



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 11, Issue 10

October 2009

October Services

We meet at our UU Center, Pomona Rd and Liebig Street, Galloway NJ (near the north entrance to Richard Stockton College).
Services are at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

<p>October 4</p>	<p>Association Sunday <i>Guest minister Rev Om Prakash</i> This service will celebrate the Unitarian Universalist Association. As a small, yet influential organization, we have historically been at the foreground of social change: the creation of more humane society; deep theological reflection and insights; and the promotion of the worth and dignity of the human family on all levels. In this service we will address the UUA's dedication to becoming a multi-racial, multi-cultural, anti-racist association and what this means in a world--and in our congregations, that are becoming multi-racial and multi-cultural right now. We will consider what a combination of this decision and shifting demographics mean for all of us, and how this decision and those like it, will affect our lives and the lives of the coming generations well into the future.</p>
<p>October 11</p>	<p>To Be One is to Be Truly Whole <i>Led by Donna Renfro</i> Core of Fire is an interfaith dance ministry of mature women, who use the healing power of dance to combine spiritual connection and creative movement into choreography that speaks to our deepest longings to express the awe, wonder and anguish of the life experience. We will tell our personal and collective stories about what Core means to us, in dance, poems, and anecdotes, and debut a new dance!</p>
<p>October 18</p>	<p>Gratitude <i>Lay speaker Theresa McReynolds</i> Being grateful may be good for the soul, but its power is magnified when it is not kept private but shared with those around you. At this service Theresa and Mariann will remind us why it's important to say "Thank You."</p>
<p>October 25</p>	<p>Addictions Recovery Ministry <i>Lay speaker Will Parsons</i> Will will describe what the many different addictions have in common and how the Addictions Recovery Ministry, a small group ministry, is contributing to the mission of the Congregation.</p>

Spirituality and Community Building with InterPlay

Saturday, October 17, 9 am to 4:30 pm, in the Sanctuary
Contact Pam Altaffer if you are interested in learning more.



Our upcoming services...

Rev., Dr. Om Prakash (John Gilmore) is the Director of Racial and Social Justice for the Joseph Priestley District. Om Prakash is a graduate of Meadville Lombard Divinity School. Later Om Prakash received a D. Min. degree from The University of Creation Spirituality, a school founded by Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox devoted to the idea of Mystic as Agent of Change. Om Prakash's doctoral dissertation focused on how oppressive behavior is learned and how we can dismantle the internalization of oppression and oppressive behavior. He later did post doctoral work at Sat Yoga Institute for Personal Transformation in Escazu, Costa Rica where he taught Chi-kung and Pranic Healing and studied identity formation. Om Prakash is a writer, a Nationally Certified Massage Therapist and Bodyworker, a Certified Grief Counselor, a Tai-chi and Chi-kung instructor, and a Certified Healthy Congregations Trainer with the JPD.

Core Of Fire Interfaith Dance Ministry grew out of a weekend workshop to learn one dance named Core of Fire. The choreography comes mostly from Dr. Carol Penn, who trained as a professional dance artist with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Choreography and dramatic sign language interpretation also comes from Marcia Freeman. The dancers from four different faith traditions do some improvisational choreography. Core of Fire has performed in churches, congregations, religious meetings, cancer survivor meetings, 9/11 families survivors services, and led workshops at various churches and religious gatherings. Services and some workshops are crafted by Donna Renfro, UU DRE and seminarian.

Our congregation is just one out of more than 1,000. Keep abreast what is happening in our larger association. Subscribe to a UUA-sponsored email list by going to <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo>

TALKBACK SESSION:

Open Microphone Joys and Sorrows Sunday, October 11, after the Sunday Service

Earlier this year, the Sunday Services Committee facilitated a discussion on the issue of Open Microphone Joys and Sorrows. The discussion was lively and fruitful, although attendance was low on that Saturday morning.

If you missed that earlier discussion, you can come to the followup session. The discussion will once again be facilitated by members of the Sunday Services Committee and the Board of Trustees. Come share your thoughts and feelings on the Joys and Sorrows of Joys and Sorrows!

In Memoriam: Rev. Dr. Forrest Church: Theologian, Author

Just four days after Stephanie Garrett spoke to us on Death and Dying last month, quoting at length from his *Love and Death: In the Valley of the Shadow*, Forrest Church passed away at his home in New York City.

