



# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore



Volume 15, Issue 09

September 2013

## September Services

*“We are a people of ... Connection”*

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.

<b>September 1</b>	<p><b>Promising Prosperity: Real Solutions for Finding Connectedness in an Age of Materialism</b>  <i>Lay speaker Alison Maxfield</i>          Affluence vs. Prosperity. This sermon will discuss the current American Dream of happiness via materialism and ways to seek connectedness to bring true happiness and soul fulfillment.</p>
<p><b>September 8</b>  <b>Intergenerational service,          Family Picnic/BBQ</b></p>	<p><b>Tears of Joy</b>  <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i>          This Sunday we begin our congregation's "Church Year" with an intergenerational service. Bring water from your summer travels, just a few drops for our common bowl. While we are all gathered together we will honor our teachers before the start of the Religious Education year. <i>Stay after service for Fall Family BBQ!</i></p>
<b>September 15</b>	<p><b>Forgive Us Our Disconnection</b>  <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i>          Saturday was the "Day of Atonement" in the Jewish Calendar. As we begin a new year here at UUCSJS, can we learn from the rituals of atonement, the teachings of Jesus and the reality of 21st Century America?</p>
<b>September 22</b>	<p><b>Connection Communication</b>  <i>Lay speaker Tracey Staab</i>          Our theme for the month of September is "We are a people of connection." Who better than a school principal to tell us about the state of "connection"?</p>
<b>September 29</b>	<p><b>Malvina Reynolds: UU Musician and Political Activist</b>  <i>Guest speaker Pat LaManna</i>          Perhaps best known for penning "Little Boxes" and "Turn Around," Malvina Reynolds was a Unitarian songwriter whose topical songs, written mostly in the 1960s, were startlingly prescient, as well as clever and insightful. Pat shares the songs and writings of this amazing woman. She may bring a few friends to help tell the story and harmonize on the songs.</p>

**Sept 21-22 - Peace Pilgrim weekend  
in Egg Harbor City!**

**Saturday** – Walk and Picnic  
**Sunday** - Interfaith Spiritual Service  
at St. John's United Church of Christ

*See page 4 for details*

*Save the Date:*

**November 16, 2013**

*Join us for a night of  
Food, Fun and Fundraising at the*

**Ninth Annual Service Auction**

*Check your Order of Service on Sundays for more information.*

*About our guest speaker...*

**Pat Lamanna** is a singer-songwriter and a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She has created some inspirational services incorporating original music as well as songs by unusual and influential people, telling stories that will entertain and uplift, and get you thinking and singing.



**ATTENTION BOOK LOVERS GROUP!**

I hope everyone has included some of our 2013-2014 choices for their summer reading. The first on our list for the September 20 meeting will be **IN THE GARDEN OF THE BEASTS** by Erik Larsen. It is the story of William E. Dodd, the U.S. Ambassador to Hitler's regime in 1933. Perhaps even more interesting is the point of view of his 24-year-old daughter Martha, who socialized with the German elite. If any UUCSJS member has a particular interest or expertise in this period of history, please join us. I look forward to meeting with all those who attended last year as well as newcomers. We will meet at 7 pm in the library. Bring a snack to share if you like.

Heads up for October – *My Year of Meats* by Ruth Ozeki.

~Angela Wexler

*...the true reason I read is to feel less alone, to make a connection with a consciousness other than my own.*  
-- *Zadie Smith*

**Margaret Circle** will meet on Thursday, September 5, at 1 pm. We will begin our meeting by sharing our thoughts and after a brief business meeting we will have a refreshment break, hosted by Judy B. Since this is our first gathering after the summer we will share our personal summer incidents. Please bring an article from a newspaper, magazine, the internet that you found interesting, informative, funny to share. Looking forward to seeing ALL of you there.

-- *Judy Brown, Circle Leader*

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**Time to rethink kid's school lunches.**

**Use your grocery card to get some healthy stuff for that lunchbox!**

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!

**UUCSJS Family Picnic  
Sunday, September 8!**

On Sunday, September 8, in addition to bringing water from your summer travels for the Water Service, don't forget to bring your appetite—and a dish to share at the UUCSJS Family Picnic! We will be barbecuing meat and meatless burgers on the grill. Bring a side dish or dessert to round out the feast. There will be games for kids of all ages and great conversation. Relax among your friends at UUCSJS while you enjoy a great meal!

