



# Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 13, Issue 01

January 2011

## January 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.

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|------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>January<br/>2</b></p>  | <p><b>Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here, we should dance</b><br/> <i>Guest minister Rev. Linda Holzbaur</i><br/>         What hopes do you have for the new year? How will you handle the uninvited events that slow you down or derail your plans? How do they affect your attitude toward daily living? Do you see them as obstacles or opportunities? How much of your life are you really <i>living</i>?</p>                                       |
| <p><b>January<br/>9</b></p>  | <p><b>Tuning Out the Noise</b><br/> <i>Guest speaker Kelly LoGuidice</i><br/>         In the clamor of everyday life, finding a moment of stillness can be difficult. When we stop long enough, our inner wisdom may surface. What might block us from experiencing this deep connection? Come explore those barriers and discover those silent spaces within.</p>  |
| <p><b>January<br/>16</b></p> | <p><b>Adventures of a Lifelong UU</b><br/> <i>Led by Paul Utts, Marsha Hannah, Karen York, Chris Holaday</i><br/>         Our "Adventures of a UU..." series continues with musings from four of our members who actually grew up UU.</p>   |
| <p><b>January<br/>23</b></p> | <p><b>Principles in Poetry</b><br/> <i>Led by Pam Hendrick and Helene Gentile</i><br/>         Our annual poetry service takes a new turn as we focus on poetry that showcases the Seven Principles.</p>  |
| <p><b>January<br/>30</b></p> | <p><b>Laughing Matters</b><br/> <i>Lay speaker Karen Zindell</i><br/>         Laughter lifts spirits, reduces stress, helps to lower blood pressure and stimulates the immune system. Link this view of the benefits of laughter to the spiritual practices of certain monks, shamans, Buddhas, and healers. World peace may not be achieved in our lifetime, but we can feel a solid sense of contribution to it by training ourselves to have the inner spirit of laughter.</p> |



### *If the weather outside is frightful...*

To find out if a Sunday Service is canceled or delayed due to inclement weather, please call the UU Center at 609-965-9400.

If weather is interrupting our regular service schedule, the recorded message will be changed by 8:30 am on Sunday mornings, reporting service time changes or cancellations. A message with this information will also be posted on the Yahoo group.



The **Rev. Linda Holzbaur** is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a graduate of New Brunswick Theological Seminary where she received her M. Div. degree. Now semi-retired, Rev. Holzbaur recently stepped down from her position as pastor at the United Church of Christ of Toms River after serving the congregation for ten years. Questioning many of the traditional Christian doctrines and beliefs she was taught led her to Unitarian Universalism for a number of years. She ultimately found a home in the UCC where she could be a Christian and a questioner.

**Kelly LoGiudice**, an intuitive bodyworker with 11 years of experience, is a licensed, Nationally Certified massage therapist specializing in Cranio-Sacral therapy. Her unique treatments blend anatomical knowledge with insightful listening to release stored patterns of tension and pain to help resume the body's natural healing processes. A Penn State alum, Kelly worked in psychology before switching fields.

A graduate of the Muscular Therapy Institute in Boston and an experienced Reiki Master Teacher, she taught at CCRI, Barrington Community School, East Providence Community Center and the Anthem Institute in Springfield, PA. Dedicated to heart-centered client care. Kelly enjoys assisting people to the full expression of their health and inner wisdom.

After a 10-year walkabout that included living in the Bay Area in California and in Rhode Island, Kelly returned to Pennsylvania three years ago. Originally from the Bethlehem area, she was raised a Quaker but is a Wiccan at heart. In Rhode Island, she joined Bell Street Chapel UU for community connection and social justice causes and quickly got involved in worship services, Welcoming Congregation workshops, and the caring and membership committees. At First Unitarian in Philadelphia, Kelly is a worship associate who relishes the challenge of delving into a topic and creating a meaningful experience. Kelly is passionate about marriage equality and other BGLTQ concerns.

