



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 04

April 2014

April Services

“We are a people of ... Wonder”

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.

April 6	<p>The Works of Pete Seeger <i>Guest speaker Spook Handy</i></p> <p>This service will focus on Pete's work and his reflection and promotion of universal values. It will include songs and some stories behind the songs. As many people have found, Pete lived a conscientious, humanitarian, spiritual life and espoused the ideas of diversity, dignity, community, justice, equality and so many other values associated with Unitarian Universalism.</p>
April 13	<p>“Love” – A Service on Disability <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>Two members of the congregation, Richard and Nancy Brail, won the "sermon title" auction item. They selected the subject of disability for our Palm Sunday service. I will be collecting thoughts to share, as we consider how our congregation, individually and collectively, stands on the side of love.</p>
April 20	<p>A Chicken When It’s Pippin’ <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>The ancient "riddle song" describes an impossible situation: <i>I gave my love a chicken that had no bone</i>. Not so! The chick making its first hole in the egg is said to be "pipping." Its bones are not yet hardened-- it is a <i>chicken that has no bones</i>. Of course PEEPS don't have bones either.</p>
April 27	<p>Radical Acceptance: A Path to Equanimity <i>Lay speaker Alan Oliver</i></p> <p>We all want to live a calm, stress free life. One path to this state of being is to accept what has happened in our lives; to accept that to be human is to suffer. This state of acceptance can lead to transformation and a full life.</p>



Seder Dinner

Saturday, April 19

6 pm

See the signup sheet at the back of the Sanctuary.

Margaret Circle will meet on **Thursday April 3** at 1 pm in the library at the UU Center. We will have a speaker from a group called "Caring for Caregivers." Please join us for this important subject and discussion to follow.

-- Judy Brown, Circle Leader

April Book Lovers Group

Hellhound on His Trail: The Electrifying Account of the Largest Manhunt in American History, by Hampton Sides, is this month's selection for the Book Lovers Group. On April 4, 1968, the nation was shocked and saddened by the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Where were you when you heard the news? Mr. Sides takes us through a time in history that many of us remember, but still have a lot to learn. The meeting will be held at 7 pm on **Friday, April 18** in the library of the UU Center. New members are always welcome.

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?oei=dk=a07e8w9kmk514b8e12a&llr=f8rafhcab>

**Spring is here for good – we hope!
Shake up your eating habits
with gift cards for 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!

Small Group Ministry New Group Forming

We are pleased to announce that we are starting a new Small Group Ministry group that will meet during the day at the UU Center, facilitated by Marsha Hannah.

Small Group Ministry (SGM) is our name for a covenanted group that meets once a month for reflection on a single topic. This new group is open to men and women who are available in the afternoon. Meeting topics are chosen by the facilitators with Rev. Charlie. Each session lasts an hour and a half. There are 2 other groups that meet in the evening, one in Cape May County and the other in Little Egg Harbor Township in southern Ocean County. The topic each month is the same for all groups.

If you would like more information please feel free to contact Marsha Hannah – she's in the Member Directory.

Journaling Back on Track

Journaling returns after a winter of snowouts on each of our scheduled meeting days! Beginning Monday, April 7, 6:30 to 8 pm, we are back, with lots of stuff building up to talk and write about. Dreams of spring, nightmares of winter, family history, memoirs of the past and future... let's get it on. We have a core group of veteran writers who love to share skills with newbies – so don't be afraid, we will bring you along gently and you can teach us a thing or two. As a retired teacher, I'm compelled to teach one new thing each night – but that's it. Mostly we write from a selection of prompts and share as it moves you. Hope to see experienced writers as well those who want to get their feet wet come out to our cozy group.

– Bob Baum

Annual Plant Swap & Nursery 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.

He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead; his eyes are closed.

-- Albert Einstein

Reverend Charlie's Page

My Easter Sunday sermon will draw from the image of baby chicks emerging from the shell. Perhaps it's this winter, but I feel like I'm emerging from a shell these days... and that this congregation is changing as well.

When I arrived at the UUCSJS on September 1, 2011, it was my first ministerial job. The congregation had been without a minister, and I was told that one of my priorities was to normalize the minister-congregation relationship. That first year I was only half time. There were many things I could not do with that time constraint, and many ministerial duties I still had to learn. It was an exciting time, and the congregation was very kind as I began regular practice of the art of preaching.

