



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 03

March 2014

March Services

“We are a people of ... Knowing”

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.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 2 | <p>Kennen und Wissen: A Language Lesson <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>These are two German words that mean "to know" -- but they are not synonyms. Let us begin "People of Knowing" month by defining some terms and then considering Georgia O'Keefe's statement that for an artist: "Making your unknown known is the important thing."</p> |
| March 9 | <p>The Reality-Driven Life: Doubt as a Mindfulness Tool <i>Lay speaker Michael Cluff</i></p> <p>In the spirit of this month's topic about "knowing," Michael will discuss the role of doubt as a tool in the search for truth and meaning, and explore the reasons for its bad reputation.</p> |
| March 16 | <p>I Know This Rose <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>It's time again for spring rituals. Might we savor them as lovingly as an opening rose? "We shall not cease from exploration / And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time." (T. S. Eliot)</p> |
| March 23 | <p>Many Hands <i>Lay speaker Paul Utts</i></p> <p>As spring begins so does our consideration of our congregation-- where we are, where we want to be. Come and share in the conversation. Come and share in the vision.</p> |
| March 30 | <p>The Poetry of the Tao Te Ching <i>Lay speaker Debbi Dagavarian</i></p> <p>Does the Tao Te Ching's beauty and wisdom come from the 6th BCE's Lao Tzu, or from the scholars who translated it? The translation by Witter Bynner, in particular, is poetry itself. What does the Tao offer us in the present?</p> |



Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, March 15
6 pm

Margaret Circle will meet on Thursday March 6 at 1 pm in the library. Please join us (new to UU? You are very welcome). We are an informal group of women who enjoy sharing our interests and everyday stories. Refreshments included. -- *Judy Brown, Circle Leader*

Book Lovers Group

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Friday March 21 at 7 pm in the library at the UU Center. Our selection is *ONE THOUSAND WHITE WOMEN* by Jim Fergus. In 1895 the administration of Ulysses S. Grant intended to assimilate Native Americans into the white man's world by introducing the "Brides for Indians" program. Mary Dodd and other pioneer women traveled to the western prairie to intermarry among the Cheyenne Indians. Fact or Fiction? Find out by reading this convincing narrative. New members are always welcome.

UU COMMON READ 2014

Sunday, March 30 at 11:30 following the service, you are invited to participate in a discussion of *BEHIND THE KITCHEN DOOR* by Saru Jayaraman. The author extols restaurant patrons to consider the low wages and poor working conditions of those that serve them. Ms. Jayaraman, Co-Founder of Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, tells the stories of ten restaurant workers and their struggles to support themselves and their families. Whether you have read Jayaraman's book or have your own food service experiences to share, you are welcome. Please sign up at the table in the back of the sanctuary or e-mail Angela Wexler.



[Ed. Note: You would not believe how impossible it is to find a non-sexualized clipart of a waitress. Thus the dishwasher.]

**March is a good time for
buying veggies galore!
Available at your local
Acme or Shoprite!**

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!

Fellowship Dinner Entertainment

While we enjoy dessert, there will be family-friendly entertainment by members of our congregation. If you would like to share your talent with us in a 3-4 minute act (skit, song, dance, humor), please contact Barbara Miller at uucsjsmusic@comcast.net. There will be space for a total of about 20 minutes of entertainment, so act quickly!

Rise Up and Call Her Name

The Adult Religious Education Committee invites both women and men to attend our second session of Rise Up & Call Her Name. This woman-honoring journey into global Earth-based beliefs looks at the female in religious practice from many cultures and recaptures women's spiritual stories through hands on experience. The third class session will be on Sunday, March 2, at noon, in the downstairs main room. We will provide a light lunch, coffee, and tea. I apologize for any confusion regarding childcare. If you will need childcare during the session, please contact Kim Trotto. There is a sign-up sheet available in the rear of the sanctuary. If you are attending Rise Up & Call Her Name for the first time, we are asking for a one-time fee of \$5 to help cover the cost of materials.

The Music and Life of Pete Seeger coming to UUCSJS on April 6

(not April 2 as reported before)

We have another talented and engaging musician joining us for a service on April 6. You may have attended the service by Pat Lamanna on the musical legacy of Malvina Reynolds in September. Pat suggested that we should get in touch with Spook Handy, a young singer/songwriter who does a service based on the music of Pete Seeger.

