



# The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

Volume 29 Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2020

## February Services

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



February 2

### Vulnerability as Resistance: How Not to Burn Out – *Rev. DL Helfer*

Last month, about eighty people gathered here for a four-hour workshop. During that brief time, we shed some of our self-protection, freeing ourselves to reconnect with our deep love for each other and the world. Let us lean into, and learn from, those social justice activists who have discovered that vulnerability is an unexpected path to the healing we long for.

February 9

### Tussling with Our Discomfort: The Necessary Work of Anti-Racism – *Rev. DL Helfer*

Recently, about fifty UUCSCers bought copies of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. These purchases are themselves statements of faith, showing that we are ready to look at the lies we were told and the truths we want to learn. Let us begin this work worshipfully, recognizing the journey ahead and our readiness for it.

February 16

### Living Your Life Forward – *Miki Ohlsen*

Ohlsen, a choreographer and the long-time artistic director of the contemporary ballet company Island Moving Company, will talk about whether you choose your path or whether your path chooses you.

*Miki Ohlsen, a life-long UU, is a member of Channing Memorial Church in Newport.*

February 23

### For the Love of Hip Hop – *Harrison Grigsby*

Grigsby, who performs as Jon Hope, is a hip hop recording artist. A Providence native, he earned his M.Ed. at Rhode Island College. As an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University's downtown Providence campus, he teaches young people how to use their voices to navigate oppressive systems. He will talk about how hip hop culture (rap music and its associated performing and visual arts) can help establish a firm sense of self.

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

<https://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**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### *Board of Directors*

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Heidi Kranz & 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

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Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

Will Bender, Webmaster

# *At the Water's Edge*

*Rev. DL Helfer*



Dear UUCCers,

Over the end-of-year holiday, I spent a few days in New York City with my partner, walking endlessly and, of course, enjoying the opportunity to eat some foods one simply can't find here. One day, we walked Coney Island and then along the boulevard, where people spoke rapid-fire Russian and Polish as they purchased blintzes and blini, and all manners of food familiar to me, for their end of year celebrations.

This place, one I had never been before, felt familiar to me. I was in the midst of part of my history, my people. I could see myself in the solidity of their bodies, in the shape of their eyes, in the endless gesturing with their hands as a means of communication. I felt in some ways like I was home.

I've thought a lot ever since about who has home and who doesn't. Who has the fortune to find themselves among people practicing their traditions, in plain sight and with great glee, and who is kept from being with, let alone celebrating with, their communities?

It made me think about a good friend, now with citizenship, but for more than twenty years hiding in plain sight, working a fairly visible and important job, but with a false Social Security number. This friend had gone to college here, excelled in his field, and had wanted to stay. For years he tried legally, but as a black man from a country strategically unimportant to the United States, he was repeatedly unsuccessful in achieving citizenship.

By this time, his own children were teenagers, knowing only this country at home. My friend hadn't seen his parents for years, as they were too old to travel and he couldn't safely leave this country, because he might never get back in. He did have community, because there were thousands of others from his country here too, all working and going on with their lives, but like him, living in fear. Finally, when he had enough money to pay exorbitant fees, he paid for a lawyer's help, and eventually achieved citizenship.

Every day I ache for those held captive, whether actively or by lack of access, at our border. Of kids in cages, of families torn apart, of private prisons. Of those newly here, still figuring out communities of care and support. Of the many, many who haven't deported since 2016 (and before, too), whole lives ripped apart because this government chooses to discontinue the absolutely necessary rights to asylum and citizenship.

It's why my end-of-year tithing went to AMOR's bail fund, so that they might continue to free those held right here, at Wyatt Detention Center. This isn't an ask for you to do the same, but instead a loving reminder that as we work to live our Unitarian Universalist faith, we must remember those who will never walk through our doors, because they aren't free or safe to do so.

In solidarity,

*Rev. DL*

## *A note from the President*



### **Rooted, Inspired and Ready!**

Dear UUCSC,

It is a little difficult to plan ahead to June when we are in the middle of a long New England winter, but I am doing just that. I have just registered for my first Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. The theme is Rooted, Inspired and Ready. Believe it or not, early registration ends on March 15.