**VEGGIE/VEGAN BURGER BAKE-OFF at our  
ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC**

Many of you have responded very positively to our recent Water Shield Service. Some of you have even been asking for additional suggestions! It's terrific to see everyone's commitment toward specific efforts to reduce water use at home, nationally, and globally.

As you may already know, one of the most effective actions we can take to promote a more sustainable planet is to eat less meat. Most of you pledged to have meatless Mondays during our Eco-Fair. Perhaps you are ready to step up your commitment toward further reducing your meat intake – especially if you had some good recipes to kick up your commitment a notch?

Please plan on coming to the Community Picnic sponsored by the FUUN Committee after the Water Service on September 8. The regular fare of beef burgers will be supplied as usual by the FUUN Committee. However, this year, as part of our Water Shield initiative, we are asking UUs to make up and bring 6-8 of their best veggie or vegan burgers for grilling and sharing (and judging!). Participants in the bake-off: please also bring a copy of your recipe. (We will make photocopies for distribution.) The Veggie and Vegan Burger Bake-Off winners will each receive a prize of Fair Trade goodies.

*A Humanist Lord's Prayer:*

Join Hands - Join Spirits

~David R Chapman

Good friend, your soul is within me now, and I hallow your spirit with my love. Our peace will come and good will shall be done, and we will learn that our Earth is our Heaven

This day and all days, I offer you my bread, my hand, and my heart. I ask your forgiveness for my injustices as I will always offer you mine in return.

And if we yield not to unkindness, we shall deliver our souls from evil. For ours is the joy to find glory in the good that we do and the love that we share forever and ever.



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**When we recognise the virtues, the talent, the beauty of Mother Earth, something is born in us, some kind of connection, love is born.**

-- *Thich Nhat Hanh*

# Reverend Charlie's Page

From "Nostalgia" by Billy Collins:

*The 1790s will never come again. Childhood was big.  
People would take walks to the very tops of hills  
and write down what they saw in their journals without speaking...  
( <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/176047> )*

I love Billy Collins, the former US Poet Laureate. In this poem he's someone who seems to have lived for hundreds of years, and who is reminding us of the characteristics of different decades:

*I am very fond of the period between 1815 and 1821.  
Europe trembled while we sat still for our portraits.  
And I would love to return to 1901 if only for a moment,  
time enough to wind up a music box and do a few dance steps...*

As our theme this month is "We are a people of Connection," this poem reminds us that connection has different meanings at different times. Journaling seems to have been big in the 1790s, while dancing together was popular a century ago. Even trembling together is a form of connection, I suppose.

And so, what of us? Do you remember 2011? "Occupation was all the rage, we saw in news reports the faces of people long ignored and they were sharing the facts of their lives."

And the years around 2006 were fascinating as private journals became public blogs. Barbara Miller and I chatted briefly about a series of blog entries that are critical of our teal hymnal -- is it fair to express your opinion in a place where others can see it? What ever happened to politeness? Is the world big enough for personal truth and even anger?

I love blogs. I had one, called [smilematter.blogspot.com](http://smilematter.blogspot.com) for several years. The very concept that "I have a voice" fascinated me, and I think it fascinated a million other folks too. One we checked out in seminary was [beautytipsforministers.blogspot.com](http://beautytipsforministers.blogspot.com) -- cool discussions about whether ministers should wear "lip ink" and the danger of wearing heels at funerals.

Blogs really were revolutionary, and I suspect they changed the world. I really did have a friend in the Baghdad Army Hospital, and, later, one in Kabul. They said things when they were worried, or told us of the night that a particularly sad injury came in to the Emergency Room. The one in Baghdad also showed us pictures of the surgical glove water balloon fight they held on the roof one slow day. They were indeed 18 year old boys and girls, being alive. Other friends worked though their partner's illnesses and deaths, and sometimes the blogger kept on posting as he created a new sense of self. There was hope, and fear and tragedy and creativity-- and still is.

Like a wooden sailing ship being passed by steamers, the blog craze is now Facebook, Reddit and Twitter, etc. And our newspapers now have comments after many online articles.

These each have their own form of connection. Do these build community for you?

