



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 14, Issue 11

November 2012

November Services “Gratitude”

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>November 4 🕒 Daylight Savings Ends! Fall Back!</p>	<p>Volunteer Sunday <i>Reverend Charlie Dieterich</i> Committees, commitment, commentary, commingling... come!</p>
<p>November 11</p>	<p>Veteran's Day with Poet, Scholar, and Teacher Bill Ehrhart <i>Guest speaker Bill Ehrhart</i> As a Vietnam War poet, Bill offers a unique perspective on Veteran's Day through his poetry and reflections. This is Bill's second visit to UUCSJS.</p>
<p>November 18</p>	<p>Thanks Giving <i>Reverend Charlie Dieterich</i> In preparation for the largest "Civil Holiday" of the year, Pastor Charlie offers a reflection on gratitude.</p>
<p>November 25</p>	<p>Come Come Whoever You Are, Come Sing A Song With Me <i>Lay speaker Barbara Miller, UUCSJS Music Director, and Scott Roewe, Music Director, UU Church of Santa Clarita Valley</i> Join us as we take a journey through Unitarian Universalist hymns. This will be an all music service co-led by our Music Director Barbara Miller, and Scott Roewe, who is the Music Director at the UU Church of Santa Clarita Valley, California. We will sing, and hear stories about how some of our favorite hymns came to be!</p>

8th Annual Service Auction
Saturday, November 17
Doors open at 6:30 pm!!!

Reverend Charlie's Page

At last, a Reverend Column!

Lately I've had Billy Collins on my mind... the poet who wrote "Directions," the reading we used in the Ordination. It's a cool poem; I found it in "Sailing Alone Around the Room," a poetry collection of his.

You might remember that the poem was in the second person, someone is giving you directions for a trip... that seemed appropriate to the ordination's theme of the (fairly) long and (relatively) winding road. You are told to walk past the garden up rocks, over a footbridge, and eventually up a hill, where the sun and birds will provide you with a transformative experience.

By the end of the poem we have learned a bit about the speaker, who is old and "will soon be gone." The speaker, it seems, is a neighbor, who will accompany you for the beginning of your trip, but who is only able to watch you as you go off on the hard part of your journey.

Imagining this situation, and knowing several elderly neighbors, I find myself reflecting on how their good neighborliness has helped me grow in ministry. Even if I don't have the same mystical experience that they had when I see the hemlocks, I will be encouraged by knowing what others have done. I have an enduring sense of gratitude for those who shared portions of their lives and stories with me--while still letting me go on my journey by myself.

Our theme this month is Gratitude, and we have assembled Sunday services to reflect aspects of that theme. We will speak of gratitude for those who volunteer to keep this organization going, and growing and dreaming of the future. We will pause on Veterans Day to reflect on Vietnam War memories... I will be away for that one. And then, as the holiday of Thanksgiving approaches, we will consider how we give thanks in our lives.

Members of the congregation, led by Theresa McReynolds, are working toward a shared meal on Thanksgiving Day itself; find more information on that elsewhere in this newsletter. And the month ends with Barbara leading the Congregation as Choir.

As we share our journeys, and send good wishes for those who go on, may we cultivate an "attitude of gratitude" in ourselves and amongst ourselves.

-- Rev. Charlie

Pastor Charlie has regular office hours from 10 am to 2 pm Wednesdays at the UU Center.

Feel free to call the office for a half hour appointment (he has his own mailbox on the answering machine), or send him a note at minister@uucsjs.org.

Service of Remembrance for Doris Pickwick

The funeral for Doris Pickwick, mother of Karen York, was held last Saturday in the Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church in Louisville Kentucky, where she was a lifelong member. On Saturday, November 3, we will have a "Celebration of Life" service from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Doris had lived with Karen for the past nine years, ever since the onset of Alzheimer's disease, and all but the newest members of our community knew her, as she was a smiling and cheerful presence with Karen at services, RE, meetings, and other functions. In addition to our community, some of Karen's family, colleagues at Stockton College, and Doris's caregivers, are expected at the service. Memorial gifts in memory of Doris may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, or to the UUCSJS.

After service reception: For those who wish to help with the reception following the service, we will serve both appetizer-type foods, and tea time sweets. We need contributions of both, as well as some non alcoholic beverages. There will be a sign-up sheet on Sunday so that you can specify what you will bring. If you miss the service, please contact Marsha Hannah or Betsy Searight about your contribution.

If you cannot be grateful for what you have received, then be thankful for what you have been spared.

