



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 10

October 2014

October Services

“We Promise... to offer HOSPITALITY”

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.

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| October 5 | <p>Mythology and Life of St. Francis of Assisi <i>Lay speaker Jim Gentile</i></p> <p>In October, the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi is commemorated in a number of faith traditions, including Unitarian Universalists with a “blessing of the animals.” However, there is so much more that is radical, revolutionary and Universalist in the myth and life of this 13th Century saint; traits, which speak to us today in a timeless message of humility, charity, and awe-filled wonder.</p> |
| October 12 Volunteer Sunday | <p>The Universal Ethic of Hospitality <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i></p> <p>Who is the "other?" ... and how can we be more welcoming, not only to those among us who may be different in thought, belief, or action, but to the 'otherness' within? We'll look at the universality of the idea of hospitality, and why it is central to the notion of a religious community.</p> |
| October 19 | <p>True Hospitality <i>Guest speaker Robin Reichert</i></p> <p>Typically, “hospitality” is understood as generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests or the activity of providing food, drinks, etc. for people who are the guests. Can hospitality be more? Through the art of storytelling, learn about an expanded view of hospitality that goes beyond standard definition.</p> |
| October 26 | <p>The Haunting Church <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i></p> <p>So many of us are still caught in the web of past ideologies that were imprinted upon us at a very young age. We vowed to leave past associations behind, but find ourselves haunted by old notions that we'd like to leave behind. What can we do about the haunting church/temple/synagogue that won't let us go, even if we left it eons ago?</p> |

Volunteer Sunday October 12

If you are new to UUCSJS and have been wondering how you can help out, be sure to come on Sunday October 12. We'll have tables set up, enthusiastic members who can answer your questions, and many, many options for you to consider.
See page 4 for more details.

Do you want to support Family Promise of Atlantic County and get 25% off at Boscov's, too?

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Program enables you to buy a **\$5 coupon to get a 25% shopping pass for Tuesday, October 21, 2014, from 9-11 pm.** Your \$5 donation goes directly to Family Promise, and you get to enjoy a nice discount at one of your favorite stores.
See Prim to buy a coupon.

“Hospitality”

October begins our 2014-15 Worship theme, in which we focus on the UUCSJS Covenant of Right Relations – its purpose and its 7 promises.

We begin with “We promise to offer HOSPITALITY to those who come into our UU Center by greeting visitors warmly; by engaging newcomers during coffee hour; and by welcoming those who are returning.” *How can you live out this promise in your relationships with others in UUCSJS?*

About our guest speaker:

Robin Reichert, through the art of storytelling and her peace ministry, builds bridges of harmony and kinship between humans and from humans to the natural world. She enjoys telling stories that uplift, inspire, and spark the wonder of imagination, both from her personal experiences and those of others. She was recently featured in a curtain warmer for John Lithgow’s “Stories by Heart,” is often on WDIY public radio (Allentown, PA), is the author of “Feather Gifts for All Ages,” and the editor/publisher of the Lehigh Storytelling Guild newsletter, “Teller Times.”

Book Lovers Group

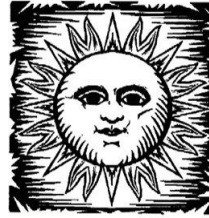
The October selection is ***A Tale for the Time Being*** by Ruth Ozeki. In Tokyo, 16 year old Nao commits to ending her loneliness as well as the relentless bullying of her classmates. But first, she writes the story of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun. Across the Pacific, Ruth, a novelist, finds a Hello Kitty lunchbox which has washed ashore. It contains Nao's diary. Part fact and part fiction and always humorous, Ozeki writes a story of both past and present. Join the discussion led by Betsy Searight on October 17 at 7 pm in the library at the UU Center.

Margaret Circle will meet Thursday, October 2 at 1 pm in the UU Library. Light refreshments will be served by Betsy Searight shortly after we open the meeting. The program, with a working title of "Our Last Journey" will be an interactive session presented by Kathryn Kelley. Please feel free to join us and look forward to the loving kindness that emanates from the women that gather...a place where you can truly "bring your whole self."

Reusable Cloth Shopping Bags Needed

Many of the folks who come once-a-month to the Food Pantry at St. Andrews in Atlantic City have fold-up wire carts to tote their food home in. But some come without a cloth or plastic bag and struggle to carry their two heavy bags of grocery home.

