



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 17, Issue 07

July 2015

July Services

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.

July 5	<p>Wherever You Go, There You Are <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i></p> <p>We will pause today, and consider the notion of “vacation” and vocation. In many ways, I know I am blessed. I chose (was “called”) a vocation that seamlessly fills my life, so I actually never think of it as “going to work.” Most people have a more well-defined demarcation between work and play. But when we take time “off,” as most of us do in summer, just what are we vacating? And what is it we are meant to do with our time, while away, and when we “return?” We will consider these as theological queries.</p>
July 12	<p>The Golden Rule as Personal Foreign Policy: Reclaiming the Story of Watkuweis <i>Lay speaker Bud Smith</i></p> <p>With laws on the books such as Stand Your Ground, we’ve entered a period where we “do unto others before they have a chance to do unto us.” Is the Golden Rule too outdated, too passive, or inherently too dangerous? Let us consider a forgotten story of a chance encounter between cultures in the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho during the fall of 1805. It may inform and remind us of the inherent worth of each person.</p>
July 19	<p>Be Transported and Disoriented <i>Various congregational members</i></p> <p>“Poetry is my cheap means of transportation. By the end of the poem the reader should be in a different place from where he started. I would like him to be slightly disoriented at the end, like I drove him outside of town at night and dropped him off in a cornfield.” -- <i>Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2001-2003</i></p> <p>Join us in our semi-regular poetry service where members of the congregation share some poetry that may take you for a ride into a cornfield.</p>
July 26	<p>Persecution of the Disabled during the Holocaust <i>Guest speaker Lillian Hussong</i></p> <p>Jews, gypsies, and gays were not the only groups that suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Ms. Hussong will cover the perceptions of the disabled in the Third Reich, the laws the Nazis enacted to discriminate against them, and the state-sponsored extermination of the disabled which was known as <i>Aktion T-4</i>, where the gas chamber was first used.</p>



Our guest speaker...

Lillian Hussong, an adjunct faculty member at Stockton University, received her BA in Historical Studies from Stockton in 2012. Three days later she started the Master of Arts program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and received her MA degree in August 2014. Her thesis is titled "LGBT Uganda and the Threat of Genocide: Challenging the Protected Group Exclusivity of the United Nations Genocide Convention Definition." This September she will begin a PhD program in Global Affairs at Rutgers University.

Book Lovers Group are in the midst of deciding which books will be read in the upcoming year. Some of those under consideration are:

A Reliable Wife - Robert Goolrick
A Short History of Women - Kate Walbert
A Spool of Blue Thread - Anne Tyler
All the Light We Cannot See - Anthony Doerr
Blood, Bones & Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef - Gabrielle Hamilton
Boy, Snow, Bird - Helen Oyeyemi
Charms for the Easy Life - Kaye Gibbons
Circling the Sun - Paula McLain
Farm City - Nouvella Carpenter
Flight Behavior - Barbara Kingsolver
Old Filth - Jane Gardam
Orphan Train - Christina Baker
Remarkable Creatures - Tracy Chevalier
Secrets of a Charmed Life - Susan Meissner
The Boys in the Boat - Daniel James Brown
The Good Lord Bird - James McBride
The Last Runaway - Tracy Chevalier

Angela Wexler will be stepping down as the facilitator of the Book Lovers Group. Are you interested in presiding over this wonderful collection of narratives?

Margaret Circle will not be holding a formal meeting until September. But, those interested in lunch and conversation are welcome to join us Thursday, July 2 at noon at the UU Center. In the past we have exchanged stories and meal time treats; we even received a lesson on outsmarting the smart phone and tablet! Come join us. Any questions, contact Shelee by email at sheleer955 @ hotmail.com.

Support our congregation by doing what you already do – buy groceries!
with gift cards for your local Acme or Shoprite!

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%.
We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!



What's new with Family Promise of Atlantic County?

Good news about Family Promise!

Family Promise of Atlantic County has finally had a 13th congregation sign on! It is **Grace Falls Church** located on Shore Road in Absecon.

And more good news – the **Art Auction** on June 6th brought in over **\$9,000** for Family Promise! Thanks for supporting this fundraiser. For Facebook pictures, check out <http://tinyurl.com/SMASArtAuction>

Summer -- a Time for Something Different

Did you know that some UU congregations actually close down during the summer? Others cut back to one service a month. Well, we just keep rolling along! I hope to try something different with the summer music. I would like to give the choir a much-deserved break and provide an opportunity for other musicians to share their gifts with us. Singers and players: I plan on proactively seeking you out if you do not contact me first! If you feel reticent, join me in a duet. If you want to play, we will find a way to make it happen.