-Yiddish Proverb



The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

Help needy families by helping their pets

What better way to kick off this season of “thanksgiving” than by donating to Kibble Cupboard of South Jersey during November? A non-profit, all volunteer organization, Kibble Cupboard helps seniors, low-income families, the disabled, and the homeless keep their pets by providing supplemental pet food, litter and other basic pet care necessities. With Kibble Cupboard’s support, these pets are kept with the people who love and need them rather than being surrendered to local shelters.

Kibble Cupboard would appreciate any of the following donations: Dry cat food, scoopable cat litter, gift cards (PetSmart, Target, etc.) and stamps. “Like” Kibble Cupboard on Facebook or visit www.kibblecupboard.com, where you can make a financial donation or discover more ways to help. (Kibble Cupboard is non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, so financial donations are tax-deductible.)

Be a Hero for Your Favorite Shelter/Rescue

SJAA would love to partner with you on a month-long collection for your favorite southern NJ animal shelter, rescue or animal-related charity! Talk to us about the non-profit you’d like to support, then provide us with basic information about them (usually easily found online) along with their list of needed items, and get ready to “feel the love” when you deliver the donated goodies! To get involved, contact Ronda Cluff.

Vegan recipe for Thanksgiving!

Curry and Maple Sweet Potato Soup (from treehugger.com)

- 4 sweet potatoes
- 1 small sweet onion
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 6 cups of light, salt-free vegetable broth
- 2 1/2 tablespoons mild curry powder
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- Salt to taste
- Cilantro, nutmeg and clove for garnish

1. Peel and dice sweet potatoes.
2. Chop the onion and add it along with the garlic and some olive oil to a large soup pot. Cook the onion and garlic over a medium-high heat until the onion becomes translucent.
3. Add sweet potatoes and cook for about 15 minutes until they just begin to soften. Then add 4 cups of vegetable broth and bring to a boil.
4. Once sweet potatoes are fully cooked and just about to fall apart, remove from heat.
5. Puree sweet potato/broth mixture in food processor, 1 cup at a time.
6. Transfer pureed mixture back to the soup pot and add the curry powder and maple syrup. Add the remaining vegetable broth-- just enough to make it soupy, you might not use it all.
7. Bring soup to low simmer to have flavors meld.
8. Let cool to an edible temperature and then salt to taste.

Visit <http://blog.ourdoglog.com/2010/11/thanksgiving-pet-safety-facts.html> to find out what Thanksgiving foods are toxic to pets.

“*Into Thin Air* ranks among the great adventure books of all time . . .”— Galen Rowell, *The Wall Street Journal*

Jon Krakauer’s *Into Thin Air* Leads UU Book Group to the Summit of Mt. Everest in November

After his success with *Into the Wild* (1995), Jon Krakauer was sent to Nepal by *Outside* magazine to report on the commercialization of mountain climbing. He returned with a bone-chilling account of the ill-fated ascent of Mt. Everest in May 1996, a disaster that made worldwide headlines. Join us on **Friday, November 16 at 7 pm** in the UU Center Library, where Jesse Connor will lead our discussion.

By 1996 many expert alpinists had become dismayed that in the burgeoning industry of commercially guided, high-altitude climbing, fabled “8,000 Meter Peaks”† were “being sold to rich parvenus”³ with neither climbing grace nor talent, but possessed of colossal egos. It was said that all amateurs needed in lieu of mountaineering skills were “guides, Sherpas and \$65,000.”⁴

Introduced to climbing by his father as an 8-year-old, Krakauer was expert on rock and ice but had never experienced Himalayan altitudes. Despite the standard acclimatization he underwent, he found the altitude a “malicious force that turned blood to sludge and extremities to wood.” As Krakauer tell us of his own struggles, “he plaits his tale with stories of his climbing comrades, describes the often outrageous characters on other expeditions, and details the history of Everest exploration.”⁵



According to one reviewer, the writing builds eerily, portentously, to the summit day, ...when a rogue storm overtook the climbers,” not unusual for Everest but ferocious in the extreme.⁶ The presence of amateurs among the dozens caught near the summit added immensely to the scale of the tragedy; “this book will serve an important purpose if it gives even one person pause before tackling Everest.”⁷

That storm, which claimed five lives and left countless survivors — including Krakauer — in a kind of “guilt-ridden disarray,” would provide the impetus for *Into Thin Air*.⁸ His eyewitness account of the unfolding tragedy “makes a transfixing drama of hubris, responsibility, and sacrificial heroism, which will mark the memory of all who read it.”⁹

