



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South
Jersey Shore

Volume 13, Issue 06

June 2011

June 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>June 5</p>	<p>Living Love: Radical Selflessness and Universalism <i>Guest speaker Michael Masters</i> “Radical selflessness” and Universalism ultimately come down to the same thing: love, the only source of real meaning in human life. How do you find meaning? Live love.</p>
<p>June 12</p>	<p>Bridging <i>Lay leaders Melissa Hutchison, Heidi Jannsch</i> Please join us for a special Bridging Service, which recognizes and honors the transition from youth to adulthood. Help us to celebrate our high school graduating Seniors, some of whom have been with us since the inception of UUCSJS! <i>Parents; please note that this will be an intergenerational service; children are invited to attend the service with their families as our entire community celebrates this special event.</i></p>
<p>June 19</p>	<p>Fathering <i>Guest minister Rev. Julie Newhall</i> If you had a paragraph in which to describe a father figure in your life, what would you say? Who is/was this man to you? What has he brought to your life? Perhaps you can bring your memories with you to this special service to explore the many kinds of fathers we know.</p>
<p>June 26</p>	<p>Summer Solstice: Celebration of the Sun <i>Guest speaker Kelly LoGiudice</i> Come rejoice in the gifts of this time of year with a summer solstice service for all ages. Delight in the warming rays of community and sharing of abundance. Let your little light shine and let sun make sweet your song.</p>

June 5 Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on June 5 in the Sanctuary following Sunday service. At that time there will be an election for members of the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and Representatives to General Assembly, and the 2011-2012 Annual Budget will be voted on. Absentee Ballots, and Proxy Statements are available. You may call the office at 609-965-9400 to request either of these forms.



Our speakers this month

Michael Masters arrived at Murray Grove in January 1999. It is the latest stop on a journey that began in the orange grove country of southern California and has led by way of a study of history at the cliff-top seaside UC Santa Barbara to twelve years teaching English in Yokohama, Japan (where he lived for a year in a Zen temple and became an expert in remote traditional hot spring inns), sandwiched on either side by 14 months of backpacking through Europe on the way to Japan and another 14 months backpacking through Southeast Asia on the way back. Four years of reacclimation to this culture followed, from a base in the Boulder, CO, area, including a year of Blue Highways-style backroads driving around North America looking for just the right situation for himself. And Murray Grove is where he found it!

Paralleling, and far more important than the exterior journey, has been the interior one. On a path of self-discovery for nearly 40 years, Michael has come to the firm and essential conclusion that all meaning in human life comes from the experience and practice of radical selflessness – which is identical to Thomas Potter’s universal love! Talk about synchronicity! He lives and works at Murray Grove trying to live up to Thomas’s example, serving this sacred site and the people who come here as selflessly and as lovingly as he is able.

Rev. Julie Newhall is an avid reader, beachcomber, and stargazer. She has lived in Afghanistan, Sweden and The Netherlands, in addition to New Jersey. Ordained as both an Interfaith and a Unitarian Universalist minister, she has worked as a hospital chaplain and served five UU congregations.

Kelly LoGiudice returned to Pennsylvania three years ago after a 10-year walkabout that included living in the Bay Area in California and in Rhode Island. 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 Worship Arts Chair and relishes the challenge of delving into a topic and creating a meaningful experience. Kelly is passionate about marriage equality and other BGLTQ concerns.

With over 11 years of experience, Kelly is a Nationally Certified licensed massage therapist, Cranio-Sacral therapist, Reiki Master Teacher and Advanced Angel Light Messenger. Her unique bodywork treatments blend nurturing, educated touch with insightful listening of body rhythms. She enjoys creating space for healing of mind, body and spirit. Her heart-centered intuitive readings help clients tap into their inner wisdom and discover inspirational possibilities. A Penn State alum, Kelly worked in psychology before switching fields. See more at kellyspirit.com.