Spook has generously agreed to do our service at a discounted rate; and he also requests that we provide hospitality for the night before the service. If you have hosted one of our guest musicians in the past you know this is easy and rewarding. (Ask Melissa Hutchison, who hosted Jody Kessler; Joan Letizia, who hosted Matt Meyer; and Theresa McReynolds, who hosted Pat LaManna.) Please contact Barbara Miller if you are able to host Spook Handy on April 5!

Annual Plant Swap and Nursery-Grown Plant Sale May 10, 2014

Flyers are on the Social Justice table in the lobby or you can view and download them at our website uucsjs.org.

True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.
Socrates

Reverend Charlie's Page

*The voice of the hidden waterfall
And the children in the apple-tree
Not known, because not looked for
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness
Between two waves of the sea. – T. S. Eliot*

March 2014 is a month like any other month. For us, now, here, it is a month to consider the statement "We are a People of Knowing." Perhaps this is the heaviest of monthly themes this year. "Who is the We?" "What do you mean by Knowing?" "What is a People of Knowing?" These are three challenging questions-- they push back against the statement rather than engaging it. Another form of interpretation might be to finish the sentence: "Yes, I am one of a people of knowing because_____."

In starting to process this month's statement I observe that it is a positive statement, not a question. I find myself singing: "Life is a riddle and a mystery," the chorus from our hymn, "Where do we come from?" Or perhaps the hymn that ends: "To question, truly is an answer." Are we a people of learning more than knowing? Is that dodging the statement?

As I child I remember playing a game where one person would make a statement, say "Apples are good for us because they are red!" The next person had to agree with that statement, and then add another statement: Not only are Apples good for us because they are red, but red is the universal signal that something is good!" The next person would say "Since red is the universal signal... " and the conversation would go on and on... flying into the unknown and unanticipated. Sometimes we'd add puns or rhymes to next statement: "...red, And believe everything you've read in bed!" Try it sometime.

We are a people of knowing -- and we come together to share our truths. I recently ran across a statement by Georgia O'Keefe: "...whether you succeed or not is irrelevant -- There is no such thing -- Making your unknown known is the important thing." She was talking about the goal of art. As I understand her, with art it is not important to win blue ribbons or fame. The art has to DO something

to the artist... a speech has to say something... a painting has to reveal something... a dance has to embody something in order to be art. If you have nothing to say, learn to dance, and then listen for that inner voice for guidance. How can you hear the voice if you do not prepare yourself? And if we make ours a culture that promotes listening and promotes making the unknown known, we aid in that preparation.

We know, for example, that children's religious education prepares children by allowing them to speak, to share their journeys, to practice creativity. The philosophy spills over to the Greenlight Coffeehouse, and to our Small Group Ministry, where each person's reflection is honored rather than rated by judges for content and diction.

Have you found the end to your sentence: "Yes, I am one of a people of knowing because _____"?

-- Rev. Charlie

Pastor Charlie's office hours are Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm
or by appointment.

2014 Joseph Priestley District Assembly
"A People So Bold"
April 11-12, 2014,
ACE conference Center,
Lafayette, PA.

Featured Keynote Address—
Kindling Hope in a Difficult World
by Rev. Kathleen McTigue,
UU College of Social Justice, Director

Registration deadline March 21, 2014

For more info:

<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101899253605-576/Brochure.pdf>

To Register:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8w9kkm514b8e12a&llr=f8rafhcab>

Fellowship Dinner and the Annual Stewardship Campaign

The Fellowship dinner on Saturday March 15 marks the kick-off to our general annual stewardship campaign. The Fellowship dinner is a community-wide shared meal, with entertainment provided by our local talent. This is traditionally a fun evening open to all. You should have already received your invitation in the mail. Heidi Jansch will be coordinating the food contributions and Barbara Miller coordinating the talent. There are also opportunities to help with food service and clean-up.

The Fellowship dinner is a fun celebration of community that helps to remind us that it takes a village to sustain our beloved UU community. The food contributions offered at the Fellowship dinner make a satisfying meal that can nourish all in attendance. Similarly, we need financial contributions from our members to each year to offer programs that inspire us to action and nourish our spirits. Each UU congregation is solely responsible for funding its programs and the majority of our funding comes from the voluntary generosity of our members and friends. To help us with advanced planning for the next programming year that begins in July 2014, we ask members to make a pledge indicating their intended level of financial commitment.