In December we combine love of books with holiday revelry, meeting one week early on Friday, December 15 at 6:30 pm in the UU Center Lounge. Our selection is *Winter Solstice* by Rosamunde Pilcher, bestselling British writer much admired by several book group stalwarts. Marsha Hannah will lead the discussion. Besides a scrumptious dessert table, the holiday meeting will again feature our White Elephant Gift Exchange. *Mark your calendars now!*

†8,000 meters = 26,247 feet; there are only 14 mountain peaks on earth that are higher than 8,000 meters; “The 7,000 meter peaks are for professionals; the 8,000 meter peaks are not compatible with life.” (Edward Earl)

Sources: ^{1,3,5,6,7}*Kirkus Reviews* (1997); ²*The Times-Picayune* (New Orleans); ^{4,9}Gilbert Taylor, *Booklist*; ⁸Rob McDonald, *Amazon.com Review*

How To Get Your Groove Back

That elusive groove, that coveted sense of feeling useful and productive. Are you the kind of person who makes a difference in others' lives? How can you get your groove back? Well, maybe you never lost it to begin with, but just need some creative ideas.

On Sunday, November 4, UUCSJS will hold its annual Volunteer Sunday after the service, giving you an opportunity to explore all the different ways in which you can participate in the life of the congregation and the community. Let us help you find your ministry!

Some people have obvious ministries. Barbara Miller's ministry is to provide our congregation with spiritually-gratifying Sunday services, accompanied by beautiful music. Richard Schurig's ministry is to make sure we are nicely caffeinated on Sundays. Steve and Barbara Fielder's ministry is to keep us true to our principles by respecting our environment. And these are only a small handful of members whose ministries are visible by everyone.

Let us help you find your ministry. What excites you, incites your passion, whether it be joy or anger? What do you love to do? We offer many different ways in which you can enrich your soul – and many of these have nothing to do with Sunday services.

Through November, we'll be publicizing ways in which you can become more involved. Do you have a particularly handy talent, such as carpentry skills, painting skills, or electrical skills? Do you enjoy gardening or mowing? If you can answer either of those questions with a "yes," then consider signing on as a volunteer for the Building and Grounds Committee. No meetings to attend, just live out your ministry as you help the congregation by utilizing your talents.

Or maybe you are so dedicated to seeing our congregation thrive that you will take on some of the work of planning through serving on a committee. There are committees that aim to welcome visitors and assist those who wish to become members (Membership Committee), a committee that works to further the rights of the LGBT community (Interweave), one that plans programs for adults to learn with others in our faith community (Adult RE), or that builds community through fun activities and events (FUUN).

Do you feel at home in a kitchen, and enjoy camaraderie around a kitchen sink? Serving as one of the group of people who assist Richard Schurig with coffee and light refreshments on Sunday mornings is a very much appreciated way to make your contribution.

Do people see you as friendly and warm? Then be a Sunday morning greeter! Are you fastidious about cleaning? Then join the Clean Team! Do you want to feed the hungry in our local community? Then join the Food Bank Crew. Do you love kids? Then volunteer to teach or assist in Children's RE! There are many different opportunities for you to find your ministry – and we can help you find what's best for you!

UUCSJS TEAMS AND COMMITTEES

ADOPT-A-ROAD TEAM

Help clean our section of Pomona Road. This occurs several times a year.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Responsible for adult faith development and other types of adult programming.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Seeing that the Center and its surrounding grounds are well maintained, safe, clean, and aesthetically pleasing. This includes the use of environmentally sound cleaning products; recycled, repurposed, and GREEN building materials; and landscaping practices that support sustainability.

CHALICE TABLE CREW

Volunteers bring flowers or visual cues related to the week's topic for the chalice table, and come early to set up the table and the Joys and Concerns tables

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Teachers, parents and congregation members meet monthly with the Director of Religious Education to support and assist with the RE program, plan special RE events, provide suggestions for improving the Children's RE programming

CHOIR

Singing together we say who we are as Unitarian Universalists and we express our being together in community.

COFFEE HOUR TEAM

Perhaps the making of the sacred Sunday coffee is something that calls to you as your special ministry.

FOOD BANK CREW

Delivers the food that is collected on Sunday mornings to one of several area food banks.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Creates events to generate income to help finance the mission of UUCSJS.

FUUN COMMITTEE

Provides community-building and fun events for the UU congregation

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Prepares and implements a plan for environmentally sustainable ("green") congregational activity, encompassing not only our building, but our grounds, worship services, religious education, day-to-day operations and other relevant activities. Goal is to gain official Green Sanctuary Certification through the UUA

INTERWEAVE

Group for LGBT Support and Action.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Promotes the growth of the congregation through community outreach, welcoming visitors, creating a pathway for them to become members, and to facilitate their successful membership journey.

