



# The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 5

MAY 2019

## May Services

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

May 5

To Whom Do I Belong? – *Rev. DL Helfer and the Membership Committee*

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, without creed or doctrine, what does it mean to belong? In our congregation—far more than a social gathering but without a required statement of faith—the question frequently arises, “What am I joining and to whom am I pledging myself?” As we welcome new members today, we revisit our history and answer, or try to answer, these important queries.

*Children older than nursery-age will begin upstairs today, and will have religious education after we welcome our newest members to UUCSC.*

May 12

A Web of Love: Reaching Out to Others and Finding Ourselves Made Whole

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

In the spirit of Mother’s Day, we will consider how we nurture life and provide and receive care from other beings. Whatever it is that you shower love upon—be it nature, animals, people, or something else—let us honor that instinct for love.

*Don't miss the plant sale during coffee hour. Come prepared to add to your garden.*

May 19

“This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land”—

Whose Land Is This, Really? – *Rev. DL Helfer*

Rev. Helfer was reminded recently of the power of music in movement building, of songs sung over and over, working their way into our communal psyche. But this song, “This Land is Your Land,” almost an anthem by now, has meaning hidden in lyrics no longer sung. We will explore the ways that music, poetry, and spoken word invite us to lay claim to the true history of these lands.

May 26

Connected – *Rachel Maddox*

The intersections of Rachel’s identity as a black, queer teacher and playwright and how they’ve informed Rachel’s spiritual journey.

*A New Jersey native, Rachel Maddox is a youth counselor, a teaching artist, and the production manager for the Rhode Island Black Storytellers.*

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](mailto:kellsworth6@verizon.net)

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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

[www.uusouthcountyri.org](http://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](mailto: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

Office telephone: (401) 284-3321 • [uucscminister@gmail.com](mailto:uucscminister@gmail.com)

Bethany Vaccaro, Religious Education Director [uucscdre2@gmail.com](mailto:uucscdre2@gmail.com)

Michael Galib, Music Director

Karen St. Peter, Office Administrator [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto: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)

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 Team

Karen R. Ellsworth, Weekly E-News editor [kellsworth6@verizon.net](mailto:kellsworth6@verizon.net)

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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

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

Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

# *At the Water's Edge*

*Rev. DL Helfer*



Dear UUCSC Members and Friends,

As we begin to look toward the end of my third year of settled ministry with you, I find questions arising:

- # What shall next year look like? What will my own focus be and what is the Board's focus? Where and how will those visions mesh or differ?
- # What are the sustainable, strategic, and spiritual initiatives we have begun in the past few years? Which ones have gained stamina and which have not? Why?
- # What are we seeking right now, in the times we find ourselves in?
- # Who is overworking and who is seeking engagement?
- # In addition to worship, where and how are we becoming more intergenerational?

The questions go on, and this is part of what I spend my study leave contemplating and planning for each summer. But the questions aren't mine alone— they're ours, as a faith community and as part of larger communities.

My sense is that we're on the precipice of real growth, not just in numbers but in depth. There's room to tackle more and the trust built to do so. We might address the deep loneliness existing in so many inside and outside of these walls, we might be in more substantial relationship with our elders, or we might simply be more real about that knot of fear many are carrying right now.

That, I believe, is where the work calls us, and where the possibility of profound transformation exists.

Poet Mary Oliver's words ring in my ears:

When it's over, I want to say: all my life  
I was a bride married to amazement.  
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.  
When it is over, I don't want to wonder  
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.  
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,  
or full of argument.  
I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

Come, let us explore together.

In faith and love,

Rev. DL

# A note from the President

There is so much good going on at UUCSC. Worship services continue to be moving and enriching. Most committees are doing the good work of keeping UUCSC running smoothly. Our Caring Connection is restructured to serve those with short-term needs, while not risking burnout for those who serve on the committee. Our Personnel Committee faces a major transition. Members with long years of top-notch service to UUCSC staff are stepping down. Anyone who has an interest in this work is encouraged to speak to me or any member of the Board.