UULTI by the Sea

August 18-21, 2011
(Thursday Evening to Sunday Afternoon)

Ocean Grove Retreat Center
Ocean Grove, NJ

A long weekend residential learning experience now in its fifth year, UULTI is now under the umbrella of the Central East Regional Group (CERG), which includes the Joseph Priestley District, Metro New York, Ohio Meadville, and St. Lawrence Districts, with support from the UUA Office of Congregational Life. The mission of UULTI is to provide professional and lay religious leaders from UU congregations and communities with a unique learning community. Along with helping participants develop skills, competencies, knowledge, and insights; the matrix of tracks and lenses offer a more holistic experience that forms leaders that can transform the world.

Baby Shower News

The FUUN committee is planning a shower at the UU Center for our expectant parents

David Shaman and Lori Waters
and
Tamika and Tara McNair

Sunday, June 26, 12 noon

Both families are registered at Babies R Us (under “David Shaman” and “Tara McNair”).

Please see Theresa McReynolds if you have questions.

An orientation for those who are new to the congregation

Saturday, June 11, 9 am to 12 noon

Continental breakfast served

One of the ways that the Membership Committee helps our visitors become part of our community is to hold a gathering where we get to know them, and they get to know us. After sharing the stories of our spiritual paths, we tell our visitors more about our congregation and our denomination, and answer questions. Attendance at these gatherings is step towards becoming a member for those who feel ready. We have these gatherings three or four times a year, or as needed. Saturday mornings work well, but other times can be arranged. Invitations have been sent to those who have been attending our services recently and we think may be interested. If you would like to attend, and did not receive an invitation, please contact Betsy Searight.

Serving with Grace: "Reconceptualizing" Committee Meetings

By Barbara Miller

If spirituality is anything, it is everything. Those who think about their spiritual lives as somehow separate and distinct from the rest of their lives don't yet understand that spirituality is about wholeness. (The word "whole" shares linguistic and philosophical roots with the word "holy.") There is no separate spiritual sphere. To the woman or man who is living in the spirit, there is nothing but spirit.
- from *Serving with Grace* by Erik Walker Wikstrom

The gifts that we offer our congregation may be material, as in fulfilling our annual pledge. Another type of gift is the gift of time. When we teach or help with our children's Religious Education, make coffee, serve as ushers, or pull weeds and sponge counters on Blue Jean Sunday, we are giving the gift of time.

Most of us agree that it feels good to serve our congregation in these concrete ways. How about committee meetings? What comes to mind when you hear that phrase?

What if your committee work could offer spiritual rewards as potent as working with your hands or a meditation practice?

The Social Justice Committee and the Sunday Services Committee have been incorporating some of the ideas from Erik Wikstrom's book *Serving With Grace into our meetings*, such as chalice lighting, spiritual readings, deep listening and sharing of Joys and Concerns.

The newly formed ad hoc Hospitality Committee creates another opportunity for our congregation to approach committee work as spiritual practice. The committee's mission is to create and maintain a coffee hour that welcomes guests and nurtures relationships by providing appropriate snacks and space for fellowship, while implementing sustainable environmental practices.

If you would like to experience a spiritual approach to committee work, please join the ad hoc Hospitality Committee. Meetings are being scheduled in June and July. For more information, please contact Barbara Miller.

Practical tips for serving with grace

Each of the following short videos outlines a different concrete practice for transforming lay leadership into a spiritual practice:

[Meditating on the Minutes](#)
[The Agenda as Prayer Book](#)
[Setting the Space](#)
[Take a Breath](#)
[Hold Your Tongue](#)

Praise for *Serving with Grace*

"What a good book - useful, provocative, interesting! Erik Walker Wikstrom challenges the reader to think about not only what, but why and especially how she or he approaches congregational leadership. It belongs on the shelves of every church library and in the hands of every one of its leaders." - Anne Odin Heller, author, *Churchworks: A Well Body Book for Congregations*

TO: UUCSJS

FR: Margaret Rea, member

RE: Gnostics, UUs, and like-minded 21st Century Thinkers

As I listened to Carlos Martinez's message on passion and felt intimacy on May 15 and heard him read from famous early American Unitarian thinkers, I was surprised to find myself also thinking about my current "read" (Elaine Pagels' *The Gnostic Gospels*) and thinking about how lucky we are to live in a place and time when one can think and speak of new paradigms without fear of being ostracized or even burned at the stake (think Michael Servetus, Spanish mathematician, physician, and theologian, burned at the stake by Calvin for denying the Trinity).