SOUTH JERSEY ANIMAL ADVOCATES

Dedicated to animal welfare and protection.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

The ministry offers various efforts that members may consider and become involved in such as ethical eating, immigration reform, peace activism and others.

SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

Volunteers work in pairs greeting folks as they enter for the service, and welcoming newcomers. Greeters also pass out programs and hymnals, and take up the collection.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Plans the Sunday services in collaboration with the Worship Coordinator and the minister.

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS October 2012

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, at 6:30 pm in the UU Center Lounge, President Karen York presiding. Chalice lighting words were read, joys and concerns shared. Among the joys were recollections of memorable moments from the Ordination of our minister, Charlie Dieterich on September 30, a joyful occasion shared by the whole Congregation.

Special thanks were offered to Joe Terrazzini for his wonderful food at the reception, remarked on by guests and members alike and truly a family affair.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS** President York announced that, **1)** The next Board **"Talk Back"** will be Sunday, October 28 at 11:30 am, Karen York and Judy Pereira in attendance. **2) Volunteer Sunday on November 4** is our biggest opportunity of the year to recruit new and old members to sign on and participate in all aspects of our congregational life. **3)** The president told us Sue Oldenburg of First Unitarian Church of Wilmington and O.K. Video is producing a 3-5 minute **promotional DVD for the JPD's Chalice Lighters program**, and will be here on November 4 to videotape Sunday services and interview knowledgeable congregants about the generous grants UUCSJS has received in its history — more than \$100,000 in all, including \$20,000 for purchase of our land and another \$20,000 for construction of the UU Center. Arrangements will be made for those not wishing to be filmed. **4)** Unitarian Church of Wilmington, our sponsoring congregation, has requested we submit another proposal before the end of our present three-year Growth Grant, most recently used for the Children's Religious Education (RE) program, "Our Whole Lives" (OWL). **4)** President York attended "Leading into the Next 50 Years," sponsored by the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) at Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA, on September 22, bringing back materials that may be helpful to us during our mission/visioning processes later this year.

• **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1) Ordination DVD. The Board unanimously approved a request from the Ordination committee to order 75 full-length DVDs of the Ordination created by Martin Fiedler, who videotaped the event. The committee will make these available for sale and/or as keepsakes and gifts. A short "trailer" is also included, already up on YouTube.

2) Information Technology (IT) Policy. Board member Lauren Porr said she and congregant Michael Cluff have begun developing an IT policy for UUCSJS, addressing network security, among other things. The Board went on to discuss different kinds of information sharing in general, suggesting the Midweek Announcements should focus on the work of the congregation and closely related material, whereas the new Google Groups site would be the appropriate venue for a wide variety of personal notices, advertisements, internal debates, and the like. At present we have a limited presence on Facebook, and none known on Twitter, LinkedIn, MySpace, and Google Plus+, regarded by some measures as the top five social networking sites.

• **REPORTS**

1) Minister's Report. Expanding on his monthly written report, Rev. Charlie mentioned travel plans for the minister's study retreat in Berkeley Springs, WV on November 11 and UUMA training in Florida from January 28 to February 1, saying he hoped to manage a brief visit to New Orleans at that time.

The documentary film "GenSilent" will be shown on Monday evening, October 15 at the UU Center, sponsored by the

UUCSJS Social Justice Ministry and Interweave LGBT Support Group together with the Stockton Center On Successful Aging.

Recently contact has been made with The Arc of Atlantic County, a private non-profit to aid people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, founded in 1961.

Finally, the Adult Religious Education (RE) committee plans to meet on October 11 and it is hoped some new classes can start up in November. In-home small group ministry Reflection Groups are planned soon on October's theme, "Death."

2) Treasurer's Report. The "UUCSJS Budget Report for September 2012" is again a modified version of previous reports, Treasurer Searight told the Board, with many line items "hidden" so as to combine the Income and Expense Report and the Funds Available Report on a single page. The treasurer hopes this will enable us "to focus more easily on the important financial numbers and whether our income and expenditures are within budget."

The month's highlights include:

— **Total Income** improved over August, but still lagged expenses.

— **Total Expenses** increased, but were 8% of annual, slightly under the 8.3% monthly of annual.

— **Net Income** continued (as in August) to be in the **red**. However, for the entire first quarter of the new fiscal year (July, August, September), Net Income was positive.

Searight observed the Ordination had been a wonderful success, and at final accounting should be well within the \$4,400 approved by the Board. We received \$2,595 in dedicated donations, he said.

