



The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

Volume 28 Issue 8

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday Services

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

September 8

Our Annual Water Communion

When Change is the Constant – *Rev. DL Helfer*
and Religious Education Director *Bethany Vaccaro*

Science teaches us about what is. Faith invites us to consider what could be. As the pace of change quickens, we need both science and faith to guide us and to help us find meaning.

This is a multigenerational service. Childcare is available for children younger than five.

Please bring a small amount of water or a pebble to share during the water communion.

September 15

The Danger of Expectation and the Necessity of Hope – *Rev. DL Helfer*

As any Buddhist will tell you, it's expectations that get us into trouble. When the world fails to live up to our imagined version of it, despair sets in. And yet we need to know that this world can be changed, and that justice, peace, and love can lead us. Join us as we ponder how to balance letting go and committing ourselves more deeply.

Religious Education begins today.

September 22

Only We Will Save Us: A Reflection on Creating Lasting Change – *Rev. DL Helfer*

During the High Holy days, Jews perform rituals— individually and then in community—to see where they have gone astray, to make amends, and to ask forgiveness. We will explore how these ancient rituals are relevant to modern-day Unitarian Universalists.

September 29

A Life in the Arts – *Kevin Broccoli*

Kevin Broccoli, an actor, writer, and producer who is artistic director of Epic Theatre Company, will talk about how theater and the arts fill his soul.



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

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

Office hours: Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and by appointment.

Bethany Vaccaro, Religious Education Director uucscdre2@gmail.com

Michael Galib, Music Director

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

Summer office hours: Tuesday 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

Natalie Herbermann, President (2019-2021) • Mary Fulton, Vice President (2018-2020)

Mary Alice Kimball, Treasurer (2019-2021) • Linda Dupuis, Clerk (2018-2020)

Bill Rodriguez (2018-2020) • Kai Migliaccio (2018-2020)

Dave Hurdis (2019-2021) • Rosemary Galiani (2019-2021)

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, 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

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 UUCSCers,

I've spent a good part of my work study this summer trying to answer a single question: What is our purpose this year?

Yes, we come together for in joy, for solace, for connection, for growth. That will continue.

It's the next layer of thought that I've been pondering, tussling with— asking how we sustain, individually and in communities, while also listening for where we are called. Said more simply: What do we need and what does the world need from us?

And then I realized— we have the answer already.

Last winter, when I returned from my work in El Paso, I spoke to you of Unitarian theologian John Luther Adams and his commitment to a "Prophethood of All Believers." But I hadn't quite realized, then, the power of this concept.

Adams participated as part of a Unitarian delegation in the early days of Nazi Germany, helping congregations here understand the horrors already taking place. What he witnessed there terrified him. Not just what was happening, but also the complacency of the communities, the lack of a strong and unified response. He strongly called Unitarians to task, emphasizing:

The prophetic liberal church is the church in which persons think and work together to interpret the signs of the times in light of their faith, to make explicit through discussion the epochal thinking that the times demand . . . in which all members share the common responsibility to foresee the consequences of human behavior (both individual and institutional), with the intention of making history in place of being merely pushed around by it.

There were a few times last year that I heard complaints of things feeling "too political" at UUCSC. I want to be clear— this faithful exploration, it isn't about politics. It's about the future of Unitarian Universalism, of this country, and of the world. If we take this religious exploration seriously, with a spirit of openness, it *will* change us.

Will we make history or be pushed around by it?

"A prophethood of all believers" will challenge us. We'll engage with some of the topics we have only glanced upon so far; a recent *UU World* article reminds us that Adams "championed themes that have never been UU favorites, among them conversion and guilt, sacrifice and discipline, conflict and tragedy."

This is our work, and it is our opportunity. To be real about where we find ourselves, and honest about where that leads us.