-- Barbara Miller -- uucsjsmusic@gmail.com

Adopt-A-Garden-Bed Volunteers Needed

We have several native plant beds that surround our Center in need of adopting. The tasks involved include weeding, mulching, and occasional planting. Volunteers can maintain their garden to suit their schedule with once-monthly weeding from spring to fall. Beds can be adopted by families, several friends or individuals. Please contact Jesse Connor if you have questions about adopting a garden or if you are interested in adopting a bed.

If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry.

-- Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

FORCYNTHIA & From CYNTHIA

Reflections by Rev. Cynthia Cain

As I write, I am preparing to leave General Assembly in Portland, Oregon this evening and return to NJ.

What a week it's been -- full of learning, full of faces, new & old, and filled to the brim with sadness and JOY! Imagine being with almost 5,000 other UUs as the announcements came that the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act! Imagine being in the General Assembly when our Supreme Court also voted to make Same Sex marriage legal in all 50 states. Imagine sitting next to a treasured colleague, watching on a TV monitor in the Convention Center lobby, as our President eulogized the Rev. Clementa Pickney; as he hesitated, looked down, then from some deep well inside him, it would seem, just broke into singing *Amazing Grace*.

I hope you will take an hour or two to visit the uua.org page and watch some of the outstanding moments from General Assembly that have been captured on video and are available to you. I particularly recommend the sermon from the Service of the Living Tradition, at uua.org/ga/virtual/2015/worship/slt (which starts at about 1:29:26 if you don't have time to watch the entire thing)!

It was also a thrill to see our Barbara Miller granted status as a Credentialed Music Director, and to pick up a green ribbon indicating that UUCSJS is an Honor Congregation, having paid your full fair share dues for 10 years plus. It was a special joy to speak about how you have responded to the Black Lives Matter events with grace and alacrity.

I will be away much of July, so if I do not see you on the 5th, have a lovely month, and I look forward to our continuing journey together!

Rev. Cynthia

**Rev. Cynthia will be away from
July 6 through August 8.**

Rev. Cain's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-2 and by appointment

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

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

UU Kids' Summer Sessions

School's out for summer, and that goes for our religious education classes too.

But that doesn't mean there is nothing for the kids to do at UUCSJS. Each Sunday during the summer a volunteer from the congregation provides an engaging activity or project for kids of all ages. The upcoming activities and projects planned for July will include:

July 5	Nature scavenger hunt and craft - Jessica Dunn
July 12	Colorful drawstring bag project - Debbi Dagavarian
July 19	Tie-Dying T-shirts - Colby Tippins
July 26	Balloon Animals - Michelle Tomko

Thanks to all these volunteer leaders and to Mariann Maene and Pam Hendrick, each of whom led a summer session in June.

Check the August newsletter for next month's line up of fun activities and crafts!

Heidi Jansch

Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

EVERYDAY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

All are invited to the June meeting of the Everyday Spiritual Practice Discussion Group. The book, *Everyday Spiritual Practice*, is a collection of 38 essays by prominent UU ministers and laypeople. Organized around five areas of life, the essays describe how spirituality can be present in everyday activities such as traveling to work, talking with our children, saving mementos, working in the garden, and having dinner with our family. In each meeting, we focus on one particular essay, which we read aloud during the meeting. In June, we will read and discuss the essay, "Sacred Reading" by Susan J. Ritchie.

**Anyone can come, even if you don't have the book, as it will be read aloud during the meeting.*

The group will meet on: Saturday, June 27, from 10:00-11:30 am in the UU Library. If you have not yet purchased a copy of *Everyday Spiritual Practice*, copies will be available, at cost of \$10, at the meeting.

**For questions, please contact Robert Schindler. Robert and members of the UU Church of Cherry Hill have graciously agreed to help us get started with this program, which has been wildly successful for them!*

Don't forget we have begun an "**Introduction to Mysticism**" – every 2nd Sunday, 11:30 until about 12:30.

Charlie Roberts

Adult RE Chairperson

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
June 2015

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Art Wexler presiding. Chalice lighting words were chosen by Vice President Jon Luoma, and joys and concerns were shared.

• **Announcements**

—The president warmly welcomed new At-Large Board member **Charlie Roberts**, who was not present due to a prior commitment and who has formally requested a change in the regular Board meeting date.* Also, on behalf of us all the president thanked outgoing At-Large member **Doug Dickinson** for all his valuable work while serving on the Board.

The president congratulated **Judy Pereira**, elected Board secretary for her third and final term. **Art Wexler**, too, was reelected for a third term at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7. Continuing on the Board are Treasurer **Karen York** and At-Large members **Melissa Hutchison**, **Jon Luoma**, and **Joe Terrazzini**; a total of seven (7) serve on the Board of Trustees.

—The next **Board Talk Back** will be held Sunday, June 14 at 11:15 am in a downstairs classroom.