If you're like me and tend to accumulate cloth bags - and you have some extra to donate - please drop them off at the Social Justice table and I'll see that they get handed out to those in need. -- *Jesse Connor*



*Deep, deep, deep
in the dark
of the winter...*

The Winter Solstice Singing Ritual returns to UUCSJS on December 21, 2014, at 4:30 pm. We will celebrate the return of the Light which occurs after the Winter Solstice with songs and stories. The singing will include music from calypso, Western choral singing, Native American texts, Greek mythology, feminist rounds, Pagan chants, and even an old American hymn. The ritual runs about 75 minutes.

All are invited to participate. Needed are singers, readers, production assistants, instrumentalists, children, and dancers. We are always glad to have extra singers from outside the congregation join us, so your music-loving friends are also invited. Participants from past years' WSSRs can testify to the power of this opportunity to honor the Dark and welcome the Light.

Our congregation owns a small number of books and CDs which participants may borrow. Many of us own our own copy, and Barbara Miller will be ordering more copies as needed this year.

Please contact Barbara at uucsjsmusic@comcast.net to let her know of your interest.

BLUEJEAN SUNDAY THANKS

We were fortunate: September 14 was a gorgeous fall day -- the weather couldn't have been better! -- thus we had a good turnout for our annual Blue Jean Sunday volunteer effort with fifty adults and children all helping out in fellowship and good cheer.

After service and a quick bite to eat, everyone dove into the jobs that needed doing. Volunteers cleaned walls and woodwork, washed windows inside and out, washed screens, cleaned the RE rooms and lounge, installed a repurposed industrial size shelving unit in the mechanical room (thanks to Steve Fielder for donating the shelving unit!), cleared away spider webs under our building soffits and front entry, washed the outside walls, cleaned our outside trash/recycling area, weeded and mulched landscaped areas, and created a nature-play area for our RE children.

I'm sure I left out a few tasks that were accomplished, but you get the idea; together we were able to take on many tasks to keep our center in good shape inside and out. THANKS to all of the volunteers who were able to help out – *be sure to check out the photo collage on the volunteer sign-up table.*

Special thanks to Meredith for watching the little ones so their parents could help out, and to Richard for providing food for hungry helpers. And extra thanks to some behind-the-scene efforts that helped make Blue Jean Sunday possible: thanks to Steve for helping to plan, to Janet for picking up mulch at the ACUA, and to Paul, TJ, and Steve for bringing 8', 10', and 12' ladders which made much of our cleaning possible. -- *Jesse Connor, Building & Grounds Committee*

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!

Hospitality 101

If you'd asked me some years back, I might have said I didn't learn much about hospitality as a child. We didn't entertain all that often, and I probably felt as if we lived a more or less reclusive life. Nonetheless, I see now that I picked up, both at home and along the way, from what entertaining my parents did as well as from some genuinely excellent humans I was privileged to be hosted by, the basics of hospitality.

I'll just come out and say that any congregation that wants to grow, or even remain the same size (which requires growth, since people move away and pass on to the great discussion group beyond), must practice hospitality. A good way for a congregation, UU or otherwise, to wither and gradually die, is to ignore the rules of Hospitality 101. I've seen it happen so often and in so many places that I feel pretty confident in what I'm about to say:

Here are some of the basics of what I've gleaned. Feel free to respond.

1. **PLAN AHEAD.** My sister decided to host the women from her stable for a Friday evening gala on the porch, and we started thinking about decorations, eats, setup, and flow several weeks in advance. It was so much fun... almost as much as the party itself. Putting love and thought and concern into preparing the space and the items needed can be joyful.
2. **CONSIDER the OTHER.** Don't think only about what YOU would want... truly step into the shoes of the other. If you can't remember what it was like to be a newcomer, or imagine what it feels like to be an introvert, *ask someone*, so you can accommodate them. Chances are, they are dying to tell you!
3. **BE GENUINE and ENGAGED.** Learning to see and enjoy each new person as a potential friend or ally, setting aside our filters and preconceptions, is the essence of our UU faith. Asking with interest and then truly listening to the other's story is a gift beyond compare.

4. **PAY ATTENTION** to the details. Make sure visitors know where the bathroom(s) are, how to get the information they need, what things mean, to whom they can turn for help. Explain strange customs and rituals. Be warm and let your heart be open. Make eye contact!

I think sometimes we are fearful of being as hospitable as we'd like to be because we don't want to overwhelm people or look like we are evangelizing.

I've been so impressed with the warm lively hospitality shown at UUCSJS! You have much to be proud of. And, there are always new things to learn and ways to grow even more open and welcoming. During October, I'll be speaking about some of the deep theological implications of hospitality, for ourselves as well as for the other, and also about some of the "haunting" messages from the past that may be holding us back.

