



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 11, Issue 09

September 2009

September 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>September 6</p>	<p>Standing On the Side of Love <i>Lay speaker Margaret Rea</i> Margaret, our delegate to the June 2009 General Assembly in Salt Lake City (the UUA's annual convention), will share a bit of the sense of the mornings, and afternoons, and evenings -- the worship, meetings, workshops, and information overload. Will you be inspired to attend 2010 GA in Minneapolis-St. Paul?</p>
<p>September 13</p>	<p>Ingathering & Water Communion: Water of Life <i>Led by Richard Grzywinski and Barbara Miller</i> This year's water service will be presented in contemporary style and feature the retelling of the Brothers Grimm tale <i>The Water of Life</i>. All ages are welcome at this service, and remember to please bring a small amount of water from a place of personal or spiritual significance to add to our common bowl.</p>
<p>September 20 Family picnic at the UU Center</p>	<p>Into the Valley of the Shadow <i>Lay speaker Stephanie Garrett</i> Please join us to hear a UU's perspective on death and dying. Based in part on Rev. Forrest Church's last book <i>Love and Death: My Journey through the Valley of the Shadow</i> (he announced in 2008 that he has terminal cancer), Stephanie's will share her own thoughts and experiences.</p>
<p>September 27</p>	<p>Truth or Consequences <i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i> In our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning," do we know "Truth" when we encounter it? Is the search for truth a "fool's errand?" Can it be molded to fit our own reality? How can we tell right from wrong, or good from evil, when something so seemingly concrete as the truth seems so elusive? <i>A follow-up to Richard's previous talk entitled "Unitarian Universalism, What's love got to do with it?"</i></p>

Murray Grove in Lanoka Harbor NJ (GSP Exit 74)

– a historic site marking the beginnings of Universalism in America –
is holding their annual **HOME COMING WEEKEND** at the end of September.

You can go see the speakers, listen to the music, and participate in the workshops.

Consider also joining with Karen York and our box-lunch team to help us in an important fundraiser there.

See page 7 for more details.



Thoughts on Ministry.... From Alan Oliver

Kathy and Jeanine say...

A heartfelt Thank You to all who participated, supported, labored, & sent best wishes to us on our day of commitment. The congregation's presence demonstrated to our families & friends how loving our UU extended family is.

WHAT IS AN "ELEVATOR SPEECH"

It's a challenge to describe our faith, and your part in it, in the amount of time it would take to share a few floors of an elevator ride with a stranger. Last month we heard from Ronda Cluff. Another installment in this series, this time from Michael Cluff:



"Perhaps the best way to describe us is that we welcome "everyone from Agnostics to Zoroastrians." Compared to other religions, Unitarian Universalists aren't hung up on what you believe about god, or even if you believe in god at all.

One of our core principles says that we aspire to a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Rather than requiring that you toe the line and heed the dogma of a church, you are encouraged to find your own path.

What matters most is what you *do* with your belief. If you value social justice, equity, and compassion, and you're willing to respect a broad range of beliefs, you're probably going to be welcome as a UU. So we aren't Bible-thumpers. But you *might* see someone thump a UN report on Global Warming."

WANTED CORELLE DESSERT/BREAD & BUTTER PLATES

Our UU kitchen is putting a call out for small (approximately 7 inches in diameter) corelle plates you might not be using in your kitchen. We might find them at yard sales too! They must be white but can have any pattern, for example in the 70's they had a border of small green flowers or that famous harvest gold. We are hoping we can gather about 75 of them. We ONLY want this small 7 inch size of the CORELLE DISHES because they stack in a compact manner and are durable. This size is needed for our snacks on Sundays. **If you have any questions call Ruth Eaves.**

Reading the August newsletter in far off Asia, I was struck by the variety of topics and speakers that are scheduled in the down days of August. The strength of the congregation has been in its commitment to participate whether it is building a sanctuary, offering a presentation or just volunteering on the little things that create and maintain an ongoing community.

I cannot help but believe it is in that sense of community and participation that a new model of UU congregational leadership could be found. Our various ego states, with itself as an always available self-reflective mirror, creates the need for the anthropomorphic god, the spiritual leader or the minister of the congregation. The recent experience with "ministerial leadership" confirms this in my mind. It is a position fraught with historical images (e.g. Moses leading his people out of the wilderness) and unrealistic expectations. It could be, as an old saying goes (from Gertude Stein), "there is no there, there". The chances of discovering a ministerial leader adequate to the task of leading an increasingly sophisticated congregation while using the traditional ministerial model is almost nil.

Isn't it time to redesign the model more in line with facilitation, pastoral care, and project management? The existing committees could take on this task and come up with a more community oriented position that would lead by consensus, facilitate participation, help the congregation visulize the future and generate compassion and caring for all.

When I look at the traditional model of ministerial leadership it is worth considering the baggage it carries with it. It is time for something new -- a model which always cultivates the sense of community as its center, not the individual leader as central. As one of my favorite Buddhist statements goes, "If you meet the Buddha along the road, kill him." The same could be said for ministers who see themselves as "leading" the congregation rather than helping the congregation grow from within and reach its full potential as a self realizing spiritual group.

The reality is that truly great ministers will end up in major congregations in big cities. Why settle for earnest, but B level leadership when you can create an A level participatory model? I hope that these thoughts will be considered in the future as new candidates are considered for the position of minister.

Submitted by Alan Oliver, from Bangkok, August

REFLECTIONS by President Jim Gentile

THE MINISTRY MYSTERY TOUR - II

As the Ministry Mystery Tour, which was alluded to in my August reflection, begins to roll, I am reminded of the directional advice Yogi Berra once gave to a friend: “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

Over the past month, I have had a number of conversations with various members of the congregation about ministry. These have spun off into discussions of congregational identity within the context of the Unitarian and Universalist traditions. I must admit that, prior to these conversations, I anticipated that a discussion of ministry would lead us to a golden moment of a clearly defined and focused sense of who we are. I expected that, ultimately, we would be faced with one of two options and choose one of them. I presumed that, when faced with a fork in the road, we would go left or right (or rather, the other left). But it now seems to me that we already have come to a fork in the road and the tradition, like Yogi Berra, says to “take it.” In other words, the tradition is so deep and rich, that it belies the limitations of a choice.

An elegantly inspiring clarion call to ministry comes from Emerson's *Self-Reliance*. After accounting for the context of the 19th century concepts, philosophical conceits and language, I think this passage offers considerable insights to us as we consider our continuing call to ministry:

“Trust thyself, every heart vibrates to that iron string. Accept the place the divine Providence has found for you; the society of your contemporaries, the connection of events. Great men have always done so and confided themselves childlike to the genius of their age, betraying their perception that the Eternal was stirring at their heart, working through their hands, predominating in all their being. And we are now men, and must accept in the highest mind the same transcendent destiny; and not pinched in a corner, not cowards fleeing before a revolution, