



# The South County UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

Volume 29 Issue 3

MARCH 2020

## March Services

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

March 1

### **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.

*After coffee hour, Rev. DL and Carol Layne will offer the first of two workshops on Dunbar-Ortiz's book.*

March 8

### **Unspoken Dreams and Infinite Unknowns – Rev. DL Helfer**

Persian poet Rumi famously wrote, "Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field.

I'll meet you there." What do you imagine lays beyond our certainty? We will gather in reverence, and a bit more silence than typical, hoping to hear— even briefly— that still small voice within.

*The Path to Membership class, for those seeking membership at UUCSC this year, will take place after coffee hour.*

March 15

### **Legacies of Slavery & Freedom: A Family Journey Through the Atlantic World – Keith Stokes**

In 1795, in one of the most famous mass emancipation and reparation efforts in history, Quaker David Barclay freed 28 people enslaved in Jamaica and sent them to Philadelphia. Their descendants, including the Barclay family of Newport, were leaders in African-American religious congregations, masonic orders, civil rights, and political institutions.

One of those emancipated, an 8-year-old boy called "October," was Keith Stokes's great, great, great grandfather.

March 22

### **Honoring Gaia – Kathy Swink**

The beginning of spring is a wonderful time to honor Gaia. To Ancient Greeks, Gaia was the ancestral mother of all life. For some late 20th century philosophers and current ecologists, Gaia personifies the concept of the Earth as one dynamic system encompassing all living organisms, inorganic material, and life forces.

March 29

### **More of "Herstory:" A Celebration of National Women's Month – Rev DL Helfer**

We'll celebrate women, womyn, and all those who identify in some manner as female.

(Rev. DL is looking for a few others to participate in this service. Please contact him if interested.)

*Our annual legislative forum with local General Assembly members takes place at noon.*



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.**

*Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, you are welcome here.*

### *Staff*

**REV. DL HELFER, MINISTER**

Office telephone: (401) 284-3321 • [uucscminister@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:uucscdre2@gmail.com)

**Michael Galib**, Music Director

**Karen St. Peter**, Congregational Administrator

Office telephone: (401) 783-4170 • [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com)

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*

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

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

Kai Migliaccio (2018-2020) • Bill Rodriguez (2018-2020) • Dave Hurdis (2019-2021)

Nancy Dean (2019-2021) • Rosemary Galiani (2019-2021)

### *Committee Chairs*

Elise Bender & Betty Bogutt, Membership • Jean Bowen & Carolyn Hurdis, Social Justice Team  
Barbara Pagh & Etta Zasloff, Religious Education • Sally Barney, Facilities • Marcia Boyd, Finance  
Charlie Donnelly, Personnel • Susan Pavlow, Music • Linda Whyte Burrell, Social Events  
Betsy Dalton, Communications & Publicity • Dave Ruede, Stewardship • Amber Collins, Worship  
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

*Will Bender*, Webmaster

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Betsy Dalton, Facebook manager

# *At the Water's Edge*

*Rev. DL Helfer*



Dear UUCSC Members and Friends,

As stewardship (pledge) and budget season approaches, you'll start hearing about my eventual sabbatical. I thought, then, I'd take this opportunity to answer some questions I've been asked or heard about.

"Why Does Rev. DL get sabbatical? How much sabbatical?"

Ministerial contracts for UU ministers generally include a clause for the accrual of sabbatical (much like in academia) over time; on average one month of sabbatical for every congregational year of service.

"What is a sabbatical for?"

Again, as in academia, sabbatical is meant to give the minister time to renew and refresh. Ministers often use this time to study something more deeply or to learn a new skill. Generally, when ministers return from sabbatical, they feel renewed and invigorated, which then contributes to the health and well-being of the congregation.

"When will the sabbatical be used?"

I'm in my fourth year of service with UUCSC, which means that as of the end of this congregational year, I will have accrued 4 months of sabbatical. I would only take sabbatical with proper advance planning with the congregation, and expect to not take any major sabbatical for a few years yet.

"What does Rev. DL's sabbatical cost UUCSC?"

There's a twofold cost. One, I'm still getting paid my salary, in the form of sabbatical pay. Two, the congregation needs to pay someone to preach, do pastoral care, and the like.

The Board, the Finance Committee, and I have been thinking about and discussing these questions. Recently, I proposed an option, one I believe will benefit the congregation in many ways.

The option I proposed is this: We would become a teaching congregation, which means we hire a ministerial intern. Allow that person, during the latter part of their internship, to be a two-month solo (but supervised by a UU minister) minister to UUCSC.