Hope to see YOU in services!

Cynthia

Rev. Cynthia's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-2 and by appointment

Upcoming weeks that Rev. Cynthia will be in Kentucky:

- ✈ Week of September 29 thru October 6
- Week of November 3

Read more of Rev Cynthia's reflections at
www.ajerseygirlinkentucky.blogspot.com

Donna Renfro, friend of UUCSJS, being ordained!

Donna Renfro, frequent guest preacher, Core of Fire dancer and Interplayer, is taking the next step on her path to UU ministry. She holds UUCSJS dear as the place where she was invited back through her years in seminary to preach, and teach and share her dance and Interplay ministry. She invites any congregants who would like to celebrate with her to attend.

She will be ordained by the church she is serving in her first official ministry, the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, PA, on October 5 at 4:30 pm.

Here's the link to the invitation:

<http://event.celebrations.com/DonnaOrdination>

How to Get Your Groove Back, Part Deux

by *Debbi Dagavarian*

Did you read my article in the last newsletter? About getting your groove back? Well, if you didn't, that's okay. But read THIS ONE!!

On **Sunday, October 12**, UUCSJS will hold its annual **Volunteer Sunday** after the service, giving you an opportunity to explore all the different ways in which you can participate in the life of the congregation and the larger community.

What is your ministry? What incites your passion? Do you feel elevated and elated when you help someone in need? Do you get satisfaction from bringing people together? Do you enjoy listening to the ideas and philosophies of children? **Volunteer Sunday** gives you a chance to find out! And then to channel that wonderful energy into doing something to serve both the community and yourself.

We offer many ways for you to rediscover yourself. Do you have a particularly handy talent, such as carpentry or electrical skills? If yes, then consider volunteering to help maintain our building. Do you enjoy gardening or mowing? Then offer to tend one of the gardens, or mow our grass with our new lawnmower. No meetings to attend, just live out your ministry!

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

Are you outgoing? Be a Sunday morning greeter! Are you fastidious about cleaning? Then join the Clean Team! Do you want to feed the hungry in our local community? Then join the Food Bank Crew. Do you enjoy developing young minds? Then volunteer to teach or assist in Children's RE!

Read the brief descriptions we'll be sending out with the midweek announcements to see what interests you. Let us help you find your ministry!

Reported in uuworld.org, September 22, 2014:

At least 1,500 Unitarian Universalists join People's Climate March

The huge climate change march in New York City [on Sunday, September 21] drew at least 300,000 people. The march's faith-based contingents, which marched last, included at least 1,500 Unitarian Universalists.

Read more at www.uuworld.org/news/articles/297444.shtml

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FIRST FRIDAY FILM NIGHT!

Friday, October 3, 7 to 8:30 pm

Our first series will be "The Long Strange Trip," a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Part 1 is titled "In the beginning..."

Barbara Miller is coordinating the film night. She will lead a discussion after the film and will offer a glimpse of the music contemporary to the time period of each film.

And YES there will be popcorn!

More information is available on the sign up table. Please sign up at the back of the sanctuary if you intend to attend so we know how much popcorn we need.

Questions or suggestions about Adult RE?
Contact Charlie Roberts, Adult RE Chairperson

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Off to a Great Start in Children's RE

September's Water Service/Family Picnic and Blue Jean Sunday made for a busy month for our youth and families. In the midst of all the activity, we also began our new religious education school year. The coming month offers our youth the opportunity to settle in to their new class routines, and begin to feel comfortable with their teachers (Karen, Jessica, Paul, and Betsy), and fellow students.

The Children's Religious Education Committee will be participating in Volunteer Sunday on October 12. Our main focus is to encourage our congregation members to serve as classroom assistants. A classroom assistant serves as a teacher's assistant during religious education class time. Volunteers accompany the children as they exit the sanctuary and remain in the class for the remainder of the Sunday service. Once all children have been signed out by their parents or guardians at the end of class, the classroom assistant is free to return upstairs for coffee hour. The total time dedicated to this important task is about 45 minutes on Sunday, and congregants are asked to volunteer for one or two Sundays a year. (Parents of RE children are expected to volunteer at a rate of about once a month).

We are looking forward to encouraging folks to donate some time to this important, educational, and FUN service to our community.

Heidi Jansch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in.
— Matthew 25:35

Auction Fever!