He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer three years ago and given six months to live. In those three years, he published two books, saw his daughter married, gave a humanitarian award to former president Bill Clinton, and lived longer than both his father and grandfather.

He once told the *Boston Globe*, "...generally, politicians try to change society for the betterment of the individual. I like to change the individual for the betterment of society."

A service in celebration of Dr. Church's life and ministry will be held on Saturday, October 3, at 4 pm at All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City, where he was pastor for over 30 years.

Courage doesn't always roar.
Sometimes courage is the little voice
at the end of the day that says,
"I'll try again tomorrow."

-- Mary Anne Radmacher-Hershey

REFLECTIONS by President Jim Gentile

THE MINISTRY MYSTERY TOUR - III

When I recently learned that the concepts of vision, mission and covenant are considered to be critical to congregations, I first had to acknowledge that I did not know what these concepts meant. In the tradition in which I was raised, visions were something that children had in the 19th and early 20th Century in France or Spain and were usually accompanied by miracles. Missions were the place to which we sent pennies for the conversion of those who had not found our faith. Covenant was taught to be a ‘no strings attached’ love between a personal God and his chosen people. I was not particularly adept at these concepts. For example, in third grade I failed a quiz on the miracle at Fatima by insisting that the vision had occurred to three children: Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. I suppose I was confused by a curriculum that scheduled history and religion back-to-back.

Within our UU world, these concepts are very different from the ones with which I was familiar as a child. In our tradition, they are fundamental to the very identity of a congregation. In “Vision, Mission, and Covenant” (available on the UUA website), these concepts, when developed, define a Congregation, setting forth why the Congregation exists and what it wants to do. But there is a caution:

“There is some truth to the remark that ‘liberal religion is always only one generation removed from extinction,’ because without the valuable work in discovering and creating vision, mission and covenant, the reasons why our congregations gather can be lost. Because we choose to allow (and insist upon) individual determinations of belief, we cannot fall back onto historical statements as the reasons why we exist. Rather, the members of each gathered community must determine for themselves the reasons why they *continue* to exist.”

It is in this spirit that, during designated Sundays in October, November and December, members of the Board and of the Program Council will hold talk-back sessions to which members of the congregation will be urged to attend. There are so many new members, and there have been so many changes to our Congregation since the last mission statement was created -- it is our hope that we will engage each of you and receive your insights and thoughts in this process of undertaking the vision, mission and covenant work of our Congregation. I very much look forward to this process, tapping into the personal wisdom of our members and the collective wisdom of our congregation.

Jim

Please note! Board of Trustees meetings are ALWAYS open to the public.
Any member can observe – no advance “permission” or “RSVP” needed – just SHOW UP!
Board meetings are the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

Notes from Board Meeting September 8, 2009

At September's Board meeting there was continued discussion of the development of a Policies and Procedures manual, and revisions to the Facility Use Policy. Both of these documents will be available in the Members Only webspace when approved by the Board. There was also continued discussion of Vision, Mission, and Covenant. The Board will hold several talk-back sessions to elicit input on these topics from the congregation.

Next Board meeting – Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

COMMITTEE	BOARD LIASION
Adult Religious Education	Ruth Eaves
Building & Grounds Committee	John Searight
Children's Religious Education	Karen York
Communications Committee	Deb Dagavarian
Finance Committee	3 Board Members are Committee Members. No designated Liaison
Green Sanctuary Committee	Ruth Eaves
Interweave	Prim Reeves
Membership Committee	Deb Dagavarian
Social Justice Committee	Jim Gentile
Sunday Services Committee	Karen Zindell

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2009-2010	
Officers	Members At Large
Jim Gentile 10 <i>President</i>	Ruth Eaves 10
Debbi Dagavarian 10 <i>Vice President</i>	John Searight 11
Karen Zindell 11 <i>Secretary</i>	Karen York 11
Primrose Reeves 10 <i>Treasurer</i>	* year given is end of term, e.g. 11 means thru 6/30/2011

Default Committee Meeting schedule

- 1st Sunday Adult RE
- 2nd Sunday Children's RE
- 3rd Sunday Sunday Services
- 4th Sunday Membership, Social Justice
- 5th Sunday Potluck! *Please, no committee meetings.*

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fail." -- Nelson Mandela

MARGARET CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Margaret Circle will be on Thursday, October 1, at 1 pm in the Library at the UU Center. After lighting the chalice, we will share significant happenings in our lives from the past month followed by refreshments and discussion.