As you may know, I am part of a "mixed marriage"... my husband of nearly 32 years is a trinitarian, of the Lutheran persuasion. We are fortunate that the clergy in charge of the congregations with which he is affiliated are open-minded. We often co-facilitate book studies by trinitarian authors whose perspective on the scriptural canon might be considered unorthodox, if not by their denominational co-religionists, then certainly by the religious right.

Was your interest piqued by the extended excerpts from Gustafson's 2004 book *Biblical Amnesia: A Forgotten Story of Redemption, Resistance, and Renewal* that I shared in the May newsletter? Have you sought out a copy of the book?

Gustafson has a new book out -- *Behind Good and Evil: How to Overcome the Death-Dealing Character of Morality*. I have not yet read it (it is high on our Utah summer list) but I encourage you to read it. *Behind Good and Evil* comes highly recommended by a local retired Lutheran pastor, Ed Harshbarger, who is not afraid to speak truth to power. Pastor Ed knows Gustafson personally and actually read an early draft of the book.

Pastor Ed will be facilitating a six-week book study on *Behind Good and Evil*, July 11 through August 15. The group will meet on Mondays, morning or evening (or both if there are enough interested participants for two groups). One group will meet at Reformation Lutheran Church on Route 9 on the border of Absecon & Galloway, across from the Veterans' Memorial Park. Pastor Ed assures me that "*I would welcome members of your congregation in this study if any are interested.*" He is talking about you (UUs). If you think you might be interested in participating, a sheet to express interest will be available beginning May 29. I will send a list of your names and contact information to Pastor Ed so that he can inform you of details as the time draws nearer. I can provide his cell number so that you can contact him directly if you have questions.

About the author of Behind Good and Evil (amazon.com):

"Scott W. Gustafson is a pastor, teacher and writer engaged in a quest to help the Church recover its life-giving power. He thinks the world would greatly benefit if those currently engaged in this enterprise are successful. On occasion he even has reason to hope that Christianity and all religions will become the blessings to the world that they were meant to be, however, he does not believe that he will live to see that day."

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, June 2, 1 pm

The next meeting of the Margaret Circle will be on June 2, at 1 pm in the Library at the Center. After a time of personal sharing and a brief meeting, we will break for a time of fellowship and refreshments provided by Marsha Hannah. Our program, hosted by Arlene Yacka, will begin at 2 pm where we will learn and discuss the life and actions of Henry Bergh who founded the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He was known as "The Great Meddler." You can read his history in the Summer 2011 UU World magazine on pages 54-56 prior to our meeting. You will find it interesting to learn about this man so little known to us.

All women of the congregation are invited to join us and guests are always welcome. If you have any questions about this group, please contact Arlene Yacka, Circle leader.

Olympia Brown Circle – Thursday, June 9, 6 pm

Please join the ladies of Olympia Circle on Thursday June 9 at 6 pm at the Shreeji Indian Restaurant in the Day's Inn on the White Horse Pike in Galloway for a very enjoyable diner experience. While we are waiting for our food to be served we will be pondering the question: If you were entering the work force now, what would your ideal career be?

Please contact Marsha Hannah, Circle Leader if you plan to attend or have any questions. We always welcome friends of the Congregation as well as all the women of the Congregation. We'd love to have you join us.

Women's Spirituality Circle

We will take a break for the Summer - See you in September.

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.

Summer is here!

**Try some new items on your grill:
fish instead of burgers; veggies like
corn, zucchini, peppers, portabella
mushrooms.**

Get creative!

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

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

We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!