By Debbi Dagavarian



Now that you've made your donations to the 10th Annual UUCSJS Service Auction on November 15 – *you've made them, haven't you?* – let's discuss the types of auctions you're likely to encounter on Auction night.

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is anything but! It's the largest of the auctions in that it includes events, items, services, handmade items and baked goods. But it gets awfully noisy in what we call the "Sanctuary."

Let's discuss bidding on the Silent Auction. Each item or event or service has a sheet on which you write your name when the bidding starts. If the bids are a fixed price, as with events, you win it when you write your name on one of the pre-numbered lines.

The "Win It Now" price means that if you really, really, really want the item, you can write your name on the bottom line next to the "win it now" price and give the sheet to the table monitor. You pay that price – which is usually higher than an economical bidder might want to pay – but that perfect item will be yours before the evening is out!

Live Auction

The Live Auction is when you get to hold up your number to bid on something as the auctioneer calls out the offered bids. This is the big time, the main event, the show, the major leagues, the cat's pajamas. This is when – unlike when you were in grade school and had to use the bathroom – holding up your hand could get you in serious trouble. But this is also the most fun part of the auction! Don't dare wave to someone in the front row, or you could be the proud, new owner of a baby carriage.

Chance Auction

The Chance Auction is exactly that – all up to chance. You buy a sheet of tickets, and place a ticket in a small bucket in front of the items you want. Then, we pick a ticket from the cup, and if you're lucky, the item's yours.

Winning or losing is pure luck. Unless you stuff the cup with tickets that cost you more than the item would have cost at Target. And then you still might not win it!

And to those of you who believe that one person's junk is another's treasure . . . get real! If it's your junk, it's my junk and it's their junk. If you donate something we cannot place in the Chance Auction, we will be donating it to a worthy charity.

Don't forget to support the Auction by tooting your own horn.

You can buy an ad which might actually advertise your business, or an ad that advertises your feelings, thoughts, love for Colby – oops, I mean your own significant other – or shares a poem, drawing, or picture. *Let that creativity flow!*



Keep Our Flame Burning Brightly!

*Join your fellow Unitarian Universalists
Making a \$20 gift to JPD Chalice Lighters
Three times a year.*

At a time when we need more UUs, your Chalice Lighter gifts keep the flame of Unitarian Universalism burning brightly. Combined with gifts from other UUs in our District, your gift helps to jump start new congregations and provides critical grant support to existing congregations. Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Chalice Lighters in our 70 congregations in MD, PA, DC, DE, and NJ have combined their \$20 or \$40 or more in contributions to help start 7 new congregations over the last 25 years, adding 750 new Unitarian Universalists to our numbers.

\$20 isn't much to ask, but combined with thousands of others in the JPD, it enables congregations to build strong ministry, attract children, youth, and adults, and offer enhanced music services. If our congregation has over 33% participation in the Chalice Lighter program, we will be recognized on the Honor Roll at the JPD District Assembly this spring. We need your help to reach that goal!

Those members who have given generously to Chalice Lighters in the past can take special pleasure in the knowledge that they are doing their part to strengthen Unitarian Universalism in our District. Visit jpd.uua.org, click on Resources, click on "Chalice Lighters" at the left, and find the **online enrollment form**. Why not do it today!

There is no hospitality like understanding.
– Vanna Bonta



Kind hearts are the gardens, Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers, Kind deeds are the fruits,
Take care of your garden And keep out the weeds,
Fill it with sunshine Kind words and kind.
– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
September 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Art Wexler presiding. Chalice lighting words were selected this month by Judy Pereira, and joys and concerns were shared.

Board members welcomed Rev. Cynthia Cain to her first Board meeting as our Interim Minister, and Melissa Hutchison talked about her plans to attend the People's Climate March in NYC on Sunday, September 21. Some 150-200 UUs from New Jersey are expected to attend, Cain said.

• **Announcements**

—The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held Sunday, October 12 at 11:15 am in a lower level classroom.

—Our **UUCSJS Family Promise Team** has arranged for two training sessions (mandatory for volunteers) by Family Promise of Southern Ocean County here at our UU Center on Tuesday, September 30 (2:00-3:30 and again at 7:00-8:30). Contact Prim Reeves for more information and/or to register.

—Joseph Priestley District (JPD) is holding an event entitled, **White Allies Working for Racial Justice** from September 26-28 at the UU Church of the Restoration in Philly.

—President Wexler announced he will be attending the **JPD Presidents' Roundtable** on Saturday, November 22 at the UUC of Columbia, MD.