Alan Oliver and I were talking about a dinner party we'd both attended in Trenton. We agreed that the people there were fascinating, but both he and I left with a feeling of not being fed. Conversations stayed on normal topics, folks needed to interrupt to be included, feelings did not come out. Connection is cultural, and UUCSJS has its own culture. We learn how to connect by watching others and learning our norms. And if we are aware of HOW we gather together, we can see where connection happens, and where it is shut down.

This fall the Adult Religious Education committee has put together a series of events -- evening classes, afternoon gatherings, and even Tai Chi. We hope they will build on what we learned from Small Group Ministry (yes, we are looking to expand those gatherings this fall) and our continuing groups: Margaret Circle, Men's Club and Journaling.

As we move through September let's pay attention to our connection opportunities. Who do we connect with? How do we create new connections? And how can we go deeper?

-- Rev. Charlie

## Services This Month:

September services will address the statement "We are a people of connection" in a variety of ways. Allison Maxfield will see how materialism affects our souls. Do we connect with things or with people? This is a great chance to hear about research from one of the experts.

The next week we will hold our Water Service-- please remember to bring a small quantity of water from your summer life, whether it is gathered rainwater or pine barrens cedar-water. We will combine them and add last year's water as a sign of shared experiences and presence. This is an all-age service, children will be "upstairs" and I hope they will be engaged by the service too. It is also the time to bless our teachers before children's classes start on the 15th. And if you have a favorite food, bring it for the Welcome Back Meal that follows the service!

September is the season of the Jewish New Year, which actually starts on the fifth. Our September 15 service falls on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Synagogues will overflow, the audio piped to gymnasiums and classrooms as the community reflects on the trespasses (sins) they have committed, and how they have made amends to others they have trespassed against. The week before the 15th would be a good day to reconnect with those you have harmed, dissed, cut off or slighted and ask how you can make amends.

Then on the 22nd, Tracy Staab will be sharing some ideas on connection gathered through her experience as a school principal. It has been fun hearing her enthusiasm and hopes for the service, but you'll just have to come to be a part of it!

And our month's fifth Sunday will highlight the life of Malvina Reynolds, who connected ideas to our hearts through song. Remember "Little Boxes" or "Where are you going, my little one?" Pat LaManna will be our guest speaker.

## Peace Pilgrim Weekend September 20-22, 2013

- **Friday evening-** yoga session and meditation for 100 people with live music at the Egg Harbor City Community School, starting at 7 pm.
- On **Saturday morning**, a 2-Mile Intergenerational Walk for Peace in the morning, starting at Peace Pilgrim Park at 9 am.
- **Saturday afternoon** there will be a community potluck picnic at Peace Pilgrim Park starting at 12 noon. Entertainment includes a disc jockey, drum circle, tie-dyed T-shirts and other nature activities and games.
- **Sunday afternoon** at 1 pm is an Interfaith spiritual service at St. John's United Church of Christ with Rev. Jeannie Manson leading.

Contributions to support the event can be made to Friends of Peace Pilgrim EHC Event, Barbara Reynolds, 733 Pennsylvania Avenue, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. More information about the event can be accessed at [www.peacepilgrim100.com](http://www.peacepilgrim100.com).

### Third Annual Delmarva Congregations Celebration *The Warming Spirit of Community* Sunday, October 13, 2013

Starting at 10:30 am on Sunday, October 13, the Unitarian Universalist of Southern Delaware (UUSD) will host the Third Annual Delmarva Unitarian Universalist Celebration at Cape Henlopen High School at 1250 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE. Lewes is at the Delaware terminus of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry that operates from Cape May Point.

The celebration consists of a unified Sunday Service amongst the eight congregations on the Delmarva Peninsula held on Columbus Weekend in October each year. The eight congregations are: UU of Central Delaware, UU Fellowship of Newark, UU of the Chester River, First Unitarian-Wilmington, UU Society of Mill Creek, UU Fellowship at Easton, UU Fellowship at Salisbury, and the Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware (UUSD). Each congregation is involved in different ways to ensure that the Service is meaningful to each attendee.

Music is a very important part of the Service with each congregation's choir participating, and with the voices of the guests, joyful and beautiful sounds of unison are created. Marcie Schiff of UUSD is the Musical Director this year and is planning a musical program to promote the spirit of community, this year's theme.