**Karen Zindell** has been a native of the South Jersey Shore area for most of her life. Attending the University of Colorado in Boulder, she earned a bachelor's degree in Theater and Dance. She has been an active member of this congregation since 2006, and is currently serving as Secretary and Trustee. Employed by the Atlantic County Park System as a Recreation Program Specialist, Karen's many hats include playground safety inspector, challenge course manager, volunteer coordinator, and now certified laughter leader.

If you would like to share your Adventure of a UU ..... from your unique perspective, please contact **Barbara Miller**.

*Previous services have included:*

Adventures of a UU Hindu - May 9  
Guest minister Rev. Manish Mishra

Adventures of a New UU - August 1  
Lay speaker Charlie Roberts

Adventures of a UU Atheist - August 15  
Lay speaker Michael Cluff

Adventures of a UU Christian - October 24  
Lay speakers Helene Gentile, Steve Fiedler

Adventures of a UU Buddhist - November 14  
Lay speaker Cynthia Grzywinski

Adventures of African American Evangelical  
Universalist - November 21  
Lay speaker Stephanie Garrett

From Jewish to Jew-Unitarian - December 5  
Lay speaker Maxine Blumenthal

### **Elevator Speeches revisited**

An excellent article in UU World revisits the elevator speech assignment (explain UUism to a curious stranger in the time it takes your elevator to reach its destination). We often try to explain our faith tradition with a series of "not" statements – there's no creed, we don't believe in hellfire, etc. Wording the explanation with positive statements is more helpful to the uninitiated. Author Doug Muder boils his down to these essential elements:

Unitarian Universalism:

- is an evolving religion, not a revealed religion.
- is about this life, not an afterlife.
- focuses on actions and experiences, not beliefs.
- is democratic, not hierarchical.
- envisions a harmony between goodness and happiness, not the sacrifice of one to the other.

# Report from Ministerial Search Committee

*by Richard Grzywinski, Chair*

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A Special Congregational Meeting was held on September 19, 2010. At that meeting, a motion was passed authorizing the Nominations Committee to present to the Congregation the names of at least 4 members of the Congregation and one member of the Board of Trustees for election to the Ministerial Search Committee.

On December 12, 2010, again at a Congregational Meeting, the members of the Ministerial Search Committee were elected as nominated, namely, Jim Gentile (Board), Bill Felix, Richard Grzywinski, Marsha Hannah, and Angela Wexler.

The Ministerial Search Committee then met on December 14, 2010 with Richard Grzywinski as Chair and Angela Wexler as Recording Secretary, as elected unanimously by the Committee. Attending that first meeting were John Searight and Mike Cluff who provided insights and lessons learned from the previous ministerial selection process.

The Committee is now reviewing the following documents:

1. Transitional Ministry Handbook (UUA)
2. Resource Guide (UUA)
3. Part Time Guidelines (UUA)
4. Suggested Calendar based on approximate February 2011 start date (UUA)
5. Responsible Staffing Guidelines (UUA)
6. Sermon by Rev. Libby Smith (UUCSJS)
7. Ministry Workshop 7/25/2010 (UUCSJS)
8. Previous Congregational Record 3/29/2008 to be updated (UUCSJS)
9. Old UUCSJS Congregational Survey form (UUCSJS-Cluff)
10. Old UUCSJS survey results (UUCSJS-Cluff)

A meeting has been arranged with the District Executive of our UUA Joseph Priestley District, Rev. Richard Speck. The meeting will be on January 6, 2011 at 12:00 noon at the UU Center and will be attended only by members of the Ministerial Search Committee.

