers support.

If you're new to UUCSC, or to Unitarian Universalism generally, you might wonder, What is the minister's role in caring for us? What is our role in caring for each other? My experience is that in this congregation, generous hearts abound.

First and foremost, there is the Pastoral Care Team. The team has morphed and changed a bit, but the core is the same— it is a ministry of presence. For those in crisis, it is someone to visit and truly hear you, without an agenda. It can be a powerful steadying force.

The Pastoral Care Team will also provide up to three meals for a person after a hospital stay, if requested. We are no longer offering to centrally coordinate rides, but experience tells us that if you ask each other, the support is there.

The current Pastoral Care Team includes Barbara Beckwith, Sally Barney, Cindy Berry, Sky Kimball, Joan Ray, and myself. We work as a team, so feel free to contact any one of us.

And there is pastoral care directly from me, as minister. Even for those not in crisis, my door is open. It gives me an opportunity to know you, and to minister to you more personally. I'm also happy to come to your home. The best way to schedule a meeting is to e-mail me.

Some might not know about the Agape Fund. This is a discretionary fund. The minister can make one-time disbursements rather than on-going disbursements (not that you can never ask again!) to those experiencing a sudden financial need. We've paid for everything from heating oil to cell phone bills.

These are some of the programmatic ways we formally care for each other, but through the bonds of community, care is offered, given, and received in innumerable ways. I've seen durable medical equipment such as walkers passed from one person to the next as needed during recoveries, and I've seen parents who have asked for people to help care for a growing young family. Such is the beauty of community that one's needs become part of a larger commitment of support.

And for those who hesitate to ask for help, please remember that being of service to each other is a gift for both the giver and the receiver.

Welcome, all our new faces and friends. May you feel held in the love of community.

With affection,

Rev. DL



A Note from the President

It's my favorite time of the year! (My older son, Gordon, would say, "Didn't you tell us this last year . . . ?") Yeah. I know. I say it every year.

The colors of spring are what gets me. The grays of the winter woods slowly show hints of a mist of maroon. Just the faintest color. One has to stop and look closely, wondering, "Did I really see it? Has it begun?"

Then the maroon grows stronger. Maroon falls away revealing the tiniest, tenderest new green. And there they are, the bloomin' new leaves! As they develop and grow, each tree identifies itself. None of that full summer solid green carpeting our corner of the world. No, in spring each tree has its own color as it awakens and says, "I am oak." "I am maple." And those few beauties who say, "I am elm."

So, yeah. I'm a tree hugger, in spirit if not in physical act. Peak experiences for me have been close communion with sequoias, and lying on my back gazing at a canopy of redwoods.

And my redundancy now extends to likening UUCSC to a woodland in spring. As individuals, each member and friend of our beloved community identifies themselves as Buddhist, Christian, seeker, atheist, Jew, neo-pagan, agnostic . . . and some I haven't named here. We are gay and straight and questioning. We are younger and older; we are quiet and we are boisterous.

And what a magnificent woodland! We are a forest that feeds and supports ourselves and each other. We shelter our youngest, and make way for their growth.

May our seeds and roots continue to be fed. May our branches continue to touch each other as our leaves constantly burst forth in cycles of growth. May we always see the forest, and the trees.

Happy spring!



This month's Dining for Women potluck dinner benefits at-risk girls in Nouakchott, Mauritania

The MindLeaps program based in Nouakchott, Mauritania will be the recipient of donations collected at the Dining for Women potluck dinner on Tuesday, April 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Oneto Community Room.

Nouakchott is the capital of Mauritania, located in northwest Africa between the Atlantic Ocean and the Sahara Desert. The MindLeaps program in Nouakchott offers dance workshops to draw girls off the streets and out of prostitution. The girls then receive remedial education, psycho-social counseling, and nutritional support so they can develop the skills they need to succeed in school and enter the workforce.

Dining for Women is an international non-profit giving circle dedicated to empowering women and girls living in extreme poverty. The local chapter of Dining for Women meets on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend, bring a dish and make a contribution. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Burchard.



The Green New Deal

A Presentation and Discussion with Sunrise RI

More than one hundred members of Congress have endorsed the Green New Deal, a proposal for a group of related economic stimulus programs that would address climate change and income inequality. The Green New Deal includes a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030, expanded public transportation, and economic measures to drive job growth.



On Thursday, May 2 at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 15 Lower College Road, Kingston, members of Sunrise RI, the state branch of the national youth-led group Sunrise Movement, will lead a presentation and discussion about the Green New Deal.

The event, which begins at 7:00 p.m., is sponsored by Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light's South County Action Team. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Lisa Petrie at teonlisa@juno.com or 364-3002.