For the first time at this event, a multi-generational Service will be conducted and the story of "Babble" by Erika Hewitt from her book *Story, Song, and Spirit* will be presented. "Babble" is loosely based on the story of the Tower of Babel from the Book of Genesis, and is a story that tells us all why the warm spirit of community is very important to everyone.

Carol Stevens, a qualified ASL interpreter, will interpret the Service for the Deaf in American Sign Language. A nursery will be available for children under 5 years of age (registration required). A luncheon concludes the event and gives attendees the opportunity of meeting and sharing with other attendees about their congregations, programs, and events.

Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware (UUSD) also is hosting a Bed & Breakfast fundraiser benefiting their Capital Campaign during this same weekend.

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Do your beliefs help you live a peaceful life, or do they fill you with fear and anxiety? Do they help you live in harmony with other people and other creatures, or do they isolate you from whole segments of the world? Do they challenge you to build a better world, or do they tell you things are OK like they are? Or worse, do they tell you things would be fine if other people would quit screwing it all up?

from pagan blogger John Beckett "Under the Ancient Oaks"  
at <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/johnbeckett/2013/07/upq-and-religious-uncertainty.html>

## "Blue Jean Sunday" All-Volunteer Day September 15

Our annual Blue Jean Sunday effort is scheduled for Sunday, September 15. If you haven't participated in this all-congregation, volunteer activity before, here is how it works:

- Wear blue jeans or work clothes and comfortable shoes to service, and plan on staying for a quick lunch followed by an hour or two of volunteering.
- Directly after service on the 15<sup>th</sup>, congregation members and friends, from pre-schoolers to grandparents, will gather downstairs after service for sandwiches and instructions. Note: There will be no coffee hour.
- Volunteers will be divided into teams. We have plenty of both inside cleaning and outside work to do, so that everyone who is physically able to help out will be able to participate.
- For those of you who are unable to help out with chores, we hope that some of you will sign up in advance (on either September 1 or 8) to provide sandwiches or other food and beverages for the volunteer workers. You'll find the sign-up sheet with a list of exactly what food is needed on the back table in the sanctuary.
- We will also need several volunteers to help organize the food on September 15 and to help with the clean-up.
- Child care: if you have an infant or toddler who will need child care during our Blue Jean Sunday effort, please add their names to a list at the back table in the sanctuary.

And lastly – ask anyone who has participated in the past – our Blue Jean Sunday efforts are a necessary part of maintaining our beautiful Center, a terrific way to get to know people better – and **GREAT FUN** to boot!

For questions or suggestions please see Jesse Connor

### Do you remember this time five years ago at the UU Center?

We were all working frantically to finish our building in time for the September 29 deadline to get all the approvals in place -- not meeting this deadline would mean that we would pay taxes for the following year. Most of the congregation was involved in helping in some way, and it was a very exciting time. Now is the time to recall those memories, and write them down. We can enjoy reliving the time, enjoy others recollections, and leave a historical narrative of how our building came together for those who follow us when we are no longer around to tell our stories.

If you were around at the time, and active in helping, you will soon receive an email with more specific details about the project. If you were not, but would like to contribute your thoughts on what you think of our building or heard about the efforts to make it happen, your contributions are most welcome. You should write your essay, and email it to Bob Baum, or to [uucsjsadmin@gmail.com](mailto:uucsjsadmin@gmail.com)

When this project is complete by October 26, there will be some interesting reading.

# **We Begin Again**

## **Karen York, President UUCSJS**

Summer for UUCSJS is a time when many of our staff and members take time away from the congregation, and we receive visitors from other congregations from those vacationing in our area.

Our programming year begins in September with our traditional Water ceremony and Congregational Picnic. These events give us the opportunity to share our summer stories with one another as we gather in community once again and reconnect with those who may have been away. In the months ahead, there are many programs planned to help you expand your body, mind and soul. There are opportunities for personal growth and fellowship, opportunities for service and connection to the wider community, connections to other faith traditions, and other UU congregations. A veritable feast of programs and events to nurture you in living out your UU values.