Moderator will be Kathryn Kelley who will present the topic for discussion "Is the United States a Christian Nation? Let's Have a Look at the Bible." We will consider comments by Newt Gingrich, Barack Obama, and Jesus. Now that's enough to stir up some good discussion.

Please RSVP Arlene Yacka, Circle Leader, if you plan to attend. Looking forward to seeing you for an enlightening discussion.

UU Book Lovers

The book group will be meeting Friday, Oct. 23 at 7 pm in the library at the UU center. The book selected is *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. The book was written in 1726 and details the travels of a ship's surgeon to various lands. For more information, please contact Helene Gentile.

Caring Team

If you have a personal difficulty or concern, you may talk with any Caring Team member. You'll know Caring Team members by the special Sunday Services name tags, with a yellow border edge, a daisy in the corner, and "Caring Team" under the name.

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

We are now 1/4 of the way through our fiscal year. During the month of October I will be sending by email statements of pledges. If you do not want to receive the information by email, please let me know immediately.

I will remind you of your total pledge amount and the amount that you have paid thru September 30. This is not the end of the calendar year statement for taxes; that will come in January. This is only a message to let you know how much you have given toward your pledge. It is also a way for you to check to make sure that I have credited you with all your pledge payments. Please let me know of any discrepancies.

For those of you who have not yet completed your capital campaign pledges, I will let you know your balance.

--Prim Reeves, Treasurer--

"For fast-acting relief,
try slowing down."

Lily Tomlin



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MISSION: Broadening Religious Imaginations

“IT’S IN OUR HANDS”

There is an often-told Zen story about a king who was told that there was a man in his kingdom who could read minds. The king ordered that the man be brought to him.

When they were together the king said to the man, “I understand that you claim you can read minds. I have a test for you. I have a bird in one of my hands behind my back. Is that bird alive or dead?”

The man realized that if he said the bird was alive the king would kill it, and if he said the bird was dead the king would let it live.

After a pause, the man said to the king “Your Majesty, the answer is in your hands.”

When audiences hear this story they realize that the message is that we have the intelligence and creativity, individually and collectively, to make a positive contribution to meeting whatever challenges we face now and in the future.

For UUCSJS members and friends, this means that we can use the personal gifts we bring to the task to make a positive contribution toward overcoming any obstacles we may face as members of this Congregation and as citizens of the United States and the world.

One major role of our Adult Religious Education Program is to empower members of the congregation and others so that they can play their essential roles in supporting the mission of our congregation and making a difference in the world.

This sense of confidence and faith seems to be especially important now as we are witnessing the acrimonious debate about reforming our health insurance system, repairing our financial system, and seriously addressing the prospect of adverse climate change because of global warming.

The Adult Religious Education Committee will be sponsoring the following “spiritual buffet” and other programs during the coming months to encourage and support our members and friends in their spiritual journeys within our “beloved faith community.”

Here are some of our Adult Religious Education Programs. Look for sign-up sheets, more information in the Sunday Bulletin, and talk with the facilitators.

Drumming for Peace led by **David Shaman**. Interactive, fun, drumming, singing, playing together, sharing. Talk with **David Shaman** or **Theresa McReynolds**.

Healing Power of Music, led by **Barbara Miller**, explores the healing power of music through singing, toning, chanting, listening, silence, and movement. One-hour sessions, offered to our Congregation and friends twice a month.

Spirituality Discussion Group, led by **Marsha Hannah** and **Serat Emmanuel**. Discussions are based on *The Seat of the*

Soul by Gary Zukav. Please feel free to join -- whenever the meeting occurs.

A Taste of InterPlay led by **Pam Altaffer**. Interplay is a practice and philosophy rooted in the transformational power of play. It helps us approach life with more freedom, creativity, and joy. It involves the use of movement, storytelling, and voice to balance mind and body.

PRINCIPLED COMMITMENT – Couples Program: Facilitated by **Barbara Clark** in the spring. This program weaves Unitarian Universalist values, Principles, and Sources with four “strands”: (1) Spiritual Development, (2) Ethical Development, (3) UU Identity Development, and (4) Faith Development. In bringing together UU values, relationship skills, covenanting, fellowship, **and fun**, this program offers couples an opportunity to build and enhance a principled commitment to one another.