This year we will have small group gatherings after the service on March 23, to provide an opportunity for sharing with others what you value in the congregation and an opportunity for making a financial commitment (pledge) at that time. We hope you will plan to stay to connect with others on a more personal level than possible during the service, and to make your pledge of support.

You will be receiving additional information about the annual stewardship campaign, including information about the proposed budget for the programming year beginning in July 2014, an invitation to the principle group you are invited to join for the sharing.

Together we have an impact in our local committees and in the world around us.

Help Protect our Water

To protect our precious groundwater, take your hazardous waste to your county's next Hazardous Waste Residential Drop-Off Program. *Some of you made this commitment in your Household Water Pledge in September!*

In Atlantic County, hazardous waste can be dropped off the first Saturday of every other month. Upcoming dates are March 8 and May 3. The location is Atlantic County Utilities Authority, 6700 Delilah Rd., Egg Harbor Township.

Some of the accepted materials include:

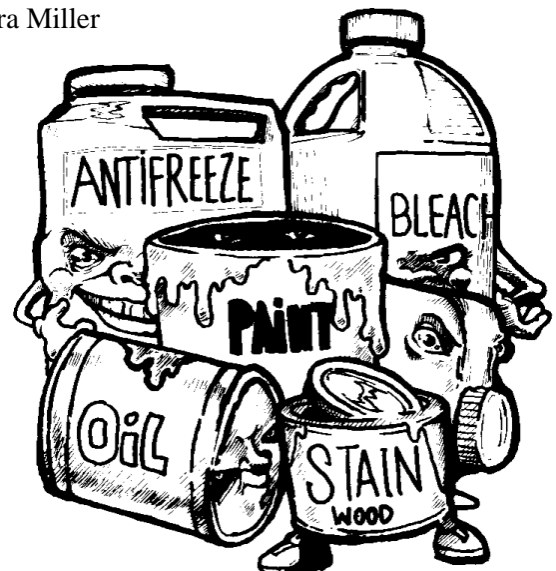
- 1 lb. Propane Cylinders ONLY
- 12-Volt Batteries (for cars and boats)
- All Cleaning Products
- Anti-Freeze
- Auto Care Products
- Chemistry Sets
- Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs(CFLs) *
- Fertilizer
- Floor Products
- Fuels/Motor Oil
- Fungicide
- Furniture Polish

A complete list of accepted and unaccepted materials can be found at www.acua.com.

Cape May typically conducts 2 Household Hazardous Waste disposal days per year. At this time, the 2014 dates have not been published. Contact Cape May County for specific program information. Contact Tony Moncman Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority at 609-465-9026 or email: moncmanag@cmcmua.com.

You can also take your CFL lightbulbs and old power tool batteries to Lowes. Look for the bins next to the return department.

~Barbara Miller



The month of March marks the beginning of our Stewardship Campaign as we begin planning our programs and budget for the programming/budget year which begins in July 2014. This time for me is always an opportunity to reflect back on the events and accomplishments of the year so far, and to consider possibilities in the year ahead.

This year as usual we have welcomed many new visitors and members, and have lost a few. Reverend Charlie Dieterich continues to provide grounding in our UU faith, denominational connections to other UUs in the region, and outreach into our local community. Our sanctuary is filled each Sunday with inspirational music, joyful singing, thought provoking messages, the buzz of conversation at coffee hour, and the energy and spontaneity of children. Beyond the bustling Sunday activities, our building is host to various gatherings of our members for sharing, connection, fun, or planning throughout the week. Our members have hosted programs for like-minded groups such as Sustainable Gardening, South Jersey Humanists, and 350.org that invite others into our building. Remarkably, our monthly Greenlight Coffeehouse has been running continuously for *four years!* (Thank you Steven Fiedler and FUUN Committee.)

We have seen some of our social justice work come to fruition this year including the defeat of the B.L. England pipeline through the Pinelands after many months of frequent meetings, and the legalization of same sex-marriages in New Jersey. We have a group of members, who are connected to the organizational efforts of Family Promise for Atlantic County, which is being formed to provide much needed assistance to homeless families in our area.

One of the Goals before the Board this year is to begin a **Long-Range Planning or Strategic Planning process** with the congregation. I hope to have more information on that process for next month's newsletter, but for now, if anyone has an interest in participating in a working group on Strategic planning for the congregation, please let me know.