The treasurer noted with some pride that since June 2012 ("It speaks volumes about the culture of generosity we have in our midst"), UUCSJS has contributed some \$8,756 to activities and organizations we have chosen to support: Civil Rights Journey—\$2,830, Charlie's Ordination—\$2,595, UUA Living Tradition Fund—\$2,161, Murray Grove Association—\$645, and Friends of Peace Pilgrim—\$525.

Overall, Searight said, he thinks we're "doing okay" and he's feeling "a little more comfortable" this month about our cash flow, but finished his report by reminding us: "*We continue to need more communication with our members and friends about the fiscal challenges we face in the year ahead.*"

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm, and reconvened immediately in Executive Session until 9:12 pm.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, November 14, 2012** at **6:30 pm** at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

Staff as of July 1, 2012

Office Administrator, Michelle Tomko
Director of Religious Education (DRE), Heidi Jansch
Music Director, Worship Coordinator, Barbara Miller
Bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett

It's a sign of mediocrity when you demonstrate gratitude with moderation.

-- Roberto Benigni

8th Annual UUCSJS Service Auction

In case you haven't been to one of our Service Auctions before, here's the type of things you can expect to be able to bid on:

Services: raking leaves, guitar lessons, surfing experiences, repair work around the house, ride to and from the airport, housecleaning, babysitting, therapeutic massage . . .

Dinners and Events: fondue party, kayaking, beer tasting, nature excursion, make your own pizza party, Pine Barrens tour, soup tasting with handmade bowl included, murder mystery party, vegan dinner . . .

Items: kitchen tool, radio, guitar, mantel clock, theatre gift certificate, briefcase, china teapot, cookie jar . . .

Handmade and Baked Goods: jewelry, pesto, pies, cookies, homegrown herbs, crocheted sweater, vegan cupcakes . . .

And... a new feature this year: the choice of **"Win It Now"** bidding, where you can't forego the anxiety and drama of seeing if anyone will outbid you – you become the winner at the start by paying the full asking price at the start.

Stitching it together

It would be easier to use a blanket, but we ask more of people who enter our churches: We ask them to be quilters. By Jory Agate

Isn't [quilting] a little bit like Unitarian Universalism? We are not a blanket. Blankets are good. Blankets keep us warm. Some blankets are beautiful as well as functional. But as a faith, Unitarian Universalists are not blankets. We are quilts. Taking bits of all that is out there—a little of this shirt, that dress, or this theology and that ritual—cutting it up, taking from it the parts that we find meaningful, inspirational, uniquely in sync with the core of our being, and we call those scraps our own. But you can't leave your quilt in pieces. No, you have to then sew it all back together and make them a coherent whole.

It would be easier to use a blanket, and that may take care of many people's needs. But we ask more of those who enter our churches. We ask them to be quilters, each and every one.

From [uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org):
<http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/220151.shtml>

UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

The Margaret Circle will meet on Thursday, November 1 at 1 pm in the UU Center library. In keeping with our familiar format we will have time for sharing joys, concerns and interesting issues. Judy Pereira is our hostess for the afternoon.

Betsy Searight will be presenting our program which is based on an article which appeared in the op-ed section of the NY Times, "The Credit Illusion" by David Brooks. This article asks us to consider the following: How much of our lives do we take credit for and how much do we attribute to genes, family, culture or luck? Copies will be available on the Membership Table on Sunday.

Judy Brown
Circle Leader

Circle Dinners

Circle dinners is a program where eight people, who have signed up in advance, are assigned to a dinner site, and each person or couple provides one of the courses. We thank Barbara Miller and Charlie Roberts who started the program. Now, in its 3rd year, Marie Taylor will organize the dinner assignments, and the Membership Committee will sponsor and promote them. We thank Marie for taking on the big job.

Even though they do not start until January, it is time once again to start planning Circle Dinners. The dates will be January 19, February 16, April 20 and May 18. The number of dinner sites will depend on the number of people who sign up. You can sign up as a single or as a couple. A master schedule will be available by the first of January. As best as we are able, you will have a different assignment and be eating with different people each month. If you are interested but unable to commit, consider signing up as an alternate. Not only may you be called up to fill in for those whose plans change but two/three weeks before each dinner alternates will be contacted, along with new members and friends, to see if they are interested in creating another group. These dinners have been a wonderful way to get to know fellow congregants at a fun evening of food and fellowship.

Watch for more specific information and signups to begin in November.

We count our miseries carefully, and accept our blessings without much thought.
- - Chinese proverb

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2012-13

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John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

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Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

November 2012

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