Two Small Groups continue to meet, while three new groups will begin meetings during May. More groups will be formed as additional need arises. Circle Pot Lucks are giving us chances to dine together, while building richer connections. Each month, two or three hosts are chosen and they contact their guests to help complete the elements of the meal. In the months that follow, everyone is rearranged for new conversations and company.

Several from our congregation have attended UUA meetings and workshops in other New England UU churches. These are enjoyable chances to mingle with more UUs while learn things to improve and enrich our experiences here at UUCSC. A special thank you to our Charlie Donnelly, who has served on the Board of Directors of the Ballou-Channing District (BCD) of the UUA. The BCD covered southeastern Massachusetts and all of Rhode Island. The reorganizing of UUA service to member congregations has caused districts across the country to be reordered into regions. UUCSC is now served by the New England Region.

GA, the annual General Assembly of Unitarian Universalists, will return to Providence in late June 2020. There are myriad tasks on the days of the gathering, and there are longer-term volunteer opportunities to help plan and organize the various activities and support systems for the thousands of UUs who will visit our state. Let me know if you are interested—volunteering can get you free registration for GA.

Our new electrically-powered accessible door should be functioning as you read this. It will take some time to adjust to the new system of entry into our building, but we at UUCSC are great at accepting “new” things into our lives and community.

We are approaching the end of our fiscal year. At the end of June we roll into the next year on the books. At this point in our church year, there is some reduction in activities. Worship services will continue. There will be announcements about what else is going on through the summer.

Our connections will continue to grow, there will be some changes in leadership, and there will be new tasks to take up. All is well with us.

Peace'n'Luv,  
Linda



## "The Christians" comes to Lily Pads in May



The Cranston-based Epic Theatre Company will bring "The Christians," by Lucas Hnath, to Lily Pads for five performances between May 3 and May 17. The play is about the charismatic pastor of an evangelical mega-church who makes a surprise announcement one Sunday morning that sparks a crisis of belief in his congregants, and the struggle of the congregants to make sense of the pastor's radical revelation. Shows will take place on Friday, May 3; Saturday, May 4; Friday, May 10; Saturday, May 11; and Friday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students. UUCSC members will receive a \$5 discount on each ticket. To reserve your tickets, visit [Brownpapertickets.com \(https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4224026\)](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4224026).

## Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation in Afghanistan is Dining for Women May grant recipient

The monthly Dining for Women potluck dinner will be on Tuesday, May 7 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Oneto Community Room.

Sue Strakosch will talk about the May grant recipient, Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation of Afghanistan, which trains young women to become midwives and provide essential healthcare and

educational services in their communities.

Through collective giving, Dining for Women funds projects that help women and girls in the developing world achieve their potential, gain equality in their countries and cultures, and overcome economic limitations and social bias.

Everyone is welcome to the monthly potluck dinners. Social time is from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., dinner begins at 6:10, the presentation is completed by 8:00 p.m., and cleanup takes place until 8:30 p.m.

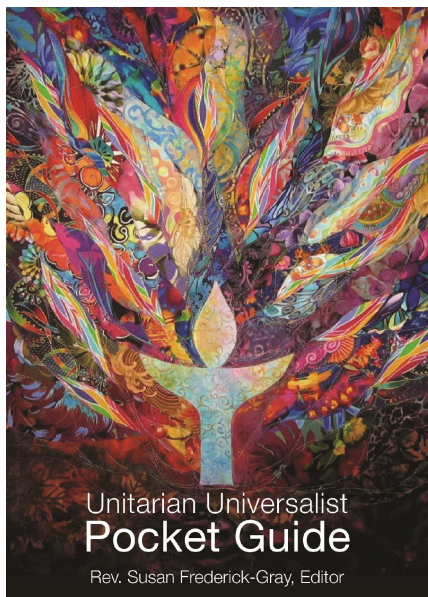
For more information about the international organization, go to the Dining for Women website at [www.DiningForWomen.org](http://www.DiningForWomen.org). For more information about the local chapter, call Gail Burchard at 294-6789.



