



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 17, Issue 11

November 2015

November 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.

<p>November 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tending Your Soul <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i></p> <p>In times of turmoil, we may forget to nurture our own spirit. Then, we lose heart, become discouraged, and are really no good for helping other or healing the whole. Today is All Souls Day, so let's talk about how we tend our souls.</p>
<p>November 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Living With Death <i>Lay speaker Jack Miller</i></p> <p>When was the last time you sat down and had a nice chat about death?</p>
<p>November 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hike Your Own Hike <i>Lay speaker Colin Hutchison</i></p> <p>Walking a footpath from Georgia to Maine is a great way to see the country and remove the boundaries that separate yourself from the forces of nature and other people. These tales from the trail are unique moments in my life that changed my perception of the world.</p>
<p>November 22 Evacuation Drill & Giving Thanks Tour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">How Gratitude Changes Everything <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i></p> <p>When we learn to modify our expectations of the world and to live with wonder, appreciation, and curiosity, immense change can occur. This is true not only of us as individuals, but of systems, organizations, and entire societies. Worth a try?</p>
<p>November 29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Songs for the Journey <i>Music Director Barbara Miller</i></p> <p>Some of your favorite (and some new) UUCSJS musicians will share songs that have played a role in their lives and tell the stories behind the music. Asked to choose a soundtrack for the movie of your life, what would <i>you</i> choose?</p>



11th Annual Service Auction

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Doors open at 6:30 pm, Bidding starts at 7 pm

Come enjoy the fun and fellowship!

NOTICE TO THE CONGREGATION

A Brief Special Congregational Meeting

*for the purpose of electing a new
At-Large Member of the Board of Trustees*

Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 11 am

The Nominations Committee has put forward the name of DAMON SMITH to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Joe Terrazzini.

*A quorum of 40 members must be present
for business to be conducted.*

Book Lovers Group ... meets Friday, November 20 at 7 pm at the UU Center Library. November's selection is SONG of SOLOMON by TONI MORRISON. "A delight..... So rich in its use of common speech, so sophisticated in its use of literary traditions and language... it is also extremely funny." Marsha Hannah will be leading the discussion. All are invited to come - newcomers welcome!

Margaret Circle ... meets on Thursday, November 5 at 1 pm at the UU Center. Jesse Connor will host and delight us with refreshment. Kim Troto will enlighten us with a presentation about the Shaker Religious Movement: Past and Present. We look forward to our precious time together in Friendship.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

November in Children's Religious Education

On November 1, the Children's RE held the third annual all-ages lesson and celebration focusing on Dia de Los Muertos. Many thanks to the members of the Children's RE Committee for hosting, providing treats and decorations for this occasion!

We return to our regularly scheduled RE classes for the remainder of the month of November with one important addition: during RE class time on November 8 and 15 we will begin practicing our emergency exit procedures.

These practice runs with the children are intended to make the congregation-wide exit drill planned for November 22 (see page 7 for all the details) go smoothly. Please remember: during an emergency, parents are asked to meet up with their children at the playground outside, and not attempt to come downstairs.

If you have any questions or concerns about the exit procedures, please feel free to contact me at sjsdre@gmail.com

Heidi Jannsch

Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education

GIVING-THANKS TOUR FOR NEW MEMBERS & FRIENDS (and, of course, "old" members who would like to join in)

NOVEMBER 22, 11:30-12:15 PM

We have so much to be thankful for at UUCSJS, including the many members who have contributed their creative, organizational, professional, or real-life skills to our Center, as well as members and non-members who have donated their time, treasure, and talents.

In the spirit of November, a month in which we gather our families together to give thanks, we thought we'd conduct our first-ever "Giving Thanks Tour." The tour will begin at 11:30 on November 22 and run for 45 minutes. The guided walk through our building will highlight the many contributions that went into making our Center the functional and beautiful GREEN building that we are so very thankful for.

Here are a few questions. If you can answer all of them correctly, come lead the tour with me!

- Who designed and created our pulpit? – and how was it funded?
- What mystery items are the key component in our kitchen counter-tops? Hint: you might be holding one in your hand right now.
- Which young person in our congregation selected the paint color of the bathrooms?
- Who are the father-son duo who did all our tile work? Almost all of it gratis, by-the-way.
- How many fabric swatches did the Aesthetics Committee consider before deciding on our seat cushion fabric? 10, 20, 30, 40, or more?
- During the building construction, we recycled what % of our waste? 30%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%?
- Who gave us our R.E furniture?
- Who quit his full-time job to help make our building a reality?

