



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 06

June 2014

June Services

“We are a people of ... Vision”

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.

June 1	<p>A People of Covenant <i>Led by the UUCSJS Worship Committee</i> The Worship Committee will preview our 2014-15 theme – the UUCSJS Covenant.</p>
June 8	<p>Religious Education (RE) Sunday <i>Led by RE Committee and volunteers</i> Join us for RE Sunday, and see our Children's Religious Education students shine at this intergenerational service for the young and the young at heart! As the conclusion of the church-school year, this service will include a short play highlighting the democratic process (our fifth principle), a recognition of our RE volunteers, and readings and music presented by our youth.</p>
June 15	<p>The Bear Went Over the Mountain <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i> “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness” - Mark Twain.</p>
June 22	<p>Interweave <i>Led by members of Interweave</i> Our Interweave group provides outreach and support to the GLBTQ community.</p>
June 29	<p>All Are Architects <i>Rev. Charlie Dieterich</i> "Build today then, strong and sure, with a firm and ample base, And ascending and secure, Shall tomorrow find its place." - H. W. Longfellow.</p>

SAVE the DATE!!

Farewell Shared Meal with Reverend Charlie

Sunday, June 29, will be Reverend Charlie's last day with our congregation.

Please join us for a shared meal following services, and in wishing him well on his journey.

Contact Karen York to help with the planning.

Murray Grove Retreat

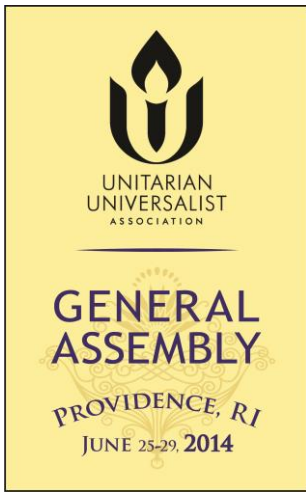
June 20-22

It's not JUST for kids

If you've never visited the “birthplace of Universalism in America”, here's your chance.

If you're itchin' for a change of scenery and activities with your UU friends, now is the time.

See page 2 for details.



GA 2014 Workshops Focus on Outreach

At this year's General Assembly in Providence, RI, June 25-29, there is a special focus on outreach, welcoming, and evangelism in keeping with the GA theme of "Love Reaches Out." As the Rev. Renee Ruchotzke explained this spring on uuworld.org, the sessions are designed to help congregations "comm-unicate the message of liberal religion so it is heard and seen in today's changing media environment without losing its depth." Said another way, UUs who are more comfortable explaining their faith will be more welcoming to seekers and more inclined to engage others in conversation about it. Ruchotzke, a leadership development consultant for the Unitarian Universalist Association's Central East Regional Group, is helping develop GA workshops on these topics.

There are about twenty workshops this year around the topics of outreach, welcoming, and evangelism, including:

- Evangelism Redefined
- Reaching Out to Those With Hearing Loss
- Welcoming Different Minds: Mental Health in Congregations
- Beyond Partisan Division - Reaching Out and In
- Military Ministry for UUs: In Congregations and Beyond
- Ministry in the Millennial Age
- Reaching Out to the Nonreligious
- Ripples on a Pond: Reaching Beyond UU Circles

Margaret Circle will meet Thurs. June 5 at 1 pm in the UU Center library. After our sharing time and refreshments, Betsy Searight will lead our discussion on end of life issues. It will be based upon Sam Mowe's interview* with journalist and reporter Katy Butler in the April edition of *Sun* magazine. Hope to see many of you UU women there. -- *Judy Brown, Circle Leader*

* read it online at thesunmagazine.org/issues/460/the_long_goodbye

June Book Lovers Group

We will be meeting on Friday, June 20 at 7 pm in the library of the UU Center to decide on selections for the upcoming year. Come let your voice be heard. Newcomers are always welcome. -- *Angela Wexler*

Support our congregation by doing what you already do – buy groceries! 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!

Murray Grove Annual Gathering June 20-22, 2014

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74, Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday June 20 to Sunday June 22. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots. Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we often have a nature/bird walk, and some intergenerational games. Sunday will include a visit to the Thomas Potter Memorial chapel. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy and swimming is usually available.

Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event.