For many reasons this summer, I stayed close to home. Nonetheless, it was a break from my usual routines. While during the programming year I am almost always with the children of our Religious Education program, in the summer I have many opportunities to attend the worship services. I may help out with the chalice table, or assist in RE, so I still come early to services each Sunday. On those days when I had no specific volunteer assignment, it was interesting for me to sit in the sanctuary and see how the building gets transformed on a Sunday morning, from a room full of chairs; to a worship space filled with beauty, music and inspiration; then to a vibrant community with conversation and fellowship. I often linger a bit after services to clean up or close up the building. The room is empty again, the people are off to enjoy the rest of their Sundays and the week ahead, the hymnals and chalice are put away, but for me the vibrant spirit remains in this space.

I attended several of the shared meals/ barbeques this summer. For the first few, I was a presenter of an evening program, so my mind was on the necessary preparations. Last Thursday, I attended solely as a participant. I entered the building rushing in from my work day, my mind filled with the busy-ness of my day and the growing "to do" list for tomorrow. I settle in to enjoying the gift of a lovely meal, lively conversation, and then enjoyed music and movement with others in the congregation. In a short time, I find I am in a calmer and more centered place. My body nourished, my spirits lifted.

The Board of Trustees has been busy this summer. We hope to be able to announce a new administrator for the congregation soon. We have several excellent candidates. Unfortunately, the search for a new Treasurer or co-Treasurers has not yet been successful and the Nominations Committee continues the search for the right nominee or nominees. This means that beginning in September, we will have a vacancy in the Treasurer position. We are looking for someone, who has a comfort working with numbers and Excel spreadsheets, some business sense, and general fiscal responsibility. The Treasurer works in conjunction with the Board, the Finance Committee, the Stewardship Committee, and our bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett in managing the congregation's finances.

It requires some dedicated time and consistent attention to provide oversight of the congregation's finances and adherence to our budget. Any members with a suggestion for a potential nominee or nominees, or who wants to self-nominate for Treasurer or co-Treasurer should contact Paul Utts, Chair of the Nomination Committee. Our deep and heartfelt gratitude goes out to John Searight for his dedicated service to the congregation in this position, and we are grateful that he will continue to serve on the Finance Committee.

Next week members of the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry and staff will meet to do some visioning and goal setting for the year ahead. It occurs to me when I look at the calendar and the pre-planned schedule of programs and activities, that we may already be a little late to the dance. At the same time, I look forward to taking a little time to reflect on the past year, the strengths of our congregation and to set some intentions and priorities for the year ahead. See you on Sunday.

## **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, October 6, 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.

Some people have obvious ministries. Heidi's ministry is to give our children an educational, enriching, and safe environment in which to learn. 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. And these are only a small handful of members whose ministries are visible.

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 to enrich your soul!

Do you have a handy talent, such as carpentry or electrical skills? Do you enjoy gardening or mowing? If "yes," then consider signing on as a volunteer for the Building and Grounds Committee. No meetings to attend, just live out your ministry!

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

Are you friendly or cheerful? 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!

Let us help you find your ministry!

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Everybody laughs the same in every language because laughter is a universal connection. --Yakov Smirnoff

# Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

August 2013

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 6:45 pm at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. The chalice was lit, shared principles were read aloud, and joys and concerns were shared.

## • ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The Committee on Ministry (COM) and UUCSJS staff have been invited to join members of the Board for the annual **Visioning session** on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:45 pm, in order to set goals and aspirations for the coming year.

2) The president announced **Thursday Night Barbeques** have been scheduled by the Adult RE committee for August 22 and August 29, beginning between 5:30 and 6 and ending about 8:30 pm. The events will feature a chance to participate in a new Family Choir led by Music Director Barbara Miller, and an opportunity to join discussion groups with Rev. Charlie.

3) The next **Board Talk Back** is scheduled for September 15 (also Blue Jean Sunday); no congregants attended in July and August. Debbi Dagavarian volunteered to fill the spot for "Treasurer," together with Art Wexler.

4) The president announced UUCSJS has been invited to take part in the **DelMarVa Cluster† Celebration** with UU cluster congregations on Sunday, October 13, 2013 at 10:30 am in Lewes, DE. There will be an intergenerational service followed by a luncheon with meetings for subgroups according to categories of mutual interest. Shuttle service will be provided from the Cape May-Lewes ferry for UUCSJS attendees. The president will post a flyer and insert notices in the newsletter and MWA to let congregants know about this opportunity, and said she hopes a group of us will decide to make the trip.