Water for Elephants on June 10 for Book Club Season Finale

Before we take a two-month break, join us one week earlier than usual, on Friday evening, June 10 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library, to discuss *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. The meeting is being held one week ahead of time to avoid conflict with the Murray Grove weekend. Debbi Dagavarian will lead our discussion. If you wish, bring a light snack to share.

Also at the June meeting, the group will choose ten brand new books for the upcoming September-to-June season. Every book group member is invited to suggest one or two possibilities for next year, supported by a short explanation of why it would be a good choice. Then, at the June 10 meeting we will decide on the final lineup from the suggestions you put forward.

Important note: please email your titles and comments as soon as possible over the next ten days to Judy Pereira, so that your choices are included on the list. We don't want anybody to miss out; you can even hand over your choice written on a slip of paper!

Water for Elephants first appeared in 2006 from small Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, which planned an initial launch of 20,000 copies. But early reviewers lauded the book and reader enthusiasm built by way of independent bookstores, eventually creating a true "runaway bestseller" that by now has sold some four million copies and remains on top of NYT bestseller lists even to this date.

"This colorful headlong tale of a Depression-era circus simply can't be beat," says author Stephen King. "Heroes, villains, romance, a wild animal stampede! Big fun from page 1," he adds. So, is it just "big fun" or a complex story with serious Biblical echoes, perhaps? We want your thoughts and opinions adding to the mix. Or, you may just sit quietly thinking things over.

"Sara Gruen writes with great tenderness and breathtaking drama, which makes the novel impossible to put down." (Stephanie Cowell, author of *Marrying Mozart*) And, "Gruen performs a double trick in her novel: She gives an engrossing picture of circus life as well as a taste of what it's like to grow old." (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*)

The UU book lovers' group is open to all and we'd be delighted to welcome newcomers at the June meeting or when we reconvene in September. The group normally meets on the third Friday evening of the month in the UU Center Library for about two hours. To join and receive meeting reminders and other literary-related notices, contact Judy Pereira, or – simply appear!

Does your congregation have a Pilgrim culture?

By Andrew Mertz – JPD Director of Youth and Young Adult Programs

Not sure what a 'Pilgrim' culture is? Look around, chances are your congregation has one. The Pilgrims were escaping persecution to freely worship the way that worked for them. Many of our adult members came to UUism as a place for refuge and healing. There is a collective identity that is strong within the dominant culture of our UU congregations. It's the celebrated part of our own history. It's the context of many of our sermons and the cause of our resistance to share who we are in the world. OK, perhaps it's a bad thing, but we are not bad people. We are creatures of comfort and want to identify with those like us. The trouble is that many of the youth we bring up don't identify as Pilgrims escaping persecution wanting to finally feel at home.

Our homegrown UUs are usually looking for the church they grew up in. A place of love, devotion, and standing up for what is right. Love is often quoted as our dogma and we do a stellar job of it with our youth. However, we often falter when those youth grow to be young adults and look for the same warm loving place they remembered. Consider that these youth think it's normal to sleep on church floors. They think it's normal to question assumptions and strive to be better. This is what we want them to learn.

Yet, our homegrown young adults walk into churches that are preaching about being a place of refuge. Worship services that are more interested in debating the philosophy of European white men who wrote 100 years ago. We have membership structures that value you only if you make a financial pledge or at least show up enough to not be automatically dropped from the 'rolls.' Where is the love in that? The Pilgrim culture requires you to opt-in to the ministry of the church. It is your experience to create, even to demand the congregation you need. Where is the love?

We have taken our congregations to an extreme opt-in mentality. It's complex why we have done this, but it's true that the Pilgrim culture is dominant in almost all of our congregations. Culture changes are hard. Most of our congregations are on the road of multicultural work. This often starts with discovering your own identity. Recognize that it's the lens that most leaders look through, most ministers have themselves, and most of our resources are written for. Even many life-long UUs, like myself, have internalized this culture and continue to replicate it.

I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. – Unknown

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion. – The Dalai Lama

Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever.
– Margaret Cho

Murray Grove --- in our own backyard.