My job is *Consulting Minister*, an unusual situation where the Board hires the minister to work on various aspects of congregational life. It is not a full, "called" ministerial relationship. Having a minister to preach regularly was one of these consulting aspects. So was providing pastoral presence for individuals as was maintaining a trusting relationship with the congregation.

One year later my hours were upped to 70% and I was asked to coordinate staff and take an active role in Adult Religious Education. It has been through the Adult RE work that we have had the most success with promoting "congregants' participation in community social action/social justice activities" -- another one of the priorities I consult on. Sometimes this is simple awareness: The UUA "Common Read" books: Last year's *The New Jim Crow* and this year's *Behind the Kitchen Door* are eye-opening books, providing exposure to life beyond the congregation.

The workshop coming up on Saturday, April 26, where Stephanie Bush-Baskette will be speaking on her book *Misguided Justice: The War on Drugs & Incarceration of Black Women*, will be another opportunity for awareness.

While our Sunday Service on World AIDS Day, 2012 raised awareness of HIV/AIDS, a new chance to "walk the walk" on May 4th, 2014 in Atlantic City brings us beyond study, to social witness.

Similarly, participation in the Family Promise program, which this congregation may vote to join in June, will not only provide service through housing homeless families (and helping to build their day center), it will also teach us about homelessness through contact and relationship -- a form of learning that cannot come from books. Having participated in the interfaith Family Promise meetings, I can see that it can be a powerful opportunity for our congregation and for Atlantic County.

A few weeks back we heard the story of one of the first children to grow up in the congregation, from shy child to achieving young adult. It seems, perhaps, that our community has evolved as well. We welcome many more families with younger children, and our programs have been evolving to compensate. On Saturday April 19 we will hold a congregational Seder Dinner -- an explicitly "all ages" affair. (Please sign up to help!) And our Greenlight Coffeehouse performers are showing that talent knows no age limit.

It has been my honor to witness the evolution of UUCSJS. I think the congregation has a better sense of what a minister can be, though we are still getting to know each other in some ways. The gifts of those who founded our congregation, the gifts of those who built our building and the gifts of those who gather together on Sunday Morning combine to make the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore a community full of life, full of purpose, and full of hope.

Happy Spring!

-- Rev. Charlie

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

Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity,
wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that
reveals the human spirit.
-- e. e. cummings

Be aware of wonder. Live a balanced life -
learn some and think some and draw and paint and
sing and dance and play and work every day some.
-- Robert Fulghum

UUCSJS 6th Annual Native Plant Swap Begin potting now!

April is the time to pot-up your extra native plants for the 6th Annual Native Plant Swap on Saturday, May 10 at our center. Are you new to our congregation and wondering what is involved in a native plant swap? Here's how the swap works: participants who bring two native plants to cover the price of admission can swap up to 10 additional plants. Participants without plants to swap may purchase up to three plants for \$2 each. The event focuses on native, non-invasive perennials, shrub and tree seedlings, as well as non-invasive species beneficial to butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife.

Our goal with the swap is to promote more backyard habitat in southern New Jersey by providing local gardeners who bring plants to swap with a source of inexpensive—or even free—native plants. The Plant Swap will take place, rain or shine, on May 10 from 9 am to 2 pm. Plant drop-off hours are 4 to 6 pm on May 9 and 8 to 10 am on May 10. For more information, including a FAQ flyer and step-by-step guide to the swap, go to www.uucsjs.org or pick up a flyer at the Fair Trade table.

Circle Dinners

Signups for the May 17 and June 21 Circle Dinners has begun and will continue until April 20. After this date you may still sign up as an alternate.

Circle dinners are a wonderful way for people in our community to get to know and enjoy each other in a relaxed way. A schedule of dinners will be constructed, each including 8 people from those who have signed up. There will be rotation of people, with the goal of having dinner with as many different folks as possible. If unable to host you may note this on the sign-up sheet.