The following important note about confidentiality has been extracted from the UUA Transitional Ministry Handbook dated September, 2010:

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## *Confidentiality*

Confidentiality is not secrecy. The Ministerial Search Committee can publicize the process it is following and how far along it is at every point. At the same time, the Committee must keep confidential both the names and the locations of the ministers under consideration and the details of Committee business. There are several reasons for the rule of confidentiality:

- Ministers settled in a congregation may not have told their present parishioners that they are contemplating a move. These parishioners are entitled to hear the news from their own minister at the appropriate time. To “leak” a minister’s name can undermine his or her ability to serve the present congregation, and will almost certainly damage a congregation’s chances of attracting that potential candidate.
- When the identities of unsuccessful applicants are known, it heightens the competitive aspect of the search process. This hurts collegial feeling among ministers and (when neighboring congregations compete for the same minister) also can create hard feelings among congregations.
- It is harder to resolve differences among the members of a committee when factions of the congregation are looking over its shoulders. It is better to resolve differences in private.

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Notwithstanding the needs for confidentiality, the committee welcomes informal input from the congregation, so please feel free to provide your thoughts to any member as we proceed.

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*“Do not lose hold of your dreams or aspirations.*

*For if you do, you may still exist*

*but you have ceased to live.”*

*-- Henry David Thoreau*



*"Without effective intervention, as many as 70% of children with incarcerated parents will become involved with the criminal justice system." YOU can help break the cycle.*

A presentation will be offered at the UU Center on  
**Wednesday, January 5 at 7 pm**  
by Amachi representative Pierre Brown.

Amachi is a unique partnership of secular and faith-based organizations working together to provide mentoring to children of incarcerated parents. Faith institutions work with human service providers and public agencies (particularly justice institutions) to identify children of prisoners and match them with caring adults. Volunteers are needed.

See [www.amachimentoring.org](http://www.amachimentoring.org) for more information.

### **Great news! We are ready to start sign ups for Viridian Energy! It is very simple:**

Go to <http://www.viridian.com/uucsjs/default.aspx> and click on the link on the right that says "Become a Customer", fill out the required information and you're done! For every person who signs up before January 31, the congregation will receive an extra \$10 bonus! Please pass this on to your friends and family too. It's an easy and effective way to save money, support our spiritual home, and help the environment. A win-win for everyone! More information and sign-up forms will also be on the SJ table for the month of January. Please feel free to look them over!

### **UU Jewelry Sale at the Church of the Larger Fellowship's Online Shop!**

Did you know that the Church of the Larger Fellowship offers UU pendants, lapel pins, and note cards? These make wonderful gifts for friends, family & volunteers of all ages. The CLF is offering a 20% discount on pewter lapel pins, pewter pendants, and enamel lapel pins. This sale is good through March 2011.

Go to [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) and click on CLF Shop. To receive the discount simply write the words "CLF Rocks!" in the Add Comments field!

All jewelry sale proceeds support the many UU ministries of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

## **Discover the Foundation Stones of Environmental Consciousness**

**Spirituality – Deep Ecology – Integral Evolution – Action**

**Saturday, January 22 from 9 am to 4:30 pm**

*A catered lunch will be provided*

\$25 workshop fee (\$15 for Seniors and students)

Must register in advance

This one-day workshop will assist you in discovering the foundation stones on which all other environmental actions need to be built.

Conducted by Alan Oliver

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### ***The Pinelands Preservation Alliance presents:***

## **Designing a Sustainable Community**

**Wednesday, January 26 at 7pm.**

The purpose of this free 90-minute presentation is to provide the community with a comprehensive overview of sound community design techniques. The presentation will cover: mixed-use centers, walkable/bikeable neighborhoods, energy conservation measure and alternative energy solutions, green building, protecting open space and natural resources, the Sustainable Jersey program, and more.

Visit [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org) for more information. Light refreshments will be provided.

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### **Notes from Board Meeting Dec 9, 2010**

Progress is being made on the design and installation of the new building sign (where the current sign is located). Plans are approved for fencing to screen the trash can area. Research into costs for audio and video equipment to record Sunday services (sermons only) are being undertaken.