4th ANNUAL DRUM & DANCE FEST

July 15 - 17, 2011

*Workshops! Fellowship!
Entertainment! Great Food!
Instruction! Great Fun!
Massage Therapist! Fire Circle!
Drum/Dance Jams!*

Featuring

Lara Gonzales and Yael Shacham of Marafanyi,
West African Dance and Drumming
Maire Tashjian & Amy Schindler of ViRAGO,
Afro-Brazilian Drumming
Tom Brown, *Latin Drumming*
Skip Leib, *West African Drumming*
Mihrimah, *Belly Dancing*
Tammy Stewart-Valencia, *Massage*

See <http://murraygrove.org> for more info.

Heritage Week at Murray Grove

July 31-August 5, 2011
(Sunday Evening to Friday Noon)

Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center
Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Workshops conducted by Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Strong on Universalist, Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist Religious Education History and General History with Rev. Carol Haag, Director of Sacred Worship and Rev. Dr. Carol Taylor, Director of Sacred Nourishment

Continuing education for religious educators on the historical development of Universalist, Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist curricula within the context of the Renaissance Modules and the Credentialing Program, giving a deeper grounding in the philosophy and theology inherent within our curricula and providing a deeper understanding about the formation of these curricula historically and a greater appreciation of the curricula now being developed.

John Murray: in 1775 he was appointed chaplain of the Rhode Island Brigade by General Washington despite petitions for his dismissal by other chaplains over his rejection of belief in hell. He participated in the first general Universalist Convention at Oxford, Massachusetts in 1785. He was a man of great courage and eloquence, and in the defense of his views endured much detestation and abuse.

Children's Religious Education

Bridging

This month, we will be having our first official Bridging Ceremony during the service on June 12. "Bridging" is a UU rite of passage that celebrates our graduating high school seniors as they cross over "the bridge" from childhood to adulthood.

Although this is not the first time that one of "our kids" has graduated high school, this year we bid farewell to group of graduates who we have watched grow up, some of whom have been here since the very beginning of our congregation. Their leaving will be a great exodus from our Children's Religious Education program, and their absence will truly be felt on Sunday mornings.

Preparing for the Bridging has been an emotional ride; looking through art projects that these soon-to-be adults created when they were but six-year-olds is daunting and joyful at the same time. There is an odd mixture of pride and relief when we see these youth ("They made it through high school!"), surprise ("He's 18?! When did that happen!?"), and anxiety ("What do you mean you are looking at colleges six hundred miles away?! When will we see you again?").

Fortunately, the best thing about bridges is that their connection stands true even after we cross them. Although these "kids" will now move on from our Children's RE, we encourage them to remember that they are still a part of UUCSJS and religious education. Questioning, searching and growing in community enable spiritual growth throughout one's lifetime. Although their Sunday school classes are done – their religious education need never really end.

Graduates, we are so happy to have been with you as you began your journey, and wish you peace and happiness wherever your chosen paths take you!

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

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

Change is never easy. You fight to hold on. You fight to let go. -- The Wonder Years

You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was. -- Abraham Lincoln

Explore... Discover... Relax... Reflect... Share... Play

Murray Grove Annual Gathering

Two Nights!! June 17- 18

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday June 17 to Sunday June 18 – Two Nights. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots.

Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we often have a nature/bird walk, and some intergenerational games. Sunday will include a visit to the Thomas Potter Memorial chapel. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy and swimming is usually available (pool is undergoing repairs). Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event.

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. We have 22 beds available if you want to stay overnight. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$20 for adults or \$10 for kids per night, or \$40 per adult for the weekend.

A donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and please do not let the cost keep you at home. If you can't join us for the full weekend, please consider coming up on Friday for the cookout or Saturday for a portion of the day.

During the gathering we will need help with the cookout, campfire, and with organizing activities and intergenerational games. If you have a hobby or activity to share with folks (meditation, astronomy, arts & crafts, folksongs, folk dancing), this is a great time to share it with other members of the congregation. If you are interested in attending or participating, look for more information and sign-up sheets on Sunday or contact Heidi Jansch.