• **Reports**

1) Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Karen York distributed her written report for June 2015 showing account balances (as of 05/31/15) as follows: TD Bank Checking/Operating: \$7,087.56; TD Bank Designated: \$458.43 (of that, \$208.43, Margaret's Circle); TD Bank Reserve (Capital): \$6,445.64 (of that, CC3 funds, \$3,445.64); and Fidelity Investments Reserve (Capital): \$1,793.37. [Total Reserve: \$8,239.01 (CC3 funds, \$3,445.64)] *Total of all accounts: \$15,785.00.*

Treasurer York said that in May expenses exceeded income by \$4,735, and for the YTD (then 92% complete), expenses are ahead of income by \$13,980. "However," she explained, "both income and expenses are below the budgeted amount" for FY 14-15. She added that the sale of SRECs in June, final pledge payments, and settlement on the mortgage should well carry us through to the end of the fiscal year.

—**Mortgage Refinancing.** The treasurer reported that we are scheduled for closing on Friday, June 19, Finance committee member John Searight and Treasurer Karen York to be present. The refinance principal amount will be \$265,000 from TD Bank at 3.99% interest with an amortization period of 20 years, the interest rate to reset after five years.

—**Training in QuickBooks.** The treasurer told the Board that during the process of obtaining our mortgage, an expert has been found who will be able to offer training in how best to maintain our congregational financial records in QuickBooks. The training is projected to take approximately 6-8 hours at a cost of \$40 per hour, beginning with an initial two-hour session on Tuesday, June 23.

—A motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$400 to provide QuickBooks training for our Congregational Bookkeeper, Kathleen Hartnett, was passed by the Board unanimously by those present.

—**Annual Stewardship Campaign.** The treasurer reported that thus far we have 68 pledges and raised \$150,070 toward our stewardship goal to support UUCSJS programs and personnel between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

—**SREC Sale.** The treasurer reported that sale of five (5) Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) netted \$1,092.50 in income. We generally sell accumulated SRECs twice a year—in June and December.

2) Minister's Report. Rev. Cynthia Cain explained that because she will soon be away again attending General Assembly,

and then between July 15 and August 15 for the second month of annual leave and vacation, she has been checking in with those in need of pastoral care. She has also been working with Music Director Barbara Miller and members of the Worship committee in reshaping some aspects of planning for Sunday services.

Rev. Cain also reported that she's excited about the Anti-Racism Task Force and work that's being done to prepare for displaying a *Black Lives Matter* banner at UUCSJS. Cost of obtaining a small banner would be about \$109, she said, and something larger, about \$120. This effort is in progress and more on the issue, as well.

Together with UUCSJS delegates Paul and Helen Utts, Rev. Cain will represent us at UUA General Assembly from June 24 to 28 in Portland, OR.

3) Staff & Committee Reports. The secretary reported that only two June Board reports were received, likely because annual reports were done only last month. However, the Board wonders again what better method of communication might be devised to keep us informed. *To be continued.*

• **Discussion/Action Items**

—**Election-Board Officers.** The president thanked VP Jon Luoma for presiding at the Annual Meeting in his absence, and noted that while the UUCSJS Bylaws specify that the secretary and treasurer serve two-year terms, they are silent as to the president and vice president. The relevant provision calls for their election each year at the first meeting of the new Board. However, the practice has become to elect officers in June in order to avoid time with no elected leaders in place.

It was determined to adjourn the "old" Board and reconvene as the "new" Board (albeit in the absence of Charlie Roberts) to elect new officers this evening. *This was done, and there being a quorum, the re-election of Art Wexler as President and Jon Luoma as Vice President for FY 2015-16 was approved unanimously by those present.* Congratulations!!

• **Updates/Follow-Up**

—**Ministerial Search Committee (MSC).** President Wexler circulated the ministerial search calendar and reviewed the Board's responsibilities, e.g., setting budget parameters and putting together a draft contract. It was decided that Wexler and Cain will meet with members of the MSC at the earliest opportunity to ask if there is anything more they need.

The Board and Rev. Cain strongly suggest scheduling the UUA's workshop "**Beyond Categorical Thinking**," which must be requested directly from UUA Transitions by the MSC itself.

—**Family Promise.** On behalf the UUCSJS Family Promise Team, Doug Dickinson reported that the Art Auction fundraiser held on Saturday, June 6 earned some \$9,000 for Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC). He said that of at least 108 counted as present, some 35 were UU members and spouses. The silent auction of gift baskets assembled by UU team member Colby Tippins earned more than \$2,000. *Thank you all!!*

Dickinson further reported that a 13th congregation has now signed up to host homeless families in the FPAC program. This means we are very near the revised goal of 14 hosts, giving FPAC renewed energy in acquiring a day center, transportation van, and adequate operating funds. January 2016 is projected.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of
the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on
***Tuesday, July 14, 2015** at **6:30 PM**
in the Lounge at the UU Center,
75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL

Leadership of the UUCSJS

To borrow from Hillary Clinton's title phrase - "It takes a village," nowhere is this notion more evident than in the workings of our beloved community, UUCSJS. When we give this idea some thought, we find within our religious community a web of well-functioning activities, often interacting with one another, which, in effect, provides the very foundation of what we call this community.