New policy for emergency closings will be to put a recorded message on the church phone and yahoo groups, rather than attempt to use a phone tree.

**Next Board meeting** – Tuesday, January 11, at 6:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.



## Book Club Visits WWII Guernsey Literary Society in January

### South Jersey Animal Advocates News

Yes, we have a name! Now we are officially recognized by the UUA as an Animal Ministry Chapter in affiliation with the UUCSJS – heretofore to be known as the South Jersey Animal Advocates (SJAA). The SJAA mission is to move beyond the celebration of the "interdependent web of existence" into practices in our everyday personal, social, economic and political lives that affirm species interdependence.

The SJAA is a group of animal compassionate people dedicated to animal welfare and protection. We are a collective voice and force committed to end animal abuse and suffering by turning this animal compassion into action. We are a non-discriminatory and non-denominational welcoming group who encourages participation from both members of the congregation as well as outside of the congregation in the greater community.

Recently, on December 5, 2010, we held a successful charity event for the Atlantic County Humane Society Animal Shelter. The response from the congregation was tremendous and we were able to deliver several containers (two carloads full!) of much needed items, such as bedding, food, and donations of money. Thanks to all who contributed to the care and welfare of these shelter animals.

Upcoming events will include an animal friendly service to be co-sponsored by the Social Justice Committee (SJC) and the SJAA. Lisa Levinson from Public Eye – Artists for Animals Organization ([www.publiceyephilly.org](http://www.publiceyephilly.org)), located in Philadelphia, will be speaking on animal rights and ethical eating. Her talk is entitled "Public Eye on Animals." The SJC and SJAA are also planning on selling and distributing literature and offering desserts and recipes in line with ethical eating. The date for this service will be announced at a later time.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 11:30 am at the UU Center. Please visit our web link at [www.uucsjs.org/social\\_action.html](http://www.uucsjs.org/social_action.html) for more information on upcoming events, meetings, and activities, or email Cynthia Grzywinski for an update.

*"Humans are part of the web of life. What we do to the planet, what we do to other species, and what we do to other people, we end up doing to ourselves." ~ John Robb*

Cynthia Grzywinski, Chapter Coordinator



The English Channel Island of Guernsey with its fictional, clandestine wartime literary society is the subject of the first Book Club meeting of the year, which will take place on Friday evening, January 21 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library. "Treat yourself to this book, please — I can't recommend it highly enough." So says Elizabeth Gilbert, according to the cover of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

A blurb on the back cover sets the scene. "January 1946: Writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name."

A reviewer at The Christian Science Monitor wrote, "I've never wanted to join a club so desperately as I did while reading Guernsey.... [The novel] is a labor of love and it shows on almost every page." And according to the San Francisco Chronicle Book Review, "... It's tempting to throw around terms like 'gem' when reading a book like this. But Guernsey is not precious.... This is a book for firesides or long train rides. It's as charming and timeless as the novels for which its characters profess their love."

We hope you can join us on the third Friday in January for warm conversation and savory treats on a cold winter's evening. Discussion will be facilitated by Judy Pereira, who encourages you to consider which of the members of the Potato Peel Pie Society is your personal favorite? Whose literary opinions are most like your own?

Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas Book Club Party in December and contributed so generously with personal readings and delicious treats. Eleven of us took turns warming our backs in front of the fire . . . and undoubtedly eating way too much!

For February our selection is *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See, to be facilitated by Judy Brown. To join the Book Club, simply contact Judy Pereira and you will receive meeting reminders and other literary-related notices.

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Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering -  
and it's all over much too soon.

- Woody Allen

## Children's Religious Education

### A Safe and Happy New Year

The Children's Religious Education Committee will begin the new year by creating in a Safe Congregation Policy. As we look forward to beginning the Our Whole Lives Curriculum, our first step is ensuring that we have a plan in place ensuring the safety of our children. One way that the committee has already progressed toward having a safe RE experience is by implementing our two adults per classroom policy during our Sunday morning classes (hence the requests for each member of the congregation to sign up a few times each year to serve as a classroom assistant – please take a moment to sign up to help at [www.volunteerspot.com](http://www.volunteerspot.com) or see me any Sunday I am carrying a clipboard).