Reverend Cynthia has generously volunteered to bake an apple pie - just in time for Thanksgiving dinner - as a prize for the first person to guess eight all answers correctly. YUM! Will it be you?

Participants on the Tour will learn about many of our Green building materials and practices in addition to the stories about those who contributed their time, talents, and hard work.

Hoping you can join our "Giving Thanks Tour" and add to your list of things and people to be thankful for.

-- 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!**

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

This past week, Heidi, Barbara, and I attended, along with about 50 other UU ministers and religious professionals, a two-day workshop and training on “Beloved Conversations.” This initiative, developed at Meadville Lombard (www.meadville.edu/beloved) is a method for members to work *within congregations* to overcome their own privilege and oppressions.

categories, and are willing to talk for 5-10 minutes, with a small group of people (5-8) about how microaggressions have affected you. What are they? Well, if you have been the recipient, you probably know. But, here’s a definition, and a few examples. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microaggression_theory and www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/ofe/upload/micro_ECU.pdf.



We learned a great deal. One of the exercises had those present (and every race, ethnicity, age, gender, and sexual orientation were represented) step forward for certain privileges, for example: *if your parents paid for your college tuition*; and back one or two steps for others, such as: *if you grew up with violence*; *if you lived paycheck to paycheck*, etc. I will just tell you that although all three of us are Caucasian, heterosexual women, we ended up in very different places in the room.

We came up with a plan to bring “Beloved Conversations” to UUCSJS. This will start with a special Sunday service on **December 13**. We’ll be doing some psychodrama, some role playing and using other tools to help everyone understand oppression a bit better, and especially to understand the concept of **microaggression**.

At that time we will be asking everyone to do some listening to fellow members and friends. *This is where I need your help*. We are looking for folks (you need not be a member) who fall into the following

The categories of people that are most likely to receive and be affected by these microaggressions are: People of Color, including Hispanic, Latino, Asian, Native American, as well as Arabic or African American people; LGBTQ people; women; poor people; less educated people; Catholics, Jews, and Muslims; elders, children; differently abled people; mentally ill people; immigrants.

Let me know as soon as possible if you would like to work with us on this service! We will probably have a meeting ahead of time to prepare for it. Thank you, and we look forward to our “Beloved Conversations.”

Fondly,

Rev. Cynthia

Rev. Cain’s Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-2 and by appointment

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

Fire Safety/Security Team

The Fire Safety/Security Team generated a list of safety and security measures which we prioritized and have been overseeing. Four initiatives have been accomplished:

1. Installation of a video intercom system at the front entrance for communication with the downstairs offices.
2. Two of our doors have been made more secure: a new, more secure lock was installed in the kitchen door and slim profile panic bars were installed on the two doors in the front of the sanctuary leading to the deck.
3. Procedures for fire evacuation or sheltering in place has been developed and reviewed by the Safety/Security Team.
4. Shelee McIlvaine headed up a successful fire extinguisher training following service on Sunday, October 11. Eddie Hicks conducted the training. We have plans to run another training session after a future service for those who weren't able to attend the first training.

In addition, the Board approved the installation of video-monitoring cameras, which members of the Men's Group, headed up by TJ Jansch, will install in the next few weeks. Care will be taken with the camera installation to insure that the number of cameras meets our needs but is minimal and that their location is unobtrusive.

Our fire/safety training, headed up by Shelee McIlvaine, is ongoing. Members of the Men's Group participated in a mock building-evacuation during their October meeting. Once more people are trained, this team of UUCSJS members will be able to lead the congregation in case of a fire or imminent threat. This training will be completed in time for our mock evacuation drill during a service on November 22.

Renewing Our Congregation's Pledge to be Green

We made a commitment shortly after we opened our new center to practice sustainability – in our purchasing practices, our hospitality practices, our cleaning practices, and our landscaping practices. With so many new members and friends, it's a good time to take a look at the ways in which we have committed to be GREEN. Let's move forward caretaking our center in a sustainable way and setting a good example for all who visit.

RECYCLING:

- Currently we recycle: aluminum & steel cans, glass bottles & jars, juice & milk cartons, plastic (#1-#7), newspaper, office paper, misc. paper, and cardboard.
- Kitchen waste is composted. Grass clippings are left in place. Garden weeds are composted.

PAPER & PLASTIC REDUCTION:

- Use mugs, silver, and plates instead of disposable items. (NOTE: Please do not donate or bring in paper plates, bowls, or plastic cutlery.)
- Serve tap water from pitchers at all events. (NOTE: Please do not donate or bring in single-use plastic water bottles.)
- Use toilet tissue with 100% recycled content. Use napkins with 100% recycled content.
- Purchase paper products in bulk.
- Favor clean rags over paper towels where feasible; use paper towels with 100% recycled content.