5) We seem to be increasingly viewed as an informal adjunct to the **DelMarVa Cluster**, the president said; they have started copying minutes to us and sending other materials. President York participated in their last meeting on July 31 in Dover via Skype, which she said was very helpful in understanding various common issues including a push towards "regionalization" by the UUA, eliminating "districts" and moving to a model of larger administrative units. The district of which we are a part, Joseph Priestley (JPD), is not necessarily in favor, and indeed the new model may be a challenge for a huge region like Central East Regional Group (CERG), which is made up of four districts: St. Lawrence, Ohio-Meadville, Metro NY, and Joseph Priestley. The next meeting of the DelMarVa Cluster is September 10 in Lewes.

†The **DelMarVa Cluster** is made up of the following eight congregations: First Unitarian Church of Wilmington (DE), UU Society of Mill Creek (Newark, DE), UU Fellowship of Newark (DE), UUs of the Chester River (Chestertown, MD), UUs of Central Delaware (Dover, DE), UU Fellowship at Easton (MD), UUs of Southern Delaware (Lewes, DE), and UU Fellowship at Salisbury (MD).

## • DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) **Rentals.** Recent rentals and new rental requests were discussed. It was noted that due to UUCSJS's tax-exempt status, it is necessary to assess rentals carefully as to their purpose. Ideally, groups will be non-profit, 501(c)(3) organizations. However, decisions have to be made on a case-by-case basis to assure a proper fit with the principles and values of our congregation and our denomination, as well as to avoid compromising our status as tax-exempt.

2) **Office Administrator.** Four inquiries were received and three interviews will be conducted by Vice President

Dagavarian and President York within the next few days, followed by a recommendation to the Board.

3) **Treasurer.** Attempts by the Nominations committee to find a new treasurer or co-treasurers have not been successful thus far. The president cancelled the Special Congregational Meeting to elect a new treasurer until a nominee is found. As the Board needs to honor John Searight's resignation effective August 31, contingency plans were discussed. *The Board unanimously approved a motion to empower UUCSJS President Karen York to execute any and all necessary legal documents in the temporary absence of a duly elected UUCSJS Treasurer.*

## • REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** After summarizing activities since his written report on August 6, Rev. Charlie requested Board input on "Family Promise," a program designed to help lift people out of homelessness, which many are hoping to put in place here in Atlantic County. The Board enthusiastically approved the idea of his introducing the program to the congregation through a short video and discussion planned for Thursday evening, August 29 following the BBQ/Potluck. There are already some 20 Family Promise initiatives in New Jersey, including Cape May County.

2) **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Searight said he will amend his written report to include an update on our IRS liability case, resolution of which is still pending. He said he plans to follow through to the end even after he ceases to be treasurer in order to provide continuity, and will remain a member of the Finance committee.

Meanwhile, he distributed a report on our fund balances in TD Bank and Fidelity Investments, which show minimal change from last month. "My request for members to make pledge payments on as regular a schedule as possible has had a good response," he said, and the checking account has had balances sufficient to allow a modest transfer of \$500 to our Reserve Funds, bringing reserves to \$4,000. "As you know," he added, "the recommended amount of Reserve Funds is a minimum of 10% of our budget, \$18,900."

Treasurer Searight brought to the Board's attention again, information in last month's report about a series of special expenditures during the last fiscal year for which we received special contributions from members and friends. These special contributions amounted to \$9,030, he said, affirming we continue to have a culture of generosity within our UUCSJS community. The area of fund raising needs serious attention, however, he added, including Planned Giving and the potential for grant support (such as JPD Chalice Lighters).

"This is my final Treasurer's Report and very likely my last Board meeting," Searight said. With that, Board members offered heartfelt thanks and many well wishes.

• **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm, and reconvened immediately in Executive Session.

- Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 6:45 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

## UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2013-14

Karen York (14), President  
Debbi Dagavarian (14), Vice President  
John Searight (14), Treasurer  
Judy Pereira (15), Secretary  
Doug Dickinson (15), Member at Large  
Joe Terrazzini (14), Member at Large  
Art Wexler (15), Member at Large

*year given is end of term, e.g. (13) means thru 6/30/2013*

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Helping to give our members and friends the information and support necessary to find their own way along their spiritual path.