2020-2021 Plan for ministerial intern (costs, committee on ministry, etc). Go through search process for intern and hopefully find a good fit.

2021-2022 Year one of half-time ministerial intern.

2022-2023 Year two of half-time ministerial intern. I'd take 2 months of sabbatical in the spring of 2023.

It's my belief that UUCSC would benefit from becoming a teaching congregation, and that the energy, different focus, and particular gifts of a ministerial intern would be a positive development at this time in our shared ministry. Further, I like this model of sabbatical because it gives an intern a finite but useful experience— one I had as well—in ministering to a congregation.

I look forward to hearing your ideas and thoughts.

With hope for our future,

*Rev. DL*

# A note from the President

Serving on the UUCSC Board of Directors can be hard, time-consuming work. What makes it worthwhile is serving with interesting people like Linda Dupuis. Linda and I took some time to get to know each other a little better and I want to share some of what I learned.

Linda is currently finishing up her term as UUCSC Board Clerk. She has done a fabulous job. I don't know how many times over the past year I have looked back at our meeting minutes and have been able to find exactly what I was looking for— and she does them in large print!

Linda has served our community in so many ways that I will probably fail to mention one or two. I first met her when she convinced me to let her take my picture for the congregation's photo directory. That is not an easy task. Can you imagine taking the pictures and compiling the information for all of our members and friends? It must be like herding cats. A few years ago, during a snowstorm, Linda sat in her recliner for days inputting the information. She has also served as a greeter and helped Val Follett with clean-up after coffee hour.

You may also see Linda pushing a wheelbarrow around and weeding our amazing garden in front of our building.

I asked Linda how she found our congregation. The short answer is—the phone book. For those of you who may not remember what life was like in 2011, those are big heavy books that people used to use to find locations and phone numbers . . . imagine that! Before

attending a service, Linda took a ride down to check us out. She saw a woman in the parking lot and asked her if she knew anything about the congregation. It turns out that she was speaking with the one and only Rev. Betty Kornitzer. Linda became a member soon after she started attending services. She appreciates the relaxed and friendly atmosphere she has found at the UUCSC. Like so many of us, she has found her spiritual home here.



Linda Dupuis

However, Linda didn't just stumble upon UUCSC. She had done a lot of inquiry and research about religion and spirituality over the years. After raising a son and daughter and wrapping up her long career as a nurse, she had some time to think about finding a spiritual home.

She had grown up in the Episcopal church but she wanted something different. She is a naturally curious, adventurous and inquisitive person. She has taken advantage of more than thirty Road Scholar trips over the years. One of the most memorable was a trip to Iowa visiting different religious

communities, including Mormons, the Amana Communities and the Maharishi Vedic City.

Not long after, she was introduced to Unitarian Universalism during a course on humanism she took in Vermont. One of the instructors was an atheist and, at the same, time a warm spiritual person. Linda found that interesting and refreshing.

Now that Linda has found her spiritual home, she spends her time working to build our community and keeping us connected. She continues to enjoy travel and adventure. While many people plan trips to warmer destinations, Linda will be jetting off to Alaska to visit her daughter. She also enjoys photography. I hope you caught her installation of photographs back in December: beautiful shots of rushing water and glowing, warm light. She frames them herself. She has also taken several Osher Lifelong Learning Institute programs, exploring memoir and creative writing. Now she will have some extra time to pursue those interests.

We at UUCSC are fortunate that Linda did not choose to study levitation with the Maharishi Community or join the Amana Colonies of Iowa. I am glad she is a part of our beloved community.

We will miss her serving on the board but I know she would be willing to train her successor. If you are interested in taking over as clerk for UUCSC, please see Sandy Ketrow, as she is putting together the slate to fill the open positions.

— Natalie Herbermann



## This month's Soul Matters theme is Wisdom

“The day the child realizes that all adults are imperfect, he becomes an adolescent; the day he forgives them, he becomes an adult; the day he forgives himself, he becomes wise.” – Alden Nowlan

*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.*

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## Legislative forum on Sunday, March 29

The Social Justice Team will sponsor a community legislative forum on Sunday, March 29 from noon to 1:30 p.m. General Assembly members representing Narragansett, South Kingstown, North Kingstown, and Charlestown will talk about the legislation they are sponsoring during this session. The issues to be discussed include strategies to combat climate change in Rhode Island, criminal justice reform, increasing the minimum wage, gun control, reproductive justice, and the "fair chance licensing" bills that would prohibit state agencies from revoking or refusing to grant professional licenses because the applicant has been convicted of a crime.