With love,

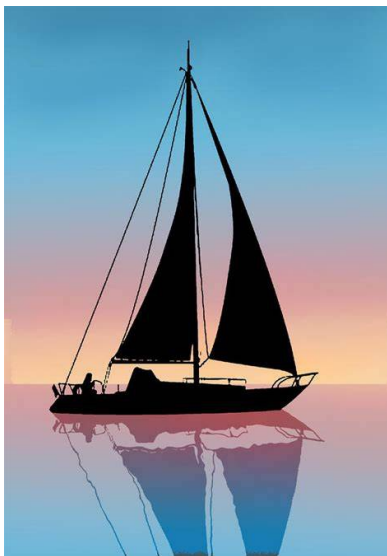
Rev. DL

All Hands on Deck

About two years ago, my husband Henry and I sat in Connecticut traffic for hours. It gave me plenty of time to look out over the water toward our Long Island destination. I joked to my husband that we probably could have sailed there faster. The conversation that followed was full of surprises. We realized that we both wanted to learn to sail, something we had never discussed even after more than twenty-five years of marriage. We made a plan, we set goals, we worked together through setbacks, and we followed through. We are now the proud owners of a beautiful sailboat that has brought us much joy. I am hoping our UUCSC Board can embark on a similar journey this year.

At our September retreat we will review the results of the 2018 Cottage Meetings to ensure that we are listening to the feedback of the UUCSC congregation. Our community gave so generously to the Our

Living Legacy campaign that we want to make sure our goals align with the voices of our congregation.



We heard that our congregation is looking for strong leadership and financial security, Wants to ensure that our building is well maintained, and wants us to continue to offer rich and inspiring services to our members and friends.

I am so fortunate to work with an amazing group of board members who really care about our community. We will collaborate with the

our amazing team of DL, Karen, Bethany and Michael to set and achieve our goals. Our dedicated committees will keep the congregation on course.

I am sure we will need to navigate through some storms but I am confident that we can work through just about any challenge that comes our way. We also need the time and talents of the larger congregation. Think about ways that you would like to contribute and support UUCSC in the upcoming year. As the new President, I am so grateful for the support and guidance I have received from our community.

On September 8 we will gather to begin a new congregational year. Bring your small vessels of water from near and far to contribute to our Water Communion. Let us celebrate all the ways our congregation brings joy to our lives.

Blessed Be,
Natalie

Our annual Local Foods Banquet

Friday, September 13 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a relaxed evening with delicious local food, live music, and good company. After dinner, we'll enjoy music by our own Nick Smith and Susan Pavlow, followed by a rousing sing-along with the Raging Grannies of Greater Westerly. Please bring a dish featuring local or sustainable ingredients. In light of the outsized carbon footprint associated with red meat (beef, pork, and lamb), we're asking folks to avoid those ingredients. All are welcome— bring your family and friends! The event is sponsored by the Green Task Force. Please RSVP to Lisa Petrie.



The office is open . . .

The staff has resumed regular church-year office hours.

Rev. DL Helfer is in on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and by appointment.

Office administrator Karen St. Peter is in the office on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Worship Committee members wanted

The Worship Committee is encouraging members and friends to join the committee, and the Worship Committee is also looking for new Worship Associates.

A Worship Associate leads the congregation through each part of the Sunday service, and if we have a guest speaker at the pulpit, works with and introduces the speaker. You don't have to be on the committee to be a Worship Associate, and you don't have to be a Worship Associate to be on the committee. Are you interested? Please get in touch with Rev. DL Helfer.



Womensphere

Womensphere, a southeastern New England Unitarian Universalist women's group, invites all women to the 2019 Fall Retreat, "Circle of Women – Circle of Friends," at Senexet House in Woodstock, Conn. on Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29. Come and explore ritual in our lives and honor Gaia and our world. Join singing, dancing, crafts, games, meditation, and sharing. For more details, e-mail bcdwomensphere@gmail.com

Young peoples' climate summit September 7 and 8

The Northeast Regional Summit of the Sunrise Movement, the folks that brought us the Green New Deal, will meet in Providence on Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8. Climate activists from throughout the region will attend. Monday, September 9 will be a Day of Action for all ages. To find out more, open this link:

<https://www.sunrisemovement.org/northeast-summit>.



Music ‘n’ More at Lily Pads COMING ATTRACTIONS

Joyce Katzberg – Sunday, September 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Singer-songwriter and social activist Joyce Katzberg is making a farewell tour of Rhode Island, and she has honored Music at Lily Pads by including us in her tour. Katzberg was a founding member of the Stone Soup Coffeehouse and a friend of Pete Seeger. The audience is asked to be as fragrance-free as possible.