You may sign up as a couple, or as a single, or two single people may want to sign up together as a couple. Each month each couple, or two singles, will be assigned one of the following roles:

- A: Host, who provides space, and hors d'oeuvres, water, coffee and tea
- B: Provides main course
- C: Provides salad and bread
- D: Provides dessert.

Circle Dinners are BYOB. Please bring your favorite wine, beer, or non-alcoholic drink.

If you are interested in circle dinners, but not able to commit, consider signing up as an alternate to fill in for those whose plans change. This means that you may be called upon by those who are in need of finding a substitute.

A handout at the signup table explains this further. This wonderful program is now in its third year. Remember that the idea of the Circle Dinners is to enjoy good fellowship and food, NOT a competition for gourmet meals. Join in and have fun.

The possession of knowledge does not kill the sense
of wonder and mystery.
There is always more mystery.
-- Anais Nin

General Assembly 2014 June 25-29, Providence, RI

The theme for General Assembly 2014 is
Love Reaches Out.

A core purpose of our faith is to help people grow in spirit and in service. We believe that our faith provides a path for each of us to unlock our transformational capacity to serve the world with love. We want to expand our faith not just to grow Unitarian Universalism, but also to better achieve this transformational purpose. Therefore, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the UUA Board of Trustees and the Administration want the General Assembly in 2014 help our association live into a future where our "Love Reaches Out" to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls.

For more information on GA, visit the uua website at <http://uua.org/ga/>.

Living Green

This month's tip has to do with cooking -- one of my favorite topics!

You do not really need to preheat your oven! What? The exception is if you are making bread or other baked goods, which do need to go in a pre-heated oven. Just turn on the oven when you put the casserole in -- easy! When checking your food, look through the oven window instead of opening the door. Hold on...

That means I need to clean my oven door so I can see through it....

~Barbara Miller

Hooray! It's time for spring cleaning at the UUCSJS Butterfly Garden at Patriot Lake Wednesday, April 2, 4:30-6:00 pm

Members and friends of our congregation designed, installed, and maintain a butterfly garden at Patriot Lake in Galloway Township. Our garden, located behind the Galloway library and near the playground is a gem: it's alive with beautiful nectar rich flowers and butterflies from May through September to the delight of all that pass by.

After the hard winter we've had, we are in need of volunteers to help cut back perennials, weed, and help get the garden in shape for spring. We'll take on these tasks on Wednesday, April 2, between 4:30 and 6:00 pm. Questions? See Jesse Connor.

Volunteers Needed for Outside Work at UU Center Thursday, April 3, 4:30-6:30 pm

The Building & Grounds Committee is seeking volunteers who can help out next Thursday, April 3, anytime between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. We'll be installing our rain barrels, trimming bushes and trees, and taking on any number of other outside spring landscaping tasks - depending on how many folks can help out. Questions? See Jesse Connor or Steve Fiedler.

Adopt-A-UU-Garden-Bed

Our Building and Grounds Committee has come up with an Adopt-a-UU-Garden-Bed initiative that allows individuals, families, or groups the opportunity to care for a manageable garden bed on our property at their own convenience. This has proved to be a win-win for all concerned.

You've probably noticed the small signs in various garden beds with the name of the garden and its volunteer caretaker as you've walked around the grounds. Once again this year, we have some gardens that are up for adoption. If you are interested or have questions, please email me and I'll let you know which gardens are up for adoption this year.

Who can adopt?

- Individuals
- Families
- Groups/teams of like-minded individuals

Why adopt?

- You'll have the satisfaction gained from sharing the responsibility for the stewardship of our grounds.
- Shared work affords the opportunity to strengthen friendships and family ties.
- You can involve children in appreciating and learning about how to care for our environment.
- Scheduling is up to you -- individuals or groups have the flexibility to arrange volunteer time to suit their needs.
- We are committed to environmental sustainability at UUCSJS and therefore plant only native perennials, shrubs, and trees. By helping us maintain our grounds, you will make it possible for us to showcase native plants and educate the public about their value.

How often would I/we have to come?

- A light weeding once a month, beginning in April and ending in September or October should be sufficient to keep the bed looking good.

How long will I/we be committed for?

- We will give people the opportunity to renew their sponsorship on a yearly basis. As long as the garden has been well maintained, sponsors will be able to continue caretaking their chosen garden.