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

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

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

Who sets up for the Greenlight Coffeehouse? *Is it elves?*

The monthly Greenlight Coffeehouse is set up and broken down each month. On Thursday night the space is set up, which means moving chairs, setting up tables with cloths and candles, and preparing the kitchen for snacks. Currently the dedicated individuals doing this job include Steve Fiedler, Theresa McReynolds, Karen Zindell, Tracey Staab, and Colby Tippins. It would be advantageous to have a handful of other people to be available as backup in case one of those can't do it. Would you like to see what's involved and serve as an alternate? Get in touch with Theresa if you can help.

"I have a different vision of leadership. A leadership is someone who brings people together." -- George W. Bush

Reverend Charlie's Page

My final UUCSJS Newsletter! I am going to miss the gentle reminders which Mariann Maene sends around in advance of the last week of each month. I'm going to miss the chance to chat with folks after the service, always listening for newsletter topics. What's on people's minds? How can I help? And then, when it's all submitted, I am going to miss opening up the Newsletter itself, seeing the layout, and sermon titles... the articles and especially the topical quotes that fill out the corners of the page.

The Newsletter is one of the rhythms of our congregation... your congregation. Like a drum that you don't want to stop beating (or however that song lyric goes!). It amazes me to see that I've done over thirty of these articles, and sixty sermons, and perhaps one hundred and forty midweeks... Did I really do all that?

One of the lessons I have learned about UUCSJS is that the minister is not just a Sunday morning speaker but also a postal minister. When it's all counted up I've said more in my writings than in my speakings. The difference between the public Newsletter and the more intimate Midweek has allowed me to address current events and timeless themes in ways that are sometimes personal and sometimes (I hope) universal.

It's lucky that my departure is timed for June, the traditional time for graduations. Many of us have experienced the goodbye hug in graduation robes... wishing classmates many wonderful adventures. You might ask: "Do you have to leave?" and the answer is no and yes. No, I could have stayed another year or two. The Finance Committee was already talking about contract negotiations. And yet, some people have heard it in my sermons, there is an urge for going in me. While New Orleans would be a wonderful place to return to, I'm not sure I'm wanting to "return" anywhere, but rather seek somewhere new.

It was a disappointment that I did not find a new settled ministry this year. That was my goal, and yet, who knows what unseen hand made me fail, but I did get close, and met some wonderful Ministerial Search Committees in the process. So instead I will sit out a year, moving back to central NJ and the house I own, taking time to read and write and guest preach. I can take the time to reflect on my experiences, and maybe have a few adventures too.

One lesson I've learned about being a minister is that I need a life outside of the congregation's community. Your new minister will have that life, and be able to go home to family, and that is something to celebrate. Please don't try to make your Interim Minister be like me. First off, that would be impossible (he says modestly), but also, as you experience a different style of ministry, reflect on what's important to you about UUCSJS. I hope there will be opportunities for you to share those reflections.

Hang on! When I first came to the South Jersey Shore I observed the ebb and flow of membership-- who was leaving, but because I was new too, I didn't notice who was coming in.

If I had any advice for the congregation it would be to recognize that progress takes time, and change ebbs and flows. Use direct address when you don't understand something, but do so with respect and love. I think the covenant of right relations is one of the best changes in the congregation, as it defines a language of relationship.

Back when I was a volunteer firefighter I had to catch myself sometimes... firefighters exist to fight fires. If the community has no fires, you feel rather useless. Ministry can be like that. When I arrived I assumed that I had to be a pastor to someone to feel useful. And yet, as the years have gone by I see that that's only one part of the ministerial calling. The foundation of relationship needs no crisis... and it is the aspect of ministry I've learned during my time here. I have benefited from being in relationship-- whether happy or sad. Take a chance, ask the minister out for coffee, or over to dinner, or lunch. The more relationship, the better.

I've always thought that passion was a strength of this congregation, and that serenity was its growing edge. Although there's nothing unique about that in UU circles, contemplating how things are done may provide new pathways to success in the future.

I really have had a wonderful time as minister of UUCSJS. I thank you all for my ordination, and I will carry that blessing with me for the rest of my life. "I was ordained by the congregation at the south Jersey shore" I will say. And in that moment all your faces-- those who were present, those who are new, and those who are gone-- will all appear.

Ours is a religion of gratitude, I look forward to saying "Thank You" many times in my remaining weeks. You have done well.