We are excited that the 2020 General Assembly will be held here in Rhode Island. We are overjoyed that our very own Rev. DL will be receiving Full Fellowship at this gathering. You may have also heard that our Social Justice team worked on a proposal so that the Sunday Worship offering at this year's General Assembly— which is substantial— will be donated to the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter. These are just a few of the highlights of this year's GA2020.

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism, you may not know what all the excitement is about. This is the largest gatherings of our faith community. It will open on Wednesday, June 24 and conclude on

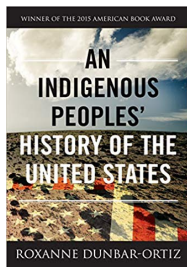
Sunday, June 28. It is where you can meet other UUs from congregations across the country at workshops and in the bustling exhibit hall. We will learn new ideas that we can bring back to the UUCSC. We will worship together with UUs from congregations near and far. Important decisions about our faith and values are made at the UU General Assembly.

It is a good idea to plan ahead and register by March 15 for the lowest rate. If the cost is prohibitive, there are many volunteer opportunities that you can sign up for to work in exchange for registration. Of course, the UUA website (<https://www.uua.org>) provides a lot of information and resources to prepare for the event.

An information table will be set up after the service in the Oneto Community Room to answer questions and help with registration. We are hoping for many UUCSC members and friends to participate in this important event.

Looking Forward to June!

— Natalie Herbermann



### **Conversations about indigenous peoples' history**

This year's UUA General Assembly, to take place this year in Providence, will focus on working through our shared need to understand and repair our historical (and present) relationship with those indigenous to these lands. Many of us have begun by reading *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Rev. DL and Carol Layne will lead educational sessions after coffee hour on Sunday, March 1 and Sunday, April 5. Join us!



## Soul Matters

This month's Soul Matters theme is Resilience

"I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it." - Maya Angelou

*The Soul Matters Sharing Circle is a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations that adopt the same monthly theme, enabling them to more easily share resources for worship, sermons, music, covenant groups, and children's religious education.*

## Yoga classes now offered every Monday

Weekly classes in Kundalini yoga, sponsored by the Wellness Team, take place every Monday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. downstairs in the RE area. The classes are led by Cheryl Hinkson, a graduate of the 300-hour teacher training certification course at Tenth Gate Center for Yoga and Meditation in Portsmouth. Each monthly series is \$40 and drop-in classes are \$13 each. Bring a yoga mat, water bottle, blanket or sweatshirt, and a cushion to sit on. Beginners are welcome. Questions? Call Adria Evans at 667-7167.

## Joe Parillo Jazz Trio at Lily Pads on February 23

The Joe Parillo Jazz Trio takes the Lily Pads stage on Sunday, February 23 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15; children under 12 are free. Get your ticket on-line at [Brown Paper Tickets](https://www.brownpapertickets.com). For more information, go to the Music 'n' More at Lily Pads website (<https://uouthcountyri.org/music/>) or call 789-0651.

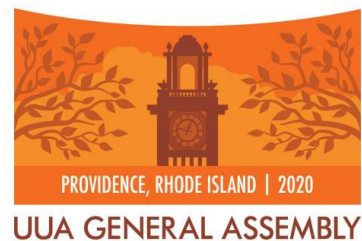
## UUA General Assembly returns to Providence

This year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly takes place in Providence from Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees from across the country and around the world worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may register and attend GA— members, friends, all! Annually certified congregations may send voting delegates to participate in policy decisions.

Rooted, Inspired, & Ready! is the theme for the 2020 General Assembly. We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

This five-day immersive experience invites you to join with your faith family at inspirational worship services, informative workshops and a bustling exhibit hall. Visit the General Assembly section of the UUA website ( <https://www.uua.org> ) for more details.