How can I/we get started and know what to do?

- Jesse Connor will help you get started and will be available to assist you or answer any questions you might have. Tools for maintaining the garden will be available in our shed.

That's the whole problem with science.
You've got a bunch of empiricists trying to describe
things of unimaginable wonder.
-- Bill Watterson

Philosophy begins in wonder. And, at the end,
when philosophic thought has done its best,
the wonder remains.
-- Alfred North Whitehead

Results of Congregational Music Survey

Thanks to all who participated in the Congregational Music Survey. I want to share some of the results with you.

Most people enjoying singing at UUCSJS more than at previous churches they have attended. Some said our music is quite different than what they were used to – more varied – and they like that. A couple of people commented that they appreciated how the music ties in with the message and the different parts of the service.

Asked to describe yourselves musically, 15 of you said that you played or sang in music groups in school; 3 were professional or semi-professional musicians; 6 play or sing with a group outside of UU; 2 are neutral about music in general. Fourteen like to listen to music but do not sing or play an instrument. You folks, please speak with me if you would like to change that!

Most of those surveyed enjoy all the songs we sing, regardless of style. Eleven people specified songs by UU composers as favorites and 10 specified African American spirituals.

The result that most surprised me was only 4 people listed rounds as favorite songs. Good information for me, who could sing rounds every Sunday!

Asked which styles of instrumental music contribute to your Sunday morning experience, most replied “all.”

Those who specified a favorite voted for classical, followed by jazz. No one voted for New Age style. Melissa and I have apparently disguised our choices well. *The majority of the piano music you hear is by composers classified as New Age by Wikipedia; including Lorie Line, Jon Schmidt and George Winston!* Apparently the term “New Age” means something different to many of us.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions – even when I am not doing it as a course requirement!

Your next task will be to vote on your favorite hymns – a summer service will feature a countdown to our Top Ten UU Songs. Stay tuned. -- Barbara Miller

UUMAC 2014 Retreat, July 13 – 19, 2014 at DeSales University, Center Valley PA

The annual UUMAC retreat lasts one week, though many campers wish it were longer! As the name indicates, we are focused on UUs from the Mid-Atlantic States. DeSales provides food, comfortable dorm housing, and buildings for our use. We spend our time sharing, listening, building community, laughing, singing, thinking, reading, dancing, and loving one another. UUMAC is many things to many people: a spiritual retreat, time for reflection and celebration, a family reunion, or the physical representation of life passionately lived. Join us this summer to develop your own definition of UUMAC while learning, relaxing, and seeing the world through new eyes. The Theme Speaker will be Rev. Bruce Southworth, and the Minister of the Week will be Rev. Sandra Fees. Visit <http://uumac.org> for details.

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

March 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, March 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 a statement of shared principles, and joys and concerns were shared.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held Sunday, April 13 at 11:15 am in a lower level classroom. (*Note:* Talk-Backs have been moved from the 3rd to 2nd Sunday of the month.)

2) The **UU Legislative Ministry of NJ (UULMNJ)** has an issues conference scheduled for Saturday, April 5 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the UU Congregation of Princeton. Visit uulmnj.org for more details and registration information.

3) The **Joseph Priestley District (JPD) 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 a variety of workshops are scheduled. For more info and to register, go to: jpduuu.org

4) This year's **UUA General Assembly (GA)**, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) with the theme "Love Reaches Out," will be held Wednesday through Sunday, June 25-29, 2014 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, RI. Anyone may attend GA, but congregations must be certified with the UUA to send voting delegates. Our UUCSJS voting delegates will be chosen at the annual meeting in early June.

5) President York announced that we're in receipt of **four letters from the IRS** resolving all alleged UUCSJS tax delinquency issues concerning our Form 940s for the years 2005, '06, '07, and '09, removing charges and penalties of \$4,624.22 and issuing a refund of \$284.60. On behalf of the congregation, the Board offered heartfelt thanks to John Searight for his steadfastness over the almost two years it has taken to see this through to its successful conclusion.

• DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) **Rough draft of proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15.** President York distributed the draft budget so Board members can study it before a vote is called to approve at the April meeting. The draft budget shows a total of \$195,900 in Income & Expenses for the new fiscal year (up from \$189,000), with a goal of \$160,000 in pledge payments (up from \$153,500). After approval by the Finance committee and Board of Trustees, the proposed budget comes before the entire congregation for its approval at the Annual Meeting in early June.

2) **Social Justice.** Board member Joe Terrazzini shared some of his still-evolving ideas about how UUCSJS handles the Social Justice sphere, referring to a UUA resource that has helped guide his thinking. Regarding social justice work as a spiritual practice in UU congregations, the authors of the *Social Justice Empowerment Handbook* (©2009, UUA) describe in detail how to create a balanced program with a mix of service, education, organizing, advocacy, and public witness activities, tailored for small, mid-size, and large congregations.

In brief, based on congregation size, Terrazzini laid out a scenario whereby we would have two or three "action groups" operating at any one time, on a start-and-stop basis, of a self-selected group of congregants who commit to a project. The Social Justice committee per se would have only about five (5) members, including a chair, vice chair (chair in training), treasurer, and outreach person. Together they would function

as a steering committee, selecting, managing, and overseeing the single-issue "action groups." A proposed action would go through an evaluation process and assigned priority according to a predetermined set of criteria, acknowledging that our resources are limited.

After detailing more on how projects would be originated, Terrazzini concluded by saying he feels UUCSJS could avoid the sort of social justice leadership burn-out we have seen in the past by having a program like this in place. It's been wisely observed that while some prefer administrative and analytical work, others have an interest in, and energy for, direct action.

Board members reacted with enthusiasm, agreeing such a model could help us become more focused and effective. Rev. Charlie noted the model echoes the one adopted this year by the Adult RE committee: functioning "not as people who teach, but people enabling other people who want to, to teach." He also observed two short initiatives recently – Water Shield and Marriage Equality – conform to this model to some extent.

The Board commended Terrazzini and expressed gratitude for his taking this initiative and putting forward ideas on how to restructure and revitalize our UUCSJS social justice program. (*To be continued...*)

• REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** Adding to his monthly written report, Rev. Charlie informed the Board that Betsy Searight has resigned from the Caring team after years of leadership and service, constantly making sure the congregation is well-informed about those in need. He confirmed there are two new members of the Committee on Ministry (COM) now, Pam Hendrick and Angela Wexler, who each agreed to serve until the end of June.

Adult RE's "Stay on Topic" is on hiatus, he said, and "Spirit in Practice," led with congregant Charlie Roberts, had "a nice final session." Our Family Promise team is preparing FAQs for the congregation, and continues to work with Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC) staff to help bring the program to life.

2) **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Carl Benner reported our financial position is "still solid," adding there are "no cash flow problems." On behalf of the Finance committee, he announced UUCSJS has received generous donations of some \$5,400 to be used to reduce mortgage debt by making a significant payment against the principal balance. These funds are already in the hands of our mortgage company, Benner said.

3) **Notes on Staff & Committee Reports.** President York added this item to the regular monthly agenda to help the Board remain alert to staff and committee needs.

a) This year's **4th Annual Native Nursery-Grown Plant SALE** is now in progress and the deadline for Advance Order Forms is this **Tuesday, April 1**. *The sale is bigger than ever this year, and many more volunteers are needed!* The **6th Annual Native Plant SWAP** takes place Saturday, May 10 from 10 am to 2 pm. (Advance Order plants can be picked up then or on Friday, May 9 from 4 to 6 pm.) *Volunteers are needed on both days! Visit the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary or see Jesse Connor to learn how you can help!*

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm, the Board having met in Executive Session from 6:56 to 7:37 in advance of the regular meeting.

– Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 6:45 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

New Programs in April:

- **“Misguided Justice: The War on Drugs and the Incarceration of Women”** based on the book written by Stephanie Bush-Baskett, a regular-attending friend of our congregation. This workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 10 am to 2:30 pm. *See details to the right, below.*

Other April Programs

- **Singing Meditation** will occur on the first Tuesday of the month, April 1, and May 6. Led by our Music Director, Barbara Miller, this interfaith spiritual practice combines singing, toning and chanting with movement and group observation of silence. No prior music or singing experience is required to enjoy and participate in Singing Meditation. To register, call or email Barbara. If you would like to be included in an email list reminder of future sessions, please contact Barbara at uucsjsmusic@comcast.net.