A safe congregation policy can provide for not only the safety of our children, but also guidelines for staff, our future minister and the well being of our adult members. The policy we assemble can include a code of ethics for classroom teachers, acceptable behavior between staff and members, members and minors, our response to intruders and emergencies, as well as an action plan for responding to incidents. The policy can be brief; including only our plan for minors, or extensive; incorporating the above items regarding adults as well.

The Children's RE Committee will be reviewing the suggestions from the UUA on these policies, as well as samples from several other congregations as we begin this important work at our January meeting.

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

*"Adults are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up because they're looking for ideas."  
– Paula Poundstone*

### Subs and soup for Super bowl Sunday

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!*

## UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

**Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, January 6, 1 pm**

The program will be presented by Kathleen Hartnett on an article by Joan Chittister, Order of St Benedict, on Beauty. What is beauty? What role does beauty play in our lives? We hope you will find the topic as interesting as the introduction to this remarkable woman. We will take a break at 2 pm for refreshment. We hope you ladies will join us for another interesting discussion with our own remarkable women.

*All the women of the congregation are cordially invited to join us and that guests are always welcome at all our functions! If you are interested or have any questions about this group, please contact Arlene Yacka, Circle leader.*

### Olympia Brown Circle

Olympia Circle is on hiatus until March.

### Women's Spirituality Circle – Sunday January 23, 11:30

This group is reading & discussing a chapter or two each month of a book pertaining to spirituality. We are presently studying *A Seeker's Guide* by Elizabeth Lesser. At our next meeting we will be discussing *A Heartfulness Toolbox*, Chapter 10, pages 294 - 238.

If you are interested in attending this group please contact Kathryn Kelley, Circle Leader.

*All women of the congregation are welcome at these meetings. It's a good way to get to know other women in our congregation better and gives us a chance to get to know you. Please consider attending.*

### For those who sponsored a child for the Holiday for the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS):

Thanks for signing up to sponsor a gift for a child this Holiday season. You all came through and with short advance notice too! Our participation helped to fill a gap left by Macy's, who had generously sponsored children in the past, but withdrew their sponsorship this Holiday season.

The person in charge of organizing the gifts for the children was delighted with our participation. I'll be looking for input and canvassing our members next November to see to see if folks want to participate again. If you have an interest in helping or suggestions that you would like to put forth, please make a mental note to search me out in early Fall.

-- Jesse Connor

*"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."*

-- Mother Teresa



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

The Social Justice Committee has recently reflected on our past year's activities. Would you believe we: Accepted Sustainability and Environmental Justice as our umbrella issue, performed several cleanups of our adopted road, tabled at 6 community eco-fairs and at the International Fair Trade show, showed 4 environmental related movies, hosted and/or requested 3 Sunday speakers, hosted 5 presenters for workshops, sent out several petitions against the PurGen coal plant and mountaintop removal, petitioned for affordable housing in NJ, donated over \$300 toward other social action initiatives being carried out by other organizations such as the Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Coalition for Peace Action, and the UU Ministry for Earth, hosted an Ethical Holiday Cooking demonstration, donated CFL light bulbs to Habitat for Humanity, and much, much more?

We are now looking forward to the year and are welcoming suggestions and ideas! Please feel free to approach any member of the SJ Committee if you have something you would like to see. Thanks to our recently passed resolution, we will definitely be continuing our work opposing the PurGen Coal Plant in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ.