BUILDING YOUR OWN UU THEOLOGY: Facilitated by **Marsha Hannah**. *Building Your Own Theology* was developed to help Unitarian Universalists in their “free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” It is a systematic, disciplined, and communal approach to the process of building a new theology on the residue of the old. It can be exciting and endlessly frustrating. Why? Because it has to do with the stuff of human experience, and the meaning of being and becoming.

Of course, you can come to our next Adult Religious Education Committee meeting (4th of October 2009 after Sunday Services) and enjoy learning more about some of the opportunities available to you through the Adult Religious Educational programs being sponsored by the Committee. Everyone is welcome. Bring all your ideas and suggestions.

Barbara J Clark, Chair, Adult Religious Education

Announcing Launch of our "Members Only" webspace

Misplace your Directory? Wonder what the Board discussed at the last meeting? Want to check a previous week's Midweek Announcements?

Now you can have access to various documents important in the life of our congregation at our "Members Only" webspace. Access is limited to our members and regularly-attending friends. The password will be changed periodically to keep the site secure (and revealed only in the Midweek Announcements).

Visit by going to our main website (uucsjs.org). Click on the "Members Only" link (near the bottom left, just above "Contact Us"), or go directly to: <http://members.uucsjs.org>. As soon as you try to view any document, you will be asked to log in.

If you have any problems connecting, constructive criticism, or suggestions, please email Mariann. Thanks for your interest!



Children's Religious Education

Up and Running with Children's Religious Education

We kicked off our Religious Education school year on September 13 with our first annual Ice Cream Sunday. After handing in a completed registration form for RE classes, children were able to create their own ice cream sundaes. Adults from the congregation were also invited to partake of the cool treats in exchange for signing up to assist in RE for two Sundays throughout the year. Many thanks to the adults who came down and signed up to help in RE this year! If you weren't able to attend, never fear, there are still plenty of empty spaces on the class assistant schedule to spend a Sunday with our budding UUs! Email Heidi at sjsdre@gmail.com anytime to find out how you can help ensure that Unitarian Universalism lives on with the next generation by helping in Children's RE.

For the second year, our children participated in **Pinwheels for Peace**, an annual art installation project started in 2005 by two Art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, of Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. Our young peacemakers artfully expressed their feelings about peace on pinwheel templates, then assembled their pinwheels and displayed them on Pomona Road near our road sign. Our pinwheels spun with others all over the world on September 21st celebrating the International Day of Peace, displaying our hopes for a future free from violence and war.

September 27 marked the official beginning of our Children's RE classes. If you have any comments or questions about Children's Religious Education, feel free to contact Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education at sjsdre@gmail.com. For more information about our programming, pick up a blue brochure from the vestibule.

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

What I learned in RE...

I learned that our kids do a lot more thinking than we give them credit for. - Kim Peters

Buy **Gift Cards** any Sunday for
Acme & Shoprite.

Don't you have to buy groceries anyway??!

Using these gift cards for groceries
nets the congregation 5%.

We also have Fair Trade coffee and tea!

Kids Do the Darndest Things!

Get your cuteness fix by supervising
the Toddler Room on Sunday.

Please call Lori Waters to volunteer.

UU CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 20 to audition for the UU Children's Choir next summer in Minnesota. It's a 5 day music camp for select singers 10-12 years old. At the end of the week they sing for thousands of UUs at General Assembly. Adult chaperones are also needed. The camp takes place on the beautiful campus of Macalester College. Financial assistance is available and tax-deductible donations are being accepted. Please go to the website for more information and to see updates during the camp. Please encourage children to audition. See www.uucc2010.com for more info.

Jan Chamberlin, Program Director, UUCC2010
janchamberlin@me.com

Don't miss out on the most fun you'll have spending money all year!

The 5th Annual UUCSJS Service Auction will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

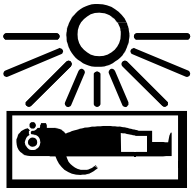
There are three types of auctions. First is a **silent auction** for most of the items, services, dinners/events and handmade goodies. Second is a **chance auction**, for which you buy tickets and bid on items by placing a ticket (or more, depending on how much you want to increase your chances of winning!) in a cup by the item. And finally is the **live auction**, with exciting bidding on prizes to fit almost anyone's budget.