Note: We do need at least 5 people for an effective session. You can visit the UUCSJS Facebook page to check if there is a cancellation.

- **Journaling** will spring forward (now that the snow is gone) and continue to meet on the first Monday of each month, 6:30-8 pm (April 7, May 5, etc). Leader Bob Baum: “We have a core group of veteran writers who love to share skills with newbies – so don't be afraid, we will bring you along gently and you can teach us a thing or two. Mostly we write from a selection of prompts and share as it moves us.”
- **Rise Up and Call Her Name**, led by Kim Trotto and Theresa McReynolds, continues to meet on the first Sunday (April 6). The class takes a woman-honoring journey to many parts of the globe and looks at the female in religious practice from Earth-honoring cultures.
- **Building a Multicultural World**, led by Shelee McIlvaine and Prim Reeves, meets on the 2nd Sunday (April 13). This is a UU program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. Lunch & child care provided.
- **Small Group Ministry:** There are now three groups:
 1. Dennis Township, led by Kathleen Hartnett, 1st Monday of each month (7-8 pm)
 2. Little Egg Harbor, led by Prim Reeves, 3rd Wednesday, April 24 (7-8:30 pm)
 3. A NEW GROUP in Galloway, led by Marsha Hannah, meeting in the afternoon from 2:00-3:30 pm on Monday, April 21st at our UU Center.
- **Buddhist Sangha**, led by Alan Oliver on the 4th Sunday of every month (April 27). This is a gathering of those in our congregation who are interested in sharing and learning more about Buddhism.

*** Don't forget that you can ask questions and register for programs by sending an e-mail to: adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com, or sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As we bid farewell to winter, we also say goodbye and "Thank you" to Jessica Safonof and Bud Smith who completed their winter terms as classroom teachers at the end of March. Replacing them for the month of April will be Betsy Erbaugh in the 3-5th grade class and Michael Cluff with the 6-8th grade group. Karen York will continue to lead our youngest students at the PreK-2nd grade level, and Meredith Massey is our regular Toddler room supervisor on most Sundays. We are so lucky to have all of these wonderful people dedicating their time to the RE program each week!

The Children's RE Committee (made up of even more wonderful people) will host our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration during class time on Sunday, April 20. Refreshment donations will be coordinated with parents during the weeks leading up to the party.

The committee is also considering a second field trip/community service project for our students and their families to Forsythe Wildlife Refuge this spring, and will be discussing the possibilities further at our April committee meeting.

With hopes our April showers this year will be rain and not snow,

Heidi Jansch

UUCSJS Director of Religious Education



The War on Drugs and the Incarceration of Black Women

Stephanie Bush-Baskette, JD, PhD, was astonished when she read that between 1986 and 1991, black women experienced the greatest percentage increase of any group, including black males, in imprisonment for drug offenses. Not only was she stunned by the statistic, but also that the impact of the war on drugs on black women is almost never discussed. As a former NJ legislator, attorney, and gubernatorial cabinet member, Bush-Baskette is familiar with the development and implementation of public policies as well as the enactment and application of laws. This obscure fact concerning the status of black women in the criminal justice system became her touchstone as she earned a doctorate in criminal justice.

In *Misguided Justice*, Bush-Baskette uses her expertise in the law, criminal justice research, and the legislature to explore the effect of the war on drugs on the incarceration of black women in the federal system. She provides an overview of what the war on drugs is and how it has impacted women and black people in general, and then focuses on black women specifically.

Stephanie, a frequent visitor of our congregation, will conduct a workshop about “Misguided Justice” at our congregation on **Saturday, April 26, 10 am-2:30 pm**. There is no fee; however, donations will be accepted for the provided lunch.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

Minister
Reverend Charlie Dieterich

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

Director of Religious Education
Heidi Jansch
sjsdre@gmail.com

Office Administrator
Cassandra Shellhorn
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

Bookkeeper
Kathleen Hartnett
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



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

Board of Trustees 2013-14

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

April 2014

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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Pomona, NJ 08240**