“Golda’s Balcony” with Sandra Laub – Saturday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Actor and educator Sandra Laub will present the one-woman show “Golda’s Balcony,” by William Gibson, that she first presented in 2013. This portrait of Israel’s fourth prime minister Golda Meir (1969-1974) weaves the crisis of the 1973 Yom Kippur War with Meir’s personal history and the history of the Jewish people.

“Tales from Beyond the Ban” – Saturday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Storyteller Milbre Burch will present “Tales from Beyond the Ban: Folktales from Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.” This spoken-word performance features folktales from the seven predominantly-Muslim countries in President Trump’s initial travel ban. Milbre is a Grammy-nominated spoken-word recording artist. She began her storytelling career here in Rhode Island as a member of the Spellbinders.

A Christmas Carol with Updike’s Rose – Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m.

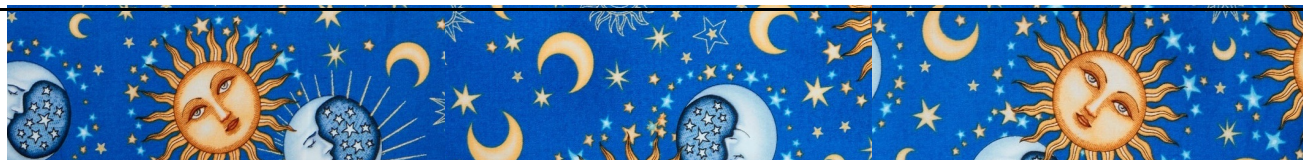
Nick Smith’s early-music group Updike’s Rose will once again accompany a spoken-word performance of Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol by Zach Searle.

These Music ‘n’ More at Lily Pads performances can’t happen in a vacuum. Volunteers are needed to help with publicity, set up and take down, tickets, refreshments, and more. Volunteer tasks can be done in short increments—a half-hour or an hour can make a big difference. Please consider helping a program that benefits everyone at UUCSC. Call Johnnie Rodriguez at 789-0651.

Global Climate Strike on September 20

Climate Action Rhode Island and 350.org are the organizers of a rally and other events at the State House on Friday, September 20—three days before the United Nations emergency climate summit in New York—as part of the third Global Climate Strike. Similar actions will take place in 150 countries. The Green Task Force is organizing a carpool. If you have questions or want to take part, contact Lisa Petrie at 364-3002 or teonlisa@juno.com. Join the FaceBook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/221836548724739/>.

On Thursday, September 19, the Wilbury Theatre Group will present “Light the Way: Climate Change Theatre Action.” The event takes place on the URI Providence campus at Paff Auditorium, 80 Washington St.



Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

An opening reflection:

"What would it look like for us to embrace our churches as sanctuaries away from the busyness of everyday life and the stresses put upon us? How can you make your church become a place of sabbath and rest for your community instead of one other place that is demanding time and energy?"

– Bart Frost, departing UUA Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Come enjoy the magic in Religious Exploration!

If you would like your kids to participate in any of our programs this year, please first fill out an information sheet, even if they've attended our programs in the past. All of our offerings are free!

Sign up for the year at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedCZifpLzkMer7bwkUGuBPZIQWQ2kskjDemGcNDS7G9jbbLA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Wish List

If you've been cleaning out those closets over the summer and happened across the following items, think of us!

Rhythm instruments
Scrapbooking supplies
Wooden toys

Board games (complete sets)
Yoga mats
Building sets

September Schedule

September 8 Join the whole congregation for the opening celebration of Water Communion. Kids invited to remain upstairs. Nursery care available for ages 5 and under.

September 15 RE begins! What's in the Wonder Box??

September 22 Peaceful hearts: playing around with meditation

September 29 Sacred play: Open art + games

NEW – Youth group: Grades 5 - 9 will play games and eat snacks in the Youth Group room during regular RE time. Senior youth (grades 10-12) are invited to join as mentors.

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27 NORTH ROAD
PEACE DALE, RI 02879



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“Don't write so that you can be
understood, write so that
you can't be misunderstood.”

– William Howard Taft

William Howard Taft was the only person to serve as President of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was a member of the First Congregational-Unitarian Church of Cincinnati. Taft was born September 15, 1857.