—The next meeting of the **Greater Philly UU Cluster of Congregations** will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 1-4 pm at the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester, PA. The cluster is comprised of 12 congregations in PA and two in NJ: Cherry Hill and UUCSJS. There are many ways we could become involved. A "Music Witness" event is planned for the spring. To find out more, see Karen York or go to www.jpduua.org/phillycluster

• **Reports**

1) Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Karen York distributed her written report showing figures for **August 2014**, as follows: **Income, \$10,054** (year to date: \$36,145), and **Expenses, \$19,146** (year to date: \$25,459), for a net of income over expenses of \$908 (year to date: \$10,686). We are ahead at this point due to advance payment of some pledges, and savings in ministerial expenses, York said.

There were two Board action items, the treasurer said: **a)** vote to approve \$1,650 in construction costs to Chris Holaday Construction, LLC, for a walk-in closet under the front stairs, and **b)** vote to confirm Rev. Cynthia Cain's allocation of her compensation between "Housing Allowance" and "Salary." (On motions, the Board duly approved both items by unanimous vote of those present.)

Concluding her report, the treasurer said lots of different ideas were circulating about a possible fall Capital Campaign. The Finance committee was scheduled to meet next week, she said, and would be considering this matter.

—A motion to accept the written report of Treasurer Karen York as presented was passed unanimously by those present.

2) Minister's Report. Rev. Cynthia Cain circulated copies of her (first) monthly report to the Board. "As I promised, I have been an observer, mostly listening, except for Sunday mornings, and taking mental notes." In addition to attending upmeen committee meetings, she planned ("with Barbara's unwavering support!") and led/co-led three services, and attended the Water Communion and annual picnic. She also went to a UU Minister's Association meeting in Plainfield, NJ, and has met the new District Executive of JPD, Rev. David Pyle (who replaces Rev. Dr. Richard Speck).

In managing her ¾ time commitment, she plans to be "fully

available except for the one day off [Friday]" for three out of four weeks, using the fourth week for return trips to Kentucky. On Fridays, "I try not to even answer emails unless there is an emergency, in which case, of course, I will be available." Regular office hours are Wednesday from 10 to 2, and by appointment on other days.

On behalf of staff, Rev. Cain made a formal request for office tech support. She told the Board there have been various issues and challenges, including lack of internet access off and on for over a week recently. (On motion, by those present the Board unanimously authorized office staff to obtain estimates from three local sources for on-site computer services.)

Rev. Cain said the Transition Team (Carolyn Baum, Helene Gentile, Mariann Maene, Bud Smith, Jeff Taylor, and Paul Utts) had its first meeting and set dates for the next several months. One of the team's duties will be informing the congregation about what's going on during the transition, Cain said. "The congregation has tasks to do to get the next minister."

3) Staff & Committee Reports. It was noted that September 2014 is Cassandra Shellhorn's first anniversary as our Office Administrator. In her report she wrote, "This being my anniversary month, I'm still very happy to be here!!"

• **Discussion/Action Items**

1) Conflict Resolution component of CRR. Many UU congregations have put in place such policies, indicating "a commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment by confirming ... expectations for everyone's behavior," according to UUA material. Such policies are designed to underpin a Covenant of Right Relations and outline how to handle things when problems arise. The Board adopted preliminary measures in November 2013 but didn't complete the process.

—A motion was passed unanimously by those present to establish an ad hoc committee to investigate and recommend Conflict Resolution and Disruptive Persons policies, to be made up of Board and non-Board members and Rev. Cynthia Cain.

2) Chalice Lighters. During its 26 years of supporting growth initiatives in the Joseph Priestley District (JPD), the Chalice Lighters program has funded grants to more than 50 societies totaling over \$2.25 million, including UUCSJS for both our land and building. Congregations are encouraged to organize a Chalice Lighters Sunday every year. "We have been the recipient of many dollars from these grants," said Karen York; "we should promote it and give back a little." Chalice Lighters is a way for individuals, contributing a small amount three times a year, to make a significant investment in the growth of UU congregations.

The Board resolved to try to promote Chalice Lighters this October through testimonials at services that explain the program, making brochures available for signing up, and placing articles in the newsletter and Midweek Announcements.

• **Updates**

1) Transition Team. Rev. Cain reported at some length about how our transition period will unfold and about the work we will be engaged in with the congregation as a whole.