# New edition of *Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide* just printed

The *Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*, Sixth Edition, edited by Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, has just been published. The most complete introduction to Unitarian Universalism available, covering ministry, worship, religious education, social justice, community, and history. Extensively revised, the sixth edition gives voice to many individual Unitarian Universalist people of all ages, coming from many backgrounds, and holding many beliefs as they share their personal and deeply heartfelt testimonies.

You can order the new edition through the UUA bookstore by opening this link:  
<https://www.uuabookstore.org/The-Unitarian-Universalist-Pocket-Guide-P18502.aspx>.



Contributors include Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, Rev. Erika Hewitt, Rev. Cheryl Walker, Jessica York, Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, Aisha Hauser, Dan McKanan, and more. The Foreword was written by lifelong Unitarian Universalist Melissa Harris-Perry.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray is the ninth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She was elected in June 2017 to a six-year term after serving congregations in Arizona, Ohio, and Tennessee. After leading the Unitarian Universalist response to Arizona's anti-immigrant laws in 2010, she became lead organizer for the Arizona Immigration Ministry. She now lives in Massachusetts with her husband, Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray, and their son, Henry.

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## Here's your chance to help asylum seekers in El Paso

As a follow-up to Rev. DL's two weeks of volunteer work in January at Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, a nonprofit that cares for thousands of immigrants each year, members of the Racial Justice Committee will collect cash donations to enable Annunciation House to give each immigrant a kit of essential personal items.

Committee members will be at the round table in the Oneto Community Room after the Sunday service for several weeks beginning on Sunday, April 28. Please stop by and help our struggling neighbors to the south. – Dorie Lawson and Val Follett





# Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

Hello families + friends of RE!

You may have noticed that one of our new favorites in RE is scratch art paper.

It looks like a black piece of paper, but when you scrape it, a rainbow of colors underneath is revealed. You can create a multi-colored line design or, as some of our kids do, you can painstakingly scrape all of the black off to reveal the full spectrum of colors underneath.

This paper is a fun way to keep kids (and adults!) occupied for a while, but it's also a good way to think about life; you never know what is just beneath the surface. Since our theme in May is curiosity, it's a fitting metaphor. Something as simple as scratch art can help us remember that we can be surprised, that digging a little deeper is often a path to something new.

The famous Greek philosopher Plato wrote that philosopher begins in wonder. The same could be said of most spiritual practices as well, and the spring season is a great time to indulge in this!

We've been trying new things in RE, from inviting more special guests to join us, to re-arranging our physical space. We're curious about what might happen when we decide to change it up a bit. To me, the most important thing is the openness that this requires, the decision not to hold on to the way things have always been.

One of the things that is central to our time in RE is the idea that we have options. We provide options for kids to choose from in how they spend their time, so we can remind ourselves that even when it may not feel like it, we always have options in life. When we begin to wonder what more there could be, it may be just the beginning!

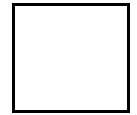
It's also the time of year when we begin to reflect on how the year has been.

We're looking to collect some thoughts from you on how our year in Religious Education has gone. If you haven't already filled out a feedback form, you can do so online here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee3NBpQTI9p0Zj4hmWzA1fv7CJDR87krkn2ZrFObCPR7G9hg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee3NBpQTI9p0Zj4hmWzA1fv7CJDR87krkn2ZrFObCPR7G9hg/viewform?usp=sf_link).

Blessings,  
*Bethany*

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”*

*– Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Emerson (1803-1882), the Unitarian essayist, lecturer, and poet who led the Transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century, was born in Boston on May 25, 1803.