This would include everything from the core planning and delivery of inspirational weekly services, to instructionally sound children's religious education programs, to thoughtful fiscal management, to effective strategic planning and a successful ministerial transition. How well all this gets done has everything to do with the level of effort, interest and passion of those who commit much of their time and energy to the wellbeing of the community we call UUCSJS. Of course, all of this is done voluntarily as a labor of love where the rewards of this effort are the real source of personal gratification.

Although the real day-to-day effort is carried out mainly through those who serve on our committees and task forces, congregational leadership and coordination is also provided by those who serve in various capacities, either on our Board of Trustees, Program Council leadership, our Nominating Committee, our Ministerial Transition Team, our Volunteer Recognition Task Force, and, most recently, the newly formed Ministerial Search Committee.

Thus, it is important that we take the time to recognize, with sincere gratitude, the efforts and commitments of our members serving in these leadership roles.

In recognizing members serving on the Board for this past year, we are grateful for: the exemplary and detailed meeting records and organization kept by our Secretary, Judy Pereira; the precise and analytical fiscal management of our Treasurer, Karen York; the detailed management of planning for the Ministerial Search Committee handled by Melissa Hutchison and Karen York; the proposing of a new model for social justice from Joe Terrazzini; and always at the ready to capably step in for me, our Vice President, Jon Luoma. We especially want to recognize outgoing member Doug Dickinson for his term on the Board in which he ensured that there was always a link to the progress of the Family Promise project.

As had been mentioned, the core of congregational life and activity is largely carried out through our committee structure. The entity which provides effective ongoing dialogue among committees is done through the work of our Program Council. We are grateful for the work carried out by Board members Karen York and Jon Luoma in seeing to it that the good work of our committees is consistently moving forward through the work done at the Program Council.

Moreover, so much in the way of ongoing thoughtful and competent guidance has been provided by our Interim Minister,

Rev. Cynthia Cain. In this capacity, Rev. Cain has been attentive to learning as much as she can about the history, culture, and congregational life of UUCSJS. Critical to that process is the role of the Ministerial Transition Team whose role it is to advise and provide guidance to our Interim Minister. Thus, we are grateful for the effective work provided by the members of the Transition Team. These members include Carolyn Baum, Helene Gentile, Mariann Maene, Bud Smith, Jeff Taylor, and Paul Utts.

As we now forthrightly move towards the screening, identification, and selection of a called minister, much of this effort will be discharged through the newly elected Ministerial Search Committee. This is a complex and labor intensive process. Those who have been elected to serve have been given a strong vote of confidence by the congregation as a whole. The level of commitment and effort will be substantial for this task. We are sincerely grateful for the participation demonstrated by its members: Betsy Erbaugh, Jim Gentile, Marsha

Hannah, Jack Miller, Betsy Searight, Paul Utts, and Angela Wexler.

The identification of members to serve on the Board is done through the work of the Nominations Committee in presenting nominees to the congregation as a whole for a vote. This is a thoughtful and analytical process consuming time and effort. We are grateful for the work of these members on this committee. They include Jack Miller, Betsy Searight, Jim Gentile, Michael Cluff, and Debbi Dagavarian. Thanks go to the outgoing members, Ronda Cluff, and Chair Paul Utts.

Last, in recognizing that voluntary commitment forms the basis of how we function in community, it is critical that we have some way to consistently recognize the exceptional efforts of our congregational volunteers. This is done through having a Volunteer Recognition Task Force. The efforts of this task force have served to provide reinforcement, recognition, and congregational appreciation to our many volunteers. However, the question that may need to be asked is who provides recognition for this group? Of course, this task force most certainly needs to be recognized here and now. Thus, we are truly grateful for the work of Jesse Connor, Heidi Jansch, Debbi Dagavarian, Karen York, Judy Pereira, Marsha Hannah, and Betsy Searight who keep the flame burning in their continuous reaffirmation of the voluntary work critical to the life of our community.

As a congregation, we fully understand how our collective and purposeful efforts sustain our beloved community. For this, and all that has been stated above, let us pause and reflect on a sincere sense of gratitude.

Art Wexler
President, UUCSJS Board of Trustees

And we are deeply grateful to Art Wexler, for giving us his dedicated and expert leadership as President of our Board of Trustees. Art, you are the best!



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Rev. Cynthia Cain

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Board of Trustees 2014-15

Melissa Hutchison, Jon Luoma, Judy Pereira, Charlie Roberts,
Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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July 2015

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