- Purchase office paper with 100% recycled content.
- Encourage use of on-line newsletter with a limited number of hard copies available for those in need.

CLEANING PRODUCTS:

- Cleaning supplies are limited to essential products: liquid hand soap, all-purpose cleaner, all-purpose disinfectant cleaner. We refrain from buying: anti-bacterial or petroleum-based products, chlorine based or artificially fragrances products, or products containing toxic chemicals. We are currently meeting most of our cleaning needs with Method products.
- Our cleaning company agreed to adhere to our cleaning products policy.

MOVING FORWARD: If you have additional ideas, or would like to join in helping make the practices in our center more sustainable, please contact Jesse Connor.

Ministerial Search Committee Thanks You!

October was a busy time for the Congregation in its search for a called Minister. The members of the Search Committee thank all of you for the excellent number of participants in the Congregational Survey and in the Roundtable discussions throughout October. Through this process, the Search Committee obtained numerous valuable and thoughtful insights from the Congregation about what we, as a community and individuals, seek in a called Minister and in our future. The Committee is compiling the data obtained and these will be made available to the Congregation within the coming month.

The Search Committee wants the Congregation be aware that the youngest members of our Congregation also engaged in a Roundtable discussion about our search. On October 11, Angela Wexler held a Round Table discussion with a group that included our 2nd graders through our adolescents. The kids were asked to respond to three questions. 1) What is the most enjoyable or best experience you have had at UUCSJS? Some of the answers included; working outside on Blue Jean Sunday, making tie dyed T-shirts and helping out in the kitchen. Another teen expressed a feeling of bonding while attending the retreat at Murray Grove. 2) What would you tell a friend if asked what you do here on Sunday? From the teens: "We watch Twilight Zone and explore the Unitarian ideas in each episode." Rod Serling was a Unitarian. 3) What do you think are the main responsibilities of a minister? Preaching at the service seemed to be agreed upon as what the minister does. Since RE is one of our most important assets, taking time to talk to as well as listen to our children and parents will be part of our search process.

Please remember that the MSC is sponsoring two "talk-backs" per month. In November, these will be held at 11:30 am on Sunday, November 1 and Sunday, November 15. These are offered to the Congregation to encourage ongoing discussions about the search process and to answer any questions which you may have as the process moves forward.

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL

By Kathleen Hartnett

Adult Religious Education

Programs for adults give us the chance to go deeper—intellectually, socially, ethically, and spiritually. From workshops to community service, covenant groups to discussion groups, meditation to marching—all in the context of a supportive spiritual community—Unitarian Universalism has much to offer adults beyond our Sunday services.

And all these programs are available to us because some dedicated people believe in the enlightenment that sharing can bring.

We are deeply grateful to the members of the Adult RE Committee:

Kathryn Kelley (chair), **Prim Reeves** (chair emeritus), **Charlie Roberts** (chair), **Bob Baum**, **Marsha Hannah**, **Kathleen Hartnett**, **Shelee McIlvaine**, **Geri McClusky**, and **John Walther**.

Because of the efforts and commitments of these people we have had some truly remarkable programs this past year, and we look forward to some of these continuing and some new ones becoming available.

Kathryn Kelley has been an important part of the Adult RE committee for years and now has graciously agreed to Chair this year.

Prim Reeves brought an energy to the Adult RE Chair that provided programs like *Building a Multicultural World*, in which she and **Shelee McIlvaine** presented an awareness of and an introduction to racism in America today, over several sessions.



Charlie Roberts then chaired the committee, bringing *Introduction to Mysticism* and **John** and **Darah Walther's** facilitation of *Course in Miracles*.

Bob Baum continues to motivate and inspire us in the benefits and fulfillment of Journaling.

Barbara Miller's First Friday Film Night presentations of the *Long Strange Trip* taught us the history of our denomination, from the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism.

Barbara Miller also led an interfaith spiritual practice of *Singing Meditation*, a combination of singing and silence that enhances each component.

Kathleen Hartnett traveled south to Dennis Township to the welcoming home of **Kim Studzinski** to explore various topics in Small Group

Ministry.

Marsha Hannah worked for Small Group Ministry here at the church.

Alan Oliver, a Buddhist Educator, led a Study Circle each month focusing on Buddhism from a secular perspective.

Erica Onofrio is facilitating *Everyday Spiritual Practice*, a discussion group on ways to bring spirituality into everyday activities. Thank you also to Robert Schindler of Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill for introducing this book and program to UUCSJS.