What are you going to donate – services, dinners and events, items, or handmade and baked goods? Donations are being accepted only until Sunday, October 18. Donation forms are in your Order of Service and available at the Auction Table set up after each Sunday service in the back of the Sanctuary. If you want to set up or help out during the Auction, email Debbi Dagavarian. If you want to make a donation, contact Heidi Jansch.

Remember to donate! And don't wait another week to fill out a donation form! Do it NOW!

FULL GREEN AHEAD

ARE OUR SOLAR PANELS WORKING?



UUCSJS Electric bills:

January 2009	\$ 599
February	702
August	76
September	61

ATTENTION: ALL UUCSJS WOMEN

The UUCSJS Women's Association was established in 2002, when we were meeting in Margate. The time has come to revitalize the group. To this end we are having a meeting at the UU Center on Thursday evening, October 22, in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. Please plan to come and support us. We are going to be organizing our second circle, an evening group for the women who aren't available to attend our first circle, Margaret Fuller Circle, which meets on the first Thursday afternoon of the month. All women of the congregation are encouraged to attend this meeting; you do not have to be a member.

Circle groups can play an important role in a congregation, as a place for women to forge new friendships and strengthen old ones. As we come together in small groups we tell our stories, we celebrate our joys and console each other in trying times. Most importantly we come to know each other better, exchange ideas, have stimulating discussions and always have a good time.

So, set your VCR to record your favorite programs; I promise this will not be a long meeting. I'll be baking so save room for dessert and please let me know if you plan to attend so I'll know how many to prepare for.

Kathryn Kelley, President, UUCSJS Women's Assn.

**Murray Grove WORK WEEKEND
October 11-12, 2009**

Join us for our first annual Fall Work Weekend! Help support and fix up Murray Grove, and have some fun: you'll get overnight lodging, good food, wonderful fellowship, topped off with a special service in the historic Potter Chapel. Visit www.murraygrove.org for details.

Jessi and her new hubby

Saturday evening, September 19, our bride, Jessi Aprill, and her groom, Anthony Canzano, stated their public vows of love and marriage to each other. Music prior to the service included Barbara Miller at the piano, and Chris Holaday on guitar, who sang "Give Yourself to Love."

The Sanctuary at our UU Center looked lovely as the family procession of Jessi's father Gregg Aprill, Anthony's parents, the couple's grandparents, and Anthony walked to the platform, with Barbara Miller playing "Music of the Night" as the processional. The bride appeared at the doorway from the vestibule in a floor length, lovely gown of white, and Missie Aprill escorted her daughter to take Anthony's arm at the platform. The chalice was lit, and Richard Grzywinski led Jessi and Anthony in their solemn pledges.

Paul Utts provided a reading of "Oh, The Places You'll Go," and Prim Reeves read an excerpt from "Celebrating Life" by Jonathan Sacks. At the conclusion of the rites, family members and guests acknowledged the newlyweds, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony and Jessi Canzano, with hearty applause.

September's Old Fashioned Picnic

Our first FUUN event was a huge success.. What fun! The weather was perfect, the food was wonderful, and games were enjoyed by all. The 50/50 was won by Chris H who donated his share back to us. The setup and cleanup crew did a quick and efficient job. Thank you so much for all who helped. Be sure to come to our next FUUN event...

Another FUUN Event....

**Halloween Dance
Friday, October 30**

Costumes and prizes

Music by *PACKAGE GOODS*.

It's a fund raiser for the FUUN Committee.

Reserve the date on your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister

vacant
minister@uucsjs.org

**Music Director &
Sunday Service Coordinator**

Barbara Miller
music@uucsjs.org

**Director of Religious Education
& Staff Coordinator**

Heidi Jansch
dre@uucsjs.org

Church Administrator

Tricia Berko
office@uucsjs.org

Newsletter

Mariann Maene
newsletter@uucsjs.org

Electronic Communications

Sharon Gray
uucsjs@yahoo.com

Board of Trustees 2009-10

Debbi Dagavarian, Ruth Eaves,
Jim Gentile, Primrose Reeves,
John Searight, Karen York, Karen Zindell



**P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240
(609) 965-9400**

October 2009

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240**