Reverend Charles (Charlie) Dieterich

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

Vision

"You cannot see the mountain near."
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Most people are not really free. They are confined by the niche in the world that they carve out for themselves. They limit themselves to fewer possibilities by the narrowness of their vision."
-- V. S. Naipaul

"Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes."
-- Carl Jung

"An artist is not paid for his labor but for his vision."
-- James Whistler

"Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is simply passing the time. Action with Vision is making a positive difference."
-- Joel Barker

Living Green

“Lasagna Gardening”

Is lack of time, space and skill holding you back from gardening?

Consider lasagna gardening. I heard about this from my sister, a lifelong gardener, who has moved recently to a property with (shudder) no garden! With all the upheaval of moving, a late spring, and a broken rototiller, she discovered lasagna gardening.

It is a no-dig, no-tilling method of gardening. Basically you create layers of a variety of both green (nitrogen-rich) and brown (carbon-rich) mulch materials. Use animal manures, compost, grass clippings, vegetable kitchen scraps, leaves, sawdust from untreated wood, chopped non-weed plant stalks, straw, or worm castings. I have also heard of cardboard and wood ash being used.

Look for a spot where your plants will get plenty of sun, but a little shade is fine too. Watch the sun move around your yard on a typical summer day to discover a good place for your garden.

Fall is a good time to start layering. Use 4 parts brown material to 1 part green material. Your “lasagna” may be as thick as 24 inches to start; it will settle down by springtime. Finish off the top with dry leaves, preferably run over by a lawn mower first. This is the parmesan cheese!

For more complete instructions download a PDF at bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/4905.pdf

Also check other sites that your google search unearths. There are many different theories and methods of doing this. They all seem to have one thing in common: happy gardeners!

~Barbara Miller

I don't 'believe in' the Seven Principles

I don't think of them as beliefs at all.

By Doug Muder

I have a.. serious objection to the Principles as a defining set of Unitarian Universalist beliefs: I don't believe in them.

In fact, I don't think of them as beliefs at all. I think of them as visions.

The point of putting the Principles in the front of the hymnal and teaching them to our children isn't to assert their truth, or even to encourage you to nod along with the idea that they should be true. Unitarian Universalism is a commitment to envision a world in which the Principles have become true, to envision it so intensely and in such detail that it becomes a genuine possibility, and to join with others in making that possibility real.

That's how the Seven Principles turn into a challenging spiritual path.

Read more at uuworld.org:

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/295159.shtml>

ANNUAL UUCSJS NATIVE PLANT SALE & SWAP – A BIG SUCCESS !!!

This year's plant sale and swap was our most ambitious and most successful to date!

We can all take pride that we are helping to spread the important message of sustainable landscaping to folks in southern Jersey - and take pleasure that the message is energizing people to take positive steps to create better-functioning backyard ecosystems.

Here's a breakdown of what was sold and swapped:

Trees and Shrubs preordered: 245
Perennials preordered: 550
Plants sold by Raven: 82
Plants swapped: 268
Plants bought: 156
Birdhouses sold: 4

That's a total of + 1,300 native plants out there helping to enhance backyard ecosystems in southern Jersey. GOOD WORK TO EVERYONE INVOLVED! And, lest I forget to mention - we raised \$4000 at the same time!

The pre-sale and swap are complicated efforts, requiring thirty volunteers for the planning, publicity, paper work, physical labor, organizing, assisting with sales and swaps, educating, cashiering, and bookkeeping necessary to make the sale and event a success.

Special thanks to Judy for designing great-looking, easy-to-read flyers and order forms. She is a master at packing a ton of info onto a sheet of paper!

To Mariann and Ronda for helping to publicize the swap and sale. Once again this year, we had many first-timers. Great!

To Raven for once again offering plants from her Earth First Native Plant Nursery for sale and for donating the mark-up of the plants she sold.

Thanks to Patti Cassidy, Daina Walters, and Steve Whitford, our non-UU friends, whose gardening expertise was greatly appreciated at the swap.

A warm welcome and thanks to UU volunteers new to the plant sale this year: Noelle, Todd, Damon, and Marcia and Dan. Hope we have you hooked on natives!

And kudos and thanks to Steve F, Bud, Damon, and Dan, for camping out in the parking lot (in the rain) to protect the plants from deer and the possibility of vandalism. (Lots of good stories to boot!)

And lastly, thanks to Barbara F, whose assistance with the planning and execution of this sale/swap is, once again this year - as in past years - vital to its success.