A heart-felt thank you note of appreciation, acknowledgement, and praise goes to all who give their time and talent to share these opportunities.



Saturday, November 21, 2015

Dr. Christina Jackson:
The Sociology of Racism

“My research interests are primarily in the intersections of race, class and gender, social inequality, urban spaces and the politics of redevelopment and gentrification.”

Starting November. 21, and continuing every third Saturday for a year, our Anti-Racism Task Force, in cooperation with Asbury United Methodist Atlantic City and a number of community organizations, will sponsor a series of dialogues, speakers, and events.

Each event lasts from 2 to 5 pm, with the main presentation at about 2:30. There will be off-street parking (please carpool) on S. Chalfonte Ave. The Asbury UMC Community Center is located at 1213 Pacific Avenue between North Carolina and South Carolina Avenues. There will be entertainment (poetry, spoken word, music) by Atlantic City youth; childcare; and refreshments.

Please mark your calendars for the **third Saturday** of each month! Stay tuned for a listing of all 12 topics.

Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS October 2015

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Art Wexler presiding. Chalice lighting and joys/concerns opened the meeting. All Board members were present, as was ex-officio member Rev. Cynthia Cain, and for the first agenda item, congregant Jim Gentile.

Note on MOTION: Fire Safety & Security Team Priorities

*On September 17, a motion that the Board approve the immediate expenditure of an initial amount of \$2,800 to fund **urgent safety & security priorities at the UU Center**, as identified by the Building & Grounds' Safety & Security Team and to include to a video intercom system for downstairs offices and attention to exterior kitchen door lock, was adopted by means of email exchanges. Additional priorities, including a) installing push-bars on doors from Sanctuary to deck, and b) mounting exterior CCTV surveillance cameras, were deferred.*

• **Reports^[1]**

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). The president welcomed MSC Chair Jim Gentile, who summarized MSC activity to date. The congregational survey period has ended and roundtable sessions are in progress. The Negotiating Team of John Searight, Paul Utts and Karen York will soon begin putting together a Draft Contract. Meanwhile, the so-called "Congregational Record," to be viewed by prospective ministers, is being compiled by Gentile, Jack Miller, and Betsy Searight. Historical events are being approached appreciatively, and ideas sought from as many people as possible to find inventive ways to present information. Besides Jim Gentile, Jack Miller, Betsy Searight and Paul Utts, also serving on the MSC are Betsy Erbaugh, Marsha Hannah and Angela Wexler.

• **Announcements**

The president called on At-Large Board member **Joe Terrazzini**, who announced that he had decided to resign from the Board, effectively immediately, and change his status from UUCSJS Member to Friend. His prepared statement read, in part, "My reasons for this are purely personal and more to do with my evolution as a person than anything else. I have enjoyed my time here at UUCSJS and have nothing but gratitude for you allowing me to be part of the church but especially to serve ... I truly have not met a more kind, intelligent and thoughtful group of people for whom I have genuine affection ... Please don't consider this as a definitive goodbye but more like 'Ta Ta for now'." With our sincere thanks for introducing a new model for Social Justice and other work during his two and a half terms on the Board, Joe departed the meeting.

The Board noted that according to the Bylaws, the Nominations committee will propose a candidate to fill the vacancy, who will then stand for election at a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. It was agreed that next steps will be taken by the president and secretary.

The **October Board Talk-Back** has been postponed until Sunday, October 25 due to congregational roundtables taking place on 10/4 and 10/11. (Next month's Talk-Back will be held as normally scheduled on Sunday, November 8.)

As conveyed to Board members through his email "Fwd: Primary Contact Update" on 10/8, President Wexler noted that our new **Primary Contact** (PC) for accessing UUA resources through the JPD and CERG is **Patricia Hall Infante**, already familiar to some. "Primary Contacts cultivate and maintain long-term relationships with professional religious leaders, lay leaders, and members of congregations and covenanted UU communities." In addition to UUCSJS, Pat Infante will serve as PC for 16 other Greater Philadelphia area congregations. She is a member of the Congregational Life Staff Team of the Central East Region (CERG)

and a Credentialed Religious Educator; she had been active in JPD for many years, and earlier was DRE at UU Church in Cherry Hill. [email pinfante@uua.org]

• **Reports^[2]**

1) Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Karen York confirmed that we're in good financial shape and that she sees no "red flags." Pledge reminders are going out soon to mark the end of the first quarter. Loans incurred during mortgage refinancing have been satisfied, so we can now resume extra payments against principal. With apologies, the treasurer's written report for October is delayed and will be available in the Members Only section of our website as soon as possible.