## *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*

This year's UUA General Assembly, to take place 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!

## Learn about Legacy Giving

Join Finance Committee Chair Marcia Boyd at a workshop on Legacy Giving in Harvard, Mass. on April 18 and learn how to encourage members, friends, and supporters of UUCSC to make a difference through legacy giving. You'll learn about soliciting, managing, and stewarding legacy gifts to ensure that Unitarian Universalism is answering the call of love for generations to come.



Jay Pacitti, Donor Relations Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association, will present the basics of legacy giving. The workshop will take place in the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church Fellowship Building from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The workshop is free of charge, but registration is required. Please bring a brown bag lunch if you would like to stay for the afternoon session. To register, open [this link](#).



# The Path to Membership

The Path to Membership class is for newcomers who would like to become members of the congregation and for those who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism. This year's class is on Sunday, March 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. downstairs in the RE area.

Rev. DL will talk about the history of Unitarian Universalism. Board president Natalie Herbermann, Finance Committee chair Marcia Boyd, and the Membership Committee will talk about how our congregation functions.



If you would like to take this class or if you would like more information, contact Betty Bogutt (783-0288 or [ebogutt@verizon.net](mailto:ebogutt@verizon.net)), Elise Bender (465-5103 or [ejmb@cox.net](mailto:ejmb@cox.net)), or Karen St. Peter (284-2297 or [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com)). If you will need childcare during the class, please let them know by Monday, March 2.

A New Member ceremony will take place during the service on Sunday, April 5.

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## Author Elizabeth Rush will speak at Salve Regina on April 2

*Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore*, by Elizabeth Rush, a creative nonfiction writing professor at Brown University, describes how coastal communities throughout the country are coping with the impacts of rising sea levels. The book was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction, and is Reading Across Rhode Island's book for 2020. Rush will speak at Salve Regina University on Thursday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m. in conversation with Jim Ludes, executive director of the university's Pell Center. For more information or to buy tickets, open [this link](#).



### *A letter to the congregation from DRE Bethany Vaccaro*

Dear UU family,

*I'm writing to let you know that I have decided not to continue in the position of DRE for our next congregational year. I will definitely finish this congregational year and be with you through June 2020.*

*Please know that this decision does not reflect my regard for you all, which remains strong! It has been such a joy and honor to grow with you and to see the RE program branch into new directions. I am confident that the leadership of the RE Committee and our other dedicated staff will be able to keep the program running smoothly and growing. I will do my best to ensure an easy transition into this next phase.*

*My decision is based on a mix of personal and professional reasons. I am looking forward to having more time to devote to my own children, as we begin our journey of home-schooling! I also have a few professional projects brewing that need more time and attention to grow. After my break from the congregation, it's my plan to continue being involved on a personal, rather than professional, level.*

*I am deeply grateful for the time we've shared. I have grown as much as anyone! My deepest love and best wishes go out to you all.*

*My best, Bethany*

Do you receive the congregation's Weekly E-News in your e-mail in-box each week? Would you like to? Please get in touch with Karen St. Peter at 284-3321 or at [uucscri@yahoo.com](mailto:uucscri@yahoo.com).



# Religious Education News and Events

By Bethany Vaccaro, Religious Education Director

*This month we celebrate Wisdom.*

*As we live each day,  
What guides our way?*



## **Sunday, March 1**

Kids start downstairs at 10AM.

*The Wisdom of Listening*

Experiencing the power of sound can only happen when we first get quiet enough to listen. We will welcome special guests Sarah and Kevin Bell, who will share a gong bath with us today.

Service Project: Cards of Encouragement

.Handmade cards to encourage social justice activists in our community

## **Sunday, March 8**

*Clown Wisdom*

Some religious festivals involve celebrations that might seem silly on the surface. What can we learn by turning everything upside down? Let's get dressed up in costumes and find out!

## **Sunday, March 15**

*Our UU Sources*

We will offer some cool info on what makes our UU tradition different from other religions, and the six sources of wisdom we draw from. And we'll get crafty making our own chalices.

Toddler Yoga in the Nursery today! Parents are welcome to join.

## **Sunday, March 22**

*The Wisdom of Story*

We are all wise inside. Write your own wisdom tale and make a hand-bound book to record it in.

## **Sunday, March 29**

*The Wisdom of Simplicity*

We'll be making "junk sculptures" out of simple shapes. If you have any extra bottle tops and lids, bring them in!

Youth Group: Kids in grades 5-8 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.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*“We should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe.”*

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

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