Jesse Connor



The Interim search process was a whirlwind of activity in a short period of time and we have identified an excellent Interim Minister that we are excited about working with beginning in August. The Interim Search process is highly structured with the names being released on one day and all the contacts, information exchange, interviews, and decision making needing to be completed within eleven days. Offers are made by all congregations on a specified day and time. The Interim search committee (Karen York, Art Wexler, Joe Terrazzini, Marsha Hannah, Paul Utts, Carolyn Baum and Bud Smith) received several names of **UU ministers** who responded to our Interim application. Based on the written materials there were several excellent candidates, with a variety of rich experience as UU ministers and as Interim ministers. The search committee recommended a candidate and this was approved by the Board of Trustees. We hope to have a contract finalized shortly.

Welcome to Rev. Cynthia Cain, Interim Minister

We are pleased to introduce **Rev. Cynthia Cain** to the congregation who has been selected to serve as our Interim minister from August 15, 2014 to June 30, 2016. Rev. Cain was ordained in 1995 at the UU Church of the Shenandoah Valley and she has twenty years of experience as a UU minister in both small and mid-size congregations. Most recently, she was a called minister at the UU Church of Lexington, Kentucky for 14 years. She is originally from NJ and has family in the area (Mt. Laurel, Mays Landing, Tabernacle, and more). This will be her first Interim position, but she has a wealth of professional training, ministerial experience, and life experience to draw on. She has practiced Buddhist meditation for many years and has a Masters in Fiction writing and English literature in addition to her Masters of Divinity.

Transitions Team

As a part of the Interim process, we will appoint a Transitions Team to work closely with the Interim Minister as a source of information about the congregation and its members. It will be at least five members of the congregation who are well-known, widely respected, and not members or in relationship with members on the previous Committee on Ministry (which worked closely with Rev. Charlie), or the current (newly elected) Board of Trustees. If you are interested in serving, contact Karen York. Members will be selected by the Board in consultation with the Interim minister.

Understanding Interim Ministry

It is understood, in accordance with the established policy of the Unitarian Universalist Association, that the interim minister is pledged not to become a candidate for the congregation's called ministry, not to serve the congregation for more than two years, and not to discuss specific prospective candidates for the called ministry of the congregation with the ministerial search committee.

It is also understood that an interim minister both carries out the normal responsibilities of congregational ministry, including worship and pastoral care, and also assists the congregation in addressing the following interim tasks:

- claiming and honoring its past and engaging and acknowledging its griefs and conflicts
- recognizing its unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges
- understanding the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition
- making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources
- renewing its vision, strengthening its stewardship, preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest

from uuworld.org:

Interim ministers help ease transitions

Interim ministers help congregations make successful transitions between settled ministries.

By Donald E. Skinner

Interim ministers serve a congregation for a year or two, easing the shift from the past to the future.

The role of an interim is to help a congregation make changes between settled ministries, correct problems, and prepare the way for the next minister. "The interim is not a juggernaut who comes in and creates change wholesale," said the Rev. John Weston, the UUA's

ministerial settlement director. "Neither is he or she a placeholder until the new settled minister arrives. The interim is more like a mirror, reflecting the congregation back to itself. When the congregation decides on changes it wishes to make, it consults with the minister on how to make them. And the interim points out things the congregation might not see about itself."

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS

May 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held (postponed for one week) on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at 6:45 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Karen York presiding.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held this **Sunday, June 1** at **11:15 am**, immediately after the service, to elect members of the Board of Trustees and Congregational committees, approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15, choose delegates to this year's UUA General Assembly (GA), and decide our participation in Family Promise of Atlantic County. At least 36 members must be present to constitute a quorum. You may execute a Proxy Statement or Absentee Ballot, but they do not count toward the quorum.

2) The Board authorized a **special collection** to be held on **Sunday, June 8** to support Murray Grove's "**Camping in the Grove**" scholarship fund.

3) The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held **Sunday, June 8** at 11:15 am in a lower level classroom. (Note: Talk-Backs have been moved to the second Sunday of the month.)

4) This year's **congregational gathering at Murray Grove** will take place on Fri., Sat., and Sun., **June 20-22**.

5) The **UUA General Assembly** (GA), themed "Love Reaches Out," will be held Wed. through Sun., **June 25-29** in Providence, RI. Anyone may attend GA, but congregations must be UUA-certified to send voting delegates.