### September is here and so are SIX new Adult RE programs for the fall...

Tai Chi, led by Rosemarie Noonan, will meet from 7 to 8 pm on Monday, September 9 & 30 (and October 14 & 28). It is an ancient form of slow rhythmic and graceful movements whose roots originated in China over 6,000 years ago as a martial art form, philosophy and preventative medicine. The class will offer fundamental standing poses, qigong exercises, and White Crane Tai Chi that will build strength, improve balance, flexibility, and concentration. Wear loose clothing.

Spirit in Practice, led by Rev. Charlie Dieterich and Charlie Roberts, will meet from 7 to 8:30 Tuesday evenings September 10, 24, October 8, November 12 & December 10. The program will weave UU values, principles, and sources with four “strands”: spiritual development, ethical development, Unitarian Universalist identity development, and faith development.

Stay on Topic! will be convened by Rev. Charlie Dieterich, at 1 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays (September 6, October 10 & 24, November 14 and December 12). Come join a 90-minute discussion based on the congregation's topic of the month. Discussion subjects will be chosen by participants. All are welcome.

### Continuing in September and throughout the Fall...

Journaling (Bob Baum, leader, meeting 6:30-8 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month), a pleasant, low-key setting where techniques are explored for personal writing of experiences, and reflections. Those who have previously participated in the group will guarantee that their writing has definitely improved. Anyone is welcome to join in. Bring a pen and journal or notebook.

Singing Meditation (led by Barbara Miller 7 to 8 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month) is an interfaith spiritual practice that combines singing, of many types, with group observation of silence. Bringing together the two practices, which are often engaged in separately, results in a synergy that enhances each component.

Small Group Ministry (Kathleen Hartnett & Prim Reeves, leaders- 7 to 8:30, dates vary; see Midweek Announcements). In a caring, listening environment groups explore various topics. Groups are geographical. We have groups meeting in Cape May County and Little Egg Harbor. We can have one meeting at the UU Center if you sign up for it.

Buddhist Sangha (led by Alan Oliver, Buddhist Teacher – now meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month 12:30-2:30 pm). The group studies Buddhism from a secular perspective, using such core methods as meditation, mindfulness, loving kindness, and compassion, and support each other on their spiritual paths. All are welcome even though they have

not been at previous sessions.

Harvest the Power (led by Karen York & Marsha Hannah will meet 6:30-8:00 pm Thursday, September 26 & October 3, 10, 24). There's still a chance to attend these next four segments in this UUA leadership development program. The program is designed to help us grow in both skills and spirit—whether we are lay worship leaders, leaders of children or youth, or members of a task force, committee, or the governing board.

Tune in next month to discover what is starting in October.

Don't forget that you can direct questions and register for programs by sending an e-mail to: [adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com](mailto:adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com) or sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

-- Prim Reeves, Chair, Adult RE

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Back to School!

I am appreciating the “Back to School” excitement even more than usual this September, after having a few months off from “DRE-hood” this summer. Many thanks to the Children's Religious Education Committee and the many volunteers who stepped up this summer to serve as “DRE for the Day” in my absence or to lead or assist the children's activities: Prim Reeves, Mariann Maene, Karen York, Melissa Hutchison, Wendy Terrazinni, Kim Studzinski, Tracy Longshore, Bud Smith, Paul Utts, Colby Tippins, Doug Dickinson, TJ Jansch, Katy Cardwell, Ronda Cluff, Debbi Dagavarian, Erica Onofrio – *Thank you!*

As our families prepare for our individual back-to-school rituals this month, we will also be celebrating two annual traditions here at UUCSJS: Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Water Service followed by our family picnic. This service is Intergenerational which means that *all* of our members, from the youngest to the oldest, remain in in the sanctuary for the entire service. Don't forget to bring some water (actual or representative) from your travels this summer to add to the community water vessel. Following the water service, all are welcome to stay for the annual picnic – a great opportunity for more community-wide sharing time!

### Mark your calendars:

**UUCSJS Children's Religious Education goes back to school on September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Looking forward to another great year!

*Heidi Jansch*

*UUCSJS Director of Religious Education*

Music is a lady that I still love because she gives me the air that I breathe. We need all sorts of nourishment. And music satisfies and nourishes the hunger within ourselves for connection and harmony. – Cat Stevens

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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**September 2013**

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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

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