In the meantime, I hope you will join us this month for our **Fellowship Dinner on March 15** and **Commitment Sunday on March 23**. Bring your hopes and dreams for the future of the congregation to the small gatherings on Commitment Sunday; it is a good time to explore together the possibilities in our future.

Knowing

I'm considered wise, and sometimes I see myself as knowing.
Most of the time, I see myself as wanting to know.
And I see myself as a very interested person.
I've never been bored in my life.
-- Maya Angelou

Doing what's right isn't the problem.
It is knowing what's right.
-- Lyndon B. Johnson

Thinking is more interesting than knowing,
but less interesting than looking.
-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Knowing is not understanding. There is a great difference
between knowing and understanding; you can know a lot
about something and not really understand it.
-- Charles Kettering

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

February 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 6:45 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. The chalice lighting was accompanied by Board members' reading aloud from the UUCSJS *Covenant of Right Relations*, and joys and concerns were shared.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Committee on Ministry (COM) Chair, Marsha Hannah reported to the Board that congregant Pam Hendrick has agreed to serve on the COM as the Minister's selection; due to two recent resignations, one additional member is being sought to round out the four-person committee.

2) The next Board Talk-Back will be held Sunday, March 9, in a lower level classroom at 11:30 am. (Note: Talk-Backs have been moved from the third to second Sunday of the month.)

3) The JPD (Joseph Priestley District) Worship Arts Festival takes place this Friday and Saturday, February 21-22, at the UU Congregation of Frederick, MD.

4) The JPD District Assembly, "A People So Bold," will be held Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, at the ACE Conference Center in Lafayette Hill, PA. Keynote speaker is Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Director, UU College of Social Justice, and many timely and worthwhile workshops are scheduled. For more information and to register online, go to: jpd.uaa.org

5) President York reported this year's **UUCSJS Certification of Membership** with the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) was completed February 1, 2014. Statistical information requested included: *Average Weekly Attendance* (69), *Religious Education Enrollment* (21), *Total Expenses* (\$206,782), and *Total Membership* (114).

• DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) Changes to UUA Health Plan & Retirement Plan. Adoption of the restated retirement plan (for UUCSJS employees with more than 1,000 hours) requires formal action by the Board. (Our thanks to Finance committee member, John Searight and Kathleen Hartnett, Congregational Bookkeeper, who have offered to prepare the necessary paperwork.)

—The Board unanimously approved a motion to adopt the 2014 Restatement of the UU Organizations Retirement Plan, and commits to complying with all the provisions of the plan, effective July 1, 2014.

2) Family Promise initiative and timeline; opportunity to meet with head of FPAC (Family Promise of Atlantic County). President York distributed a timeline prepared by members of the UUCSJS Family Promise Team, consisting of Robbenmarie Insogno, Geri McCluskey, Colby Tippins, Doug Dickinson, Prim Reeves, Joe Terrazzini, Barbara Miller, and Rev. Charlie, among others. The group is also developing a list of FAQs by asking, "What questions do you think some people would like to have answered before they vote?" A congregation-wide decision on whether or not and how fully to participate in the FPAC program is anticipated in June, according to the timeline.

—At this time, Board members are directing the following questions to our FP team: **a) Can we arrange to get some people trained in Cape May County right now, ahead of time?** And, **b) After the FAQs have been developed and are circulating, at that point can we arrange for the head of FPAC to come and meet with the congregation, along with Board members and staff?**

Joe Terrazzini affirmed that FPAC is headed by very determined people with vision, but added there's a lot of work to do before the program is ready to launch. He asked: "In 12 months, say, when they really need us, will we be ready to go, if we mobilize too early or 'peak' too soon?" (*To be continued...*)

4) Social Justice committee structure. Joe Terrazzini told the Board he's been doing some thinking about how social justice work is being done (and perhaps not done) within our congregation, and has started looking at UUA materials such as the *Social Justice Empowerment Handbook*, which reviews problems and solutions for developing social justice programs in any size congregation.

Terrazzini said he believes "we need some direction," with a way to develop criteria for what projects we take on and not just get "blown around." He said he hopes to have something more to propose, maybe as soon as the next Board meeting, in March.

5) Congregational Long-Range Planning Group. President York said she and Art Wexler would be starting work on this topic, and would welcome other Board members, and others who are interested, to join in the effort. A planning meeting will be taking place soon.