6) A **FAREWELL POTLUCK PICNIC LUNCHEON** is planned for **Sunday, June 29** right after the service, to say goodbye to Rev. Charlie. Look for the sign-up sheet.

7) UUCSJS is now a member of the Joseph Priestley District's **(JPD) Philadelphia Cluster** of UU congregations, which plans to have a table at the Philly Pride Parade & Festival on Sunday, June 8, selling "Standing On the Side of Love" t-shirts.

8) Volunteers are sought by **St. Andrew Resurrection Ministries Food Pantry** in Atlantic City, to help on the last two Thursdays each month from 10 to 1 packing groceries for pick-up. Also, volunteers needed evenings or Saturdays. Contact Pastor David McGettigan (standrewbythesea@verizon.net) or Richard Grzywinski (richardgrzy@comcast.net).

• DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1) **Review Annual Meeting materials.** Two nominees are needed for the candidate slate, delaying availability of the *Absentee Ballot*, and the *Final Agenda* will need to be made ready. Board members went on to discuss the agenda item on *Level of Congregational Involvement in Family Promise of Atlantic County* (FPAC). After careful consideration, the Board came to the conclusion that as a congregation, we do not seem to have reached the level of consensus needed to make an informed and binding commitment on participation in FPAC.

The Board acknowledged the FP team has been working hard to inform and educate the congregation, distributing "FAQs" and regularly placing Q&A stories in the Midweek Announcements. Still, a congregation-wide informational meeting was held only recently, May 18, and more face-to-face learning opportunities may be helpful. And only on May 25 did the team begin asking congregants to commit to specific responsibilities (enlisting nearly 30 of some 48 "willing workers" required, a great start). However, the Board's opinion is that we're not quite there yet, the process needing to be far enough advanced to bring most, if not all congregants along.

As one Board member put it, "I'd rather do this right than do it fast."

—The Board unanimously approved a motion to recommend that UUCSJS aspire to participate in Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC) at the level of "Host Congregation," contingent upon there being sufficient congregational support—and commitment to performing the work involved—to make this level of participation viable; the Board to assess informally the degree of congregational support at this point in time by polling members at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1.

Further, it is understood that there will be a formal vote to approve the level of UUCSJS congregational involvement in Family Promise of Atlantic County at a Special Meeting to be called for that purpose at a time to be determined as early as September 2014.

2) **Ministerial transition.** President York announced the ad-hoc Board Interim Ministerial Search committee had selected Rev. Cynthia P. Cain, who has over twenty years' experience in the UU ministry, to serve our congregation as Interim Minister. Rev. Cain was raised in southern New Jersey and currently resides in rural Mackville, Kentucky, about 45 miles southwest of Lexington.

—The Board unanimously approved a motion to hire the Rev. Cynthia P. Cain as UUCSJS Interim Minister to serve the congregation for two (2) years, August 15, 2014 to June 30, 2016, subject to successful contract negotiations now in progress, and with the understanding that there will be approximately \$1,500 in moving and/or travel expenses not covered by the current budget.

Rev. Cain earned BA and MA degrees from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey), and her MDiv in 1995 from Pacific School of Religion (Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA). She also holds an MFA (2012) in Writing (Fiction) from Spalding University in Louisville.

Most recently, Rev. Cain was minister of the UU Church of Lexington for 14 years, having been ordained in June 1995 by the UU Church of Shenandoah Valley, VA. *Stay tuned!*

• REPORTS

1) **Minister's Report.** Adding to his monthly written report to the Board, Rev. Charlie said he had met with the Membership committee, and a Newcomer Brunch will be held on June 15 followed by a new member signing on June 29. Rev. Charlie noted he will be preaching only two more times as our minister—on June 15 and 29. (*The congregation will get together for a shared meal to say goodbye to Charlie after the service on Sunday, June 29, so mark the date!*)

2) **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Benner said UUCSJS's financial position is solid, with no cash-flow problems, and President York gave a Stewardship report. Our pledging goal for FY 2014-15 was \$150,000, she said, and at present we have received \$145,331 (short \$4,669). We can anticipate new pledges during the course of the coming year, however.