Early bird registration is open now through March 15. Full-time registration is \$400 for adults, \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers, \$150 for off-site registrants. Rates increase on March 16. Take advantage of these early registration rates. To register, go to <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration> – Betsy Dalton



***Join us on the path to becoming a member of our congregation!***

Reverend DL and the Membership Committee cordially invite newcomers and their families and all those considering membership to a

## **Meet and Greet Luncheon – Sunday, February 9**

**11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Make new friends and learn more about our church. RSVP to Betty Bogutt (783-0288 or [ebogutt@verizon.net](mailto:ebogutt@verizon.net)) or Elise Bender (465-5103 or [ejmb@cox.net](mailto:ejmb@cox.net))

Learn more about

Unitarian Universalist History and Theology and How our Congregation Functions on Sunday, March 8 in the Sanctuary after the service.

Our Ceremony to Welcome New Members will be on Sunday, April 5

## **Dining for Dollars 2020**

Dining for Dollars is one of UUCSC's largest and longest-running fundraisers. Members and friends of UUCSC come up with different, and often quite creative, ideas for meals that they will offer in their own homes to benefit UUCSC, and other members and friends bid on these meals during two weeks in the spring. The highest bids win places at the table.



Meals offered in past years include a seafood evening, wood-grilled pizza parties, kayaking parties, traditional Irish and Hungarian meals, New Year's brunch, supper and movie nights, barbecue and swim parties, vegetarian-themed meals, horseback riding with a picnic meal. There is no limit to the types of meals you can offer— let your imagination loose!

Etta Zasloff and Betsy Dalton, Dining for Dollars coordinators, are seeking your idea for the D4\$ meal that you'd like to offer this year. Ideas will be collected starting on March 1. Put your thinking caps on, and watch for more information about D4\$.

Questions? Contact Etta ([zasloff.etta@gmail.com](mailto:zasloff.etta@gmail.com)) or Betsy ([elizabethmdalton@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethmdalton@gmail.com)).

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## **Gail Burchard is in Columbia volunteering with Talento Colectivo**

In mid-January, Gail Burchard arrived in Camarones, a community in northeastern Columbia, for a two-month visit to volunteer with Talento Colectivo (Collective Talent), which helps local artisans, including members of the indigenous Wayuu, produce and market beautiful and colorful hand-crafted bags. Gail plans to return as many bags as possible so she can make them available for us to purchase. When she returns in March, she plans to give a presentation about what she learned and experienced in Camarones.

To see the artisans, their bags, and their way of live, open this link:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wNnaUF\\_6AY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wNnaUF_6AY&feature=youtu.be)





## Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Director of Religious Education

*This month we celebrate Resilience.  
What can we hold onto to make it through hard times?*



### **Sunday, February 2**

Kids start downstairs at 10:00 a.m.  
Grit! Strategies for Hanging On  
We will make a wheel of coping skills and sand paintings.  
Service Project: Cards of Encouragement  
Handmade cards to encourage social justice activists in our community

### **Sunday, February 9**

Love! How We Support Each Other  
We see a lot of roses around this time of year. What can this flower teach us  
about how to love and support each other?

### **Sunday, February 16**

Humor! How Laughter Helps Us  
Bring your best knock knock jokes with you today. We'll be making each other laugh  
with silly games and other fun things.

### **Sunday, February 23**

The Earth!  
Let's appreciate how much the Earth supports us!  
To say thanks, we'll have a special session of the Sculpture Table to make fairy houses.  
Youth Group: Kids in grades 5 through 8 will meet in the Youth Group room for games and snacks.



Kids ages 5 and younger are welcome to visit our Nursery,  
where our trained staff are ready to play and connect.  
Kids in grades K through 8 are invited to our main classroom.  
We begin upstairs with the congregation on every Sunday except the first of the month.

*Prayer of the Month  
To this quiet place of beauty, we come from busy things  
Pausing for a moment for the thoughts that quiet brings.*

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“If you want to have good ideas you must have many ideas. Most of them will be wrong, and what you have to learn is which ones to throw away.”

– Linus Pauling

Linus C. Pauling (1901-1994), a quantum chemist, biochemist, and a founder of molecular biology, is the only person in history to receive two unshared Nobel Prizes. A Unitarian Universalist, he was born in Portland, Oregon on February 28, 1901.