After discussion the Board resolved to ask Rev. Cain to contact Rev. David Pyle, District Executive of JPD, to obtain possible dates early next year for a workshop with the Board to review progress, select a ministerial search committee, and explore other aspects of the interim process.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of
the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on
Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 6:30 pm
in the Lounge at the UU Center,
75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

Manjuri Went Fishing: A Saga About Japan, Buddhism, and Unitarians

Nakahama Manjuri, a 14 year old Japanese boy from a fishing village on the coast, set sail in a small boat to go fishing with four older friends. It was 1841, and Japan was a closed society – no foreigners are allowed to visit and no Japanese are allowed to leave. Unfortunately, the weather took control of the boat, blowing them out to sea for many days in a violent storm. The storm finally ended and they found themselves with a damaged boat and, after 13 days adrift, far beyond the Japanese mainland. Fortunately, a small island was within reach. They managed to get the beaten boat to shore and considered what to do. They had left Japan and were illegal. How to return was the problem. Months passed and they managed to stay alive.

One day, a ship appeared on the horizon and sent a small crew to the island for fresh water. They made contact with the stranded Japanese and took them aboard. It was a whaling vessel out of New Bedford, New England, under the command of Captain William Whitmer and it was on its way home. The next port of call was the Kingdom of Hawaii. They had no choice but to continue with the ship to Hawaii since the ship couldn't dock in Japan and Japan was far distant at that point. When they reached Hawaii, the four older men decided to stay there while Manjuri decided his fate was to see the world and continued with the ship on its home voyage to New Bedford. He served on board and became a ward of the captain.

When they arrived in New England in 1843 and settled in, they decided one Sunday to attend the Captain's Methodist Church. Manjuri, now known as John Mung, was the first Japanese to come to the United States. The Methodist Church at that time did not allow foreigners, especially Asians, to attend, so they went to the nearby Unitarian Church where they were welcomed. Thus begins Manjuri's involvement with Unitarianism. After learning much about Unitarian philosophy and growing up to manhood, he decided it was time to try to return to Japan. He became one of many who joined the gold rush to California in 1849 and succeeded to some extent in making some money.

Eventually he made his way to Hawaii and was reunited with the four Japanese fishermen who stayed behind. They plotted and planned and finally arranged for a ship that was going to China to pass close enough to the Japanese mainland to drop them off in a small boat and they made their way to shore. On arriving, they were subject to some suspicion, because of their clothes and strange accents, that they had left Japan. They were subjected to the ultimate test for any allegiance to Christianity (Catholic) by being asked to stomp on a picture of the Virgin Mary and child. The Japanese, being exposed in the past to only Catholics, thought this would be a suitable test of their beliefs. Manjuri, as a Unitarian, had no problem passing the test of his faith.

Shortly after his arrival back in Japan, Admiral Perry opened Japan to exposure to the world in 1851. The authorities realized they must adapt to the world and sought advice from anyone who had knowledge of the outside world. Manjuri, by now in

his late 20's, became involved in advising the Emperor and his government on how to do this. He worked with others to start a university and invited Unitarian ministers and scholars to Japan. One of his aims was to reform Buddhism by exposing it to Unitarians. His group interacted with the Unitarian scholars who came to Japan which created an ongoing dialogue which continues to this day. The UU Association continues these exchanges and all because of a storm which took a Japanese fisher boy out to sea on a stormy day. It would be great to have more detail from diaries, letters and firsthand accounts, but we don't know much beyond the bare bones of the saga. However, the story and legacy survives and we all benefit from the Karma that was set in motion in Japan and New Bedford in the mid 1800's.

(This story of Manjuri was summarized in the book, *Buddhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism: A Brief History of Unitarian Universalist Buddhism*, by Jeff Wilson. I redid the narrative to create a shorter version for publication in newsletters.)

-- Alan Oliver, Secular Buddhist Educator



Family Promise of Atlantic County is thrilled to be part of the **Wine Education Series** at **Noyes Museum of Art**, led by wine expert, Chad, from White Horse Wine & Spirits.

Please join us for an evening of wine-tasting, learning and fun to support our mission of hope, stability and future for homeless families in our community.

Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated. **Reservations** are a must!

Thursday, November 13, 2014
6 to 7pm
Noyes Museum of Art
733 Lily Lake Road
Oceanville (Galloway Twp.), NJ, 08231

Contact Chad for reservations at 609-677-9880, Ext. 102 or email chad@whitehorsewine.com.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

Interim Minister
Rev. Cynthia Cain

**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 2014-15

Doug Dickinson, Melissa Hutchison, Jon Luoma, Judy Pereira,
Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

October 2014

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240**