Generation Zapped

Ninety-five percent of adult Americans use cell phones. “Generation Zapped” examines the possible health risks of using wireless technology such as cell phones, wireless devices, smart meters, and Wi-Fi.

The documentary film, directed by Sabine El Gemayel, features interviews with experts in science and public health, as well as with people who suffer from high sensitivity to wireless radiation, and suggests ways to reduce exposure to radiation.

After the film was released in 2017, the National Institutes of Health National Toxicology Program announced that its ten-year, \$25-million study found evidence that cell phone

radio frequency radiation is associated with cancer.

The NTP studies found that



high exposure to radio frequency radiation used by cell phones is associated with clear

evidence of malignant tumors in the hearts of male rats, some evidence of malignant tumors in the brains of male rats, and some evidence of tumors in the adrenal glands of male rats.

The film will be shown on Friday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A discussion will take place after the film.

The screening is sponsored by Rhode Islanders for Safe Technology in cooperation with The Toxics Information Project, a Rhode Island nonprofit, and hosted by the UUCSC Green Task Force and the Wellness Team. A donation of \$5 or \$10 is suggested.

To see the film’s trailer, go to <https://generationzapped.com/>

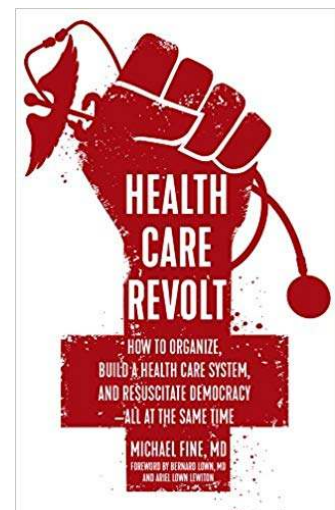
R.I. UU Legislative Ministry Annual Meeting is April 7

The RI UU Legislative Ministry is a group of UUs from throughout Rhode Island who study and discuss measures pending before the Rhode Island General Assembly. Each year, members gather to learn about and talk about legislation dealing with some of the most pressing issues and choose the legislation they want to support. On this year's shortlist are gun violence, women's reproductive rights, gerrymandering, and climate change.

This year's annual meeting will take place on Sunday, April 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Fine, former director of the state Department of Health and author of *Health Care Revolt: How to Organize, Build a Health Care System, and Resuscitate Democracy— All at the Same Time*.

Special presentations also will be offered on sanctuary churches and advanced nuclear power.

For more information, get in touch with John Glasheen or Lisa Petrie.





Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

It's officially spring, and time to celebrate! Here's some of the RE highlights this month.

Merry shall we meet to eat!

Mark your calendars for our next all-ages breakfast potluck! RE will host the merry get-together in the Community Room at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 28. Plan to come with or without a breakfast item and enjoy some fellowship.

Want to have fun, laugh, and build relationships? Join us downstairs!

We are looking for an additional volunteer for this spring. If you are able to commit two or three Sundays a month, you're welcome to get in touch with me to explore the possibilities.

Save that bottle cap!

We are building a "recycled city" — a large communally constructed sculpture. We are making it primarily out of recycled materials. Please save "bit and bobs" that you would normally put in the landfill (bread bag ties and plastic closure tabs, bottle caps, etc.) and bring them downstairs. And for those who've already brought in some supplies, come check out what was created with it! For example, look for the former spice-grinding plastic top that is now the top of an observatory tower for our recycled city!

Change the world through sexuality education.

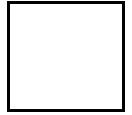
Are you interested in a world that has a healthy understanding of sexuality? Consider becoming an Our Whole Lives trainer. We are exploring bringing the Our Whole Lives program to our youth. It's a lifespan sexuality education program, designed to share honest, accurate information at an age-appropriate level, with an emphasis on dismantling stereotypes and building self-acceptance and self-esteem. Potential facilitators would attend a three-day training in late August or early September, and work with a group of 7th to 9th graders. Please see me if you are interested.

Create sacred space.

One of the most powerful things about a faith journey is the chance to join with others in contemplative practice. Think you don't know how to pray? Join us for our multi-generation service celebrating the Easter season on Sunday, April 21. Together, we'll learn some kid-friendly (and adult-friendly!) ways to enter into joyful reverence and contemplation.

With love,
Bethany

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27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*“Influence is to be measured, not by the extent
of surface it covers, but by its kind.”*

– William Ellery Channing

Channing was the foremost Unitarian preacher in the United States in the early nineteenth century. He was born in Newport on April 7, 1780.