2) Minister's Report. Board members duly received Rev. Cain's written report for October, and keeping added remarks to a minimum, Cynthia said that she may be able to condense material from the remaining "Safe Congregations" workshops, set to resume this fall, to free up some valuable time. Initiatives regarding "Black Lives Matter" are ongoing, and along with many other activities are keeping her fully engaged.

• **Discussion/Action Items**

Building/Grounds Security. Following up on priorities identified by the Safety & Security Team headed by Jesse Connor, chair of Building & Grounds, the Board discussed two unresolved issues: whether to install push-bars in the Sanctuary, and whether to put up surveillance cameras.

a) A motion that the Board approve the funds to install thin-profile push-bars on two doors leading from the Sanctuary to the outside back deck, estimated at \$785, was adopted unanimously.

Even though these doors are not the correct way to exit the Sanctuary in an emergency, many have cautioned that people may nevertheless try to use them; there is also concern that the doors have been left unlocked on several occasions. After the changeover, those going in and out will need to prop these doors open since they will automatically lock upon closing.

b) A motion that the Board approve the cost of wiring, not to exceed \$500, for the volunteer installation by the Men's Group of multiple surveillance cameras donated by congregant Paul Utts, the number and location of cameras to be determined by the B&G's Safety & Security Team, was adopted unanimously. The Board supports the idea of installing cameras for security and as a likely deterrent, with the expectation that it will be done as tastefully as possible. We offer special thanks to Paul Utts for generously donating this valuable asset.

Outdoor Smoking Policy. The chair of the UU Family Promise (UUFPP) Team, Debbi Dagavarian, has written to the Board requesting that UUCSJS establish an outdoor smoking policy to be effective before we begin hosting FP guests at the UU Center. She proposed that we permit smoking outside the building at a distance of 25 feet from the entrance; that we place suitable receptacles there; and that we put up appropriate signage. After a brief discussion, At-Large Board member Melissa Hutchison offered to follow up on this matter on behalf of UUCSJS, both as a physician and as a public health issue reaching beyond the immediate need of Family Promise for outdoor smoking policy. She will be consulting with Building & Grounds and Hospitality, among other resources.

Once again there was much more on the agenda than is covered in these short "Highlights" of the meeting.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

– Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

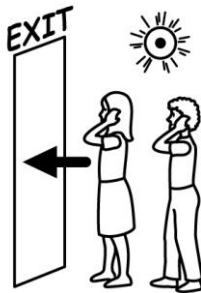
The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

Sunday, November 22

Our First Evacuation Drill!

On Sunday, November 22, the Safety and Security Team will conduct our first Annual Evacuation Drill.

We are confident that the best way to be safe during any type of emergency is to have a PLAN. The Team has drawn up a detailed Evacuation Plan to this end. Copies of the plan will be posted in the classrooms, the main office, and the kitchen. There are designated members of the congregation who will serve as monitors and leaders any time an evacuation is activated. The most important aspect of any evacuation is to stay calm and to follow the directions to safety.



So, in a controlled setting we are going to test the Plan on Sunday, November 22 at the end of our service.

At the end of the service, when you hear the message, "Emergency -- Exit Now," please follow the directions of the Floor Monitors by walking as instructed to the stairwell and on to the Playground (safe area). Once you have arrived at the Playground make sure you are accounted for and then WAIT for further instructions.

After we have completed our first drill, the Safety and Security Team will look forward to your feedback. In the meantime, please review the Safety Tips below. Thank you for your cooperation.

Exit Safely

- The alarm will be **VERY VERY LOUD**. Stay calm.
- Gather personal handheld belongings -- purse, keys.
- Occupants of the Sanctuary (first floor) level should exit as instructed by the Evacuation Leader or the Floor Monitors.
- Calmly walk and turn right to the Playground Area.
- Children and adults with limited mobility will be evacuated after others so that access is not blocked and due attention can be given to their needs. If those with limited mobility cannot be evacuated they should move to the area of refuge in the stairwells.
- DO NOT** wander the building seeking others; you will meet the group in the Safety Area. Parents will look for and meet the children at the Playground Area.
- DO NOT** attempt to reach any classrooms during the evacuation/emergency.
- DO NOT** use the elevator during an emergency.
- DO NOT** re-enter the building until notified by a Fire/Law Enforcement Official or another designated person.
- DO NOT** attempt to drive away from the UUCSJS grounds until instructed.
- DO NOT** interfere with the access of First Responders.
- It is important that you are part of the Roll Call that will be taken within the Safety Area.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Board of Trustees 2015-16

Melissa Hutchison, Jon Luoma, Judy Pereira, Charlie Roberts,
[vacancy], Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org
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