3) **Notes on Staff & Committee Reports.** President York noted that this month's Board reports were replaced by the Annual Reports from staff and committees, which were compiled and distributed to the congregation on May 25 in advance of this Sunday's Annual Meeting, June 1, 2014.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm, with President York urging Board members to do their homework on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee evaluation for Rev. Charlie, which needs to be done early in June.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, June 18, 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.

A Trip to Philadelphia has been planned...REGISTER NOW!

On **Thursday evening, June 19**, a lecture/panel discussion at the Historical Society of PA will introduce you to everyday life and momentous occasions from a young African American woman's point of view. Recently [*Emilie Davis' Diaries: A Chronicle of the African American Community During the Civil War*](#) has been fully transcribed and annotated.



When the Civil War began, Emilie Davis, a twenty four year old free African American woman, was attending school and sewing clothes to support herself. In her diaries, Emilie wrote short daily entries recounting events, both big and small. Mixed in with the minutiae of Emilie's everyday life are entries recounting African Americans' celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation, nervous excitement during the battle of Gettysburg, and their collective mourning of President Lincoln.

The recent discovery of Emilie Davis' Civil War diaries, dated 1863-65, offer readers a lively and deeply personal account of the war's "memorable days," as Emilie often referred to them.

A reception and document display, which includes the original diaries, will follow the discussion. The program is from 6-8 pm at: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA . We will carpool to Lindenwold and take the High Speed Line into the city. There is a charge of \$10 for the program (free for Society members). **Call (215) 732-6200 to order tickets... don't wait.**

If you are interested in joining us, or want more information, please send an e-mail to adultre.uucsjs@gmail.com or contact Prim Reeves.

NEW: "A Course in Miracles" does not aim at teaching the meaning of love, for that is beyond what can be taught. It does aim, however, at removing the blocks to the awareness of love's presence, which is your natural inheritance. John Walther, a new member of UUCSJS, will lead a discussion group that will meet, at the start, for four weeks. To indicate your interest, see the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.



We can use a few volunteers who can help water our new plants after or before service on Sundays. Please let Jesse know if you are able to help insure that our new plants get off to a good start!

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"School's Out for Summer!"

The arrival of the month of June signals the conclusion of our Religious Education school year. Our students will have their final RE classes on June 1, and so it is time to send out a message of gratitude to all the special people who helped to make our school year happen. Many thanks go to our teachers and Children's RE Committee members: Karen York, Paul Utts, Jess Safanof, Tracy Longshore, Michael Cluff, Bud Smith, Katy Cardwell, Betsy Erbaugh, Meredith Massey, Melissa Hutchison, TJ Jansch, Ronda Cluff and Colby Tippins. Not to be forgotten are the many members of the congregation who served as class assistants this year, or donated to our RE celebrations, thank you all for sharing this year!

On June 8, we will celebrate our RE program at our annual RE Sunday service. Our youth have been planning this light-hearted, intergenerational service with Melissa Hutchison throughout the month of May, and it will include a short play, readings and music presented by some of our students.

During the summer months, children who attend on Sundays are still "sung out" during the service and are welcome to join an all-ages activity presented by one of our talented members. Our weekly activities are currently being planned and scheduled, but as a rule of thumb, it is always wise for kids to come to the UU Center ready for anything (sneakers, sunscreen, play clothes, etc). A complete schedule of summer session activities will be posted on <http://sjsdre.wordpress.com/> when it is complete. Adult volunteers are welcome (and encouraged) to submit activity ideas to me at sjsdre@gmail.com.

Have a safe and happy summer! Hope to see you at Murray Grove!

Heidi Jansch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

UUCSJS IS AWARDED CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGNATION

Have you noticed the beautiful metal sign at the right of the building entrance that announces to all that our center is a Certified Sustainable Landscape? The certification, made possible through the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program, was awarded by Go Green Galloway, and UUCSJS was also awarded a mini-grant of \$125 to purchase native plants. The shrubs, trees, vines, and perennials purchased with this grant money are in the process of being planted. In the future, we can look forward to seeing eastern redbud, shadbush, witch hazel, beach plum, Virginia rose, and other lovely native plants blooming and adding diversity to our ecosystem.

We are delighted to be recognized for our commitment to native plants and sustainable landscaping practices. And we're happy to help spread the message, so that local homeowners, businesses, and organizations might also be inspired to take measures towards eco-friendly landscaping. -- Jesse Connor

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Reverend Charlie Dieterich

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