Speaking of PurGen... After the congregational meeting, I did regret not making two things clear:

1. I got the impression that many felt we were passing a resolution against carbon capture and sequestration in general – this was not so. We were specifically referring to the PurGen Plant proposed for Linden, NJ. Linden is already an Environmental Justice Community according to the DEP and its plan of pumping CO<sub>2</sub> 70 miles off the coast of Atlantic City is a little too close for comfort, especially considering the experimental nature of the project.

2. Also, many people may not be familiar with the “Coalition” we were proposing to join. This Coalition includes many NJ organizations including: the Sierra Club, the American Littoral Society, Clean Ocean Action, the Environmental Justice Advisory Council to the DEP, Surfrider, 350.org, UULMNJ, and I have just recently heard but have yet to verify, the Union of Concerned Scientists, among many others. The list can be viewed at: [www.stoppurgencoalplant.org](http://www.stoppurgencoalplant.org). The Atlantic City Council, Mullica Township Council, and Buena Vista Council have also passed resolutions opposing the plant.

I am very glad that the congregation did have this discussion and I respect the views of those who are not convinced that this plant is a bad idea for NJ. While respecting those views, I must admit that I was disappointed that some members of the congregation did not research the matter before coming to the meeting. I sincerely hope they still decide to do their research considering the nature of this project and how it could potentially impact the health of our state. I too will be more mindful about coming to congregational meetings informed and ready to participate.

One more note: As our congregation's present Social Justice Chair, I must say it does befuddle me that the congregation is concerned with “putting our name to something.” While I can understand that statement referring to a particular issue, I do hope it isn't a general position about all issues. If so, would not seem to be in line with most UU history that I have read. It was also recently mentioned to me that perhaps our congregation wants to be “for something” and not “against something.” Again, this seems to be just a play on words and not a guiding principle set forth by UU history. A five minute google search pulled up the following items that UU's have been “against,” including some issues from our congregation:

- During the 1800's Unitarians took a stand against slavery and supported the abolition
- Unitarian Universalists *stand against* genocide in Darfur
- Unitarian Universalist Congregations Take Public *Stand Against* Torture.
- Unitarian Universalists *stand against* oppression in the larger community (re: Welcoming Congregations)
- The Unitarian Universalist Association of Uganda is preparing to take a strong and courageous *stand against* the Ugandan government's proposed "Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009."
- UU congregation that takes a *stand against* war and violence
- UU of San Mateo members voted to *take a public stand* for the Moratorium against the Death Penalty
- *We stand against* imperialism and global exploitation
- Bloomington UUs Take a *Stand Against* Acts of Antisemitism
- UUs *Take a Stand* on Wal-Mart
- UUs *stand against* this cruel, counterproductive war (on drugs)
- UUs have a long tradition of taking a *stand against* racism
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix *stand against* SB 1070 (Immigration Bill)
- Our faith calls us to *challenge and change* policies and structures that inhibit human development, harm the environment, and destroy communities. (UULMNJ)
- UUCSJS *stands against* the death penalty

In conclusion, I have certainly learned many lessons over the year as the Social Justice Chair. Yet, I know there is still very much to learn. I appreciate all those who have given me love, guidance and support along the way and thank you to all who have supported the SJ Committee. I look forward to working alongside of each of you for many years to come! See you in the New Year!

In faith,  
Angela Jones

The Social Justice Committee will meet Sunday, February 6 promptly at 11:30 in the [library](#). We will be discussing projects for the upcoming year.

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**Newsletter submission deadline:** the Friday before the last Sunday of the month.

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

**Minister**  
vacant

**Music Director &  
Sunday Service Coordinator**  
Barbara Miller  
uucsjsmusic@comcast.net

**Director of Religious Education**  
Heidi Jansch  
sjsdre@gmail.com

**Operations Manager**  
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Sharon Gray  
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**Board of Trustees 2010-11**  
Debbi Dagavarian, Jim Gentile, Primrose Reeves,  
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Karen York, Karen Zindell



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(609) 965-9400**

**January 2011**

**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore  
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