Curious about Mah-Jongg?



Marsha Hannah and Kathryn Kelley will teach 5 sessions of American Mah-jongg on Wednesday mornings from 10 am to noon at the UU center beginning June 15. Each player must have a card, which will be provided for the first 2 or 3 week sessions. If class participants like the game and want to continue, cards will need to be purchased at a cost of \$7 for a small one and \$8 for a large one. Evening class sessions will be considered, if there are at least 4 people interested. Sign up sheets will be available after services. For more information contact the instructors, or the FUUN Committee.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

Several weekends ago, I attended a weekend meditation retreat in Philadelphia. During the retreat on Sunday afternoon, we had the charge of walking through the city, silently, observing all we saw, heard, thought and felt. As I turned a corner, I saw hanging from a street sign the rainbow banner of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. My heart filled with joy and pride! "My people!" I thought. How brave they are and what a change just being UUs they are making in the world and more specifically in their community. As I sat on the steps of the church, I thought of all those who had walked those steps before me and what challenges they must have faced and how they overcame them.

We too face many challenges put upon us by the world we live in. There are political differences, financial troubles, and stress. We are run down, tired, and don't always have even enough energy to care for ourselves, let alone others. What I have learned and believe to be true is that energy actually comes from helping others! It doesn't have to be something astonishing: just being present for someone who is suffering or sad, giving a smile to a stranger walking past you on the road or in the mall. When these friendly exchanges occur or I am able to relieve the pain of someone else, I feel as though I am on top of the world. This feeling can be addictive, wanting to give more and more! Beware!

Let's face it, there are numerous people all around us every day who are enduring hardship. We can help them. In our geographic area, we are it. There aren't any other UU's that can reach out to those in distress. It is us and we need to take that privilege seriously.



The Social Justice Committee and other members of the congregation recently went to a Habitat for Humanity home and installed a clothesline and a raised bed filled with vegetables.

Of course, we gave the spiel about how we are a "green" church that promotes sustainability and environmental justice, yadda, yadda, yadda but the real joy came from seeing the homeowner choosing the location for the garden and helping with the planting of the veggies. We could imagine her young

nephew who was there helping to collect the harvest at the end of the season. I can't think of a more rewarding feeling than that.

Suffice to say, I think all of us there that day were proud to be UU's, just as proud as I felt seeing the UU banner in Philadelphia. I look forward to many more social action projects on behalf of our friends and neighbors in our community; now and in the near future.

Now for practical matters: Thanks to all those who purchased plants from our Annual Native Plant Swap and Sale and for the many volunteers who gave of their time and energy to help make that a success.

Our next meeting will be in the lounge or the meditation garden (depending on weather) promptly at 11:30 am Sunday, June 12.

Also, Dennis Konzelman will be visiting on Sunday June, 19 to answer any questions about Viridian Energy or to (hopefully) allay any fears you may have about switching over.

In faith and love,

Angela Jones, Social Justice Chair

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Habitat for Humanity asks, did you know:

- In 2008, the number of households spending more than 50 percent of their income on housing rose by one third, or 16 percent, to 18.6 million households. That's 44.2 million Americans. If the homeless and those living in severely substandard conditions are included, roughly one in six Americans are in need of a decent, affordable place to live.
- One in three American homeowners spend more than 30 percent of income on housing.
- There is not a single county in the U.S. where a full-time minimum wage worker can afford even a one-bedroom apartment at what HUD determines to be the Fair Market Rent.

How do families get a Habitat House?

- Families in need of decent shelter apply to local Habitat affiliates.
- The affiliate's family selection committee chooses homeowners based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program, and their ability to repay the loan.
- Every affiliate follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection.
- Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing the families who receive Habitat houses.

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
Heidi Jansch
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

Newsletter
Mariann Maene
newsletter@uucsjs.org

Electronic Communications
Sharon Gray
uucsjs@yahoo.com

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



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

June 2011

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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