6) Resolution of IRS issues. John Searight, former treasurer and Finance committee member, has informed the Board that according to our Taxpayer Advocate, we should be getting official notification soon, dated March 3, 2014, that outstanding issues regarding our Form 940s have finally been resolved in our favor. *We will likely receive a refund in excess of \$800, instead of owing some \$5,300!*

The Board wishes to register its gratitude for Searight's dogged determination over the course of the last two years, and seeing this matter through to a successful conclusion.

• REPORTS

1) Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Carl Benner reported that in checking this year's pledges against actual monies received, we are likely to come up short by some \$5-10,000, but (hard as it is to believe), as a percentage that's well within what congregations can expect, according to UUA guidelines. "Other than that," the treasurer said, "we're in reasonable shape," with no cash flow problems, and expenses lower than anticipated.

Also, concerned we might not be getting proper credit for the electricity we generate Benner went back over our electric bills and said he's satisfied everything is in order.

2) Notes on Staff & Committee Reports. President York has added this item to the regular monthly agenda, in effect making sure the Board attends to the activities and special needs and/or requests of UUCSJS committees and staff.

a) The FUUN committee's Mardi Gras Dance, an important (and fun) fundraiser, takes place this Saturday, February 22 from 7-10 pm. Colby Tippins and crew are to be applauded for the truly amazing transformation of our UU Center's Sanctuary into the replica of a NOLA café!

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm, and was reconvened immediately in Executive Session until 8:45.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 6:45 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

Have you borrowed a hymnal? Our supply has become inexplicably low. Please return at your earliest convenience.

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck: An Appreciation

By Lillian Christman, JPD Board President, a life-long UU and a member of the UU Congregation of Fairfax

In my six years on the JPD Board, one of the few constants in these times of change has been the Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, our District Executive. As have dozens of Board members before me, I've relied on Richard's smooth, competent managing of our District operations as well as on his good humor and easy collegiality. So, with Richard's retirement (July 31) fast approaching I'm reluctantly staring into the jaws of change while at the same time very pleased that Richard can take this exciting step into the next chapter of his life.

As a District, we've gained much from Richard's leadership. I'd like to hold up some of the highlights of his years as our District Executive.

Richard was first hired in 2000 as our Acting District Executive and then made our permanent DE the next year. During Richard's 14 year tenure we've grown stronger. We have:

- Nurtured into being 10 new congregations.
- Added 1000+ members.
- Learned the dynamics of Healthy Congregations, reducing destructive conflict within our congregations.
- Developed a cadre of knowledgeable lay leaders.
- Grown the capabilities of our youth, young adult, and social justice ministries.
- Welcomed dozens of talented ministers and DREs.
- Generously supported each others' missions through Chalice Lighters, the most successful program of its kind in the Association.

Read more at

<http://uucrm.org/blog/2014/02/17/rev-dr-richard-speck-an-appreciation/>

Being at ease with not knowing is crucial for answers to come to you. -- Eckhart Tolle

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"What's for Dinner?"

In the beginning of February the Children's RE Committee hosted an informal potluck dinner for families participating in the Children's RE program. The attendance totaled 35 adults and children, and gave the members of our RE family a chance to socialize and enjoy some delicious food together. Overall, the committee felt that the evening was a success. Thanks go to Prim Reeves and Janet Longo for helping with childcare, Colby Tippins for helping with the dishes, and Betsy Searight for the idea of having this get together!

This month we have the opportunity to enjoy a meal with our entire UUCSJS family at the Fellowship Dinner on March 15. This larger event is an opportunity for all of our members to join together in a celebration of the congregation's programming and accomplishments of the past year and look toward sustaining our community during the year ahead. The Fellowship Dinner also gives our children and youth a chance to participate; the younger children are currently working on a song to present during the entertainment portion of the evening, while the older youth are encouraged to offer some community service by helping bus tables, making the clean-up part of the evening run more smoothly for everyone.

In Fellowship,
Heidi Janssch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Fellowship Dinner Saturday, March 15

A night of fun, fellowship talent show, and kick off to our annual campaign to fund our congregation's activity for the upcoming year.

Now the answer to the most frequently asked question: How can I help?

After you have signed up to attend, and given us the type of food you are planning to bring, you can visit the signup table and choose if you will help as a food attendant, as a bartender, or as a dishwasher. We will have two shifts of dishwashers, so that everyone can have some time enjoying the dinner. Please? We need you.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2013-14

Debbi Dagavarian, Doug Dickinson, Judy Pereira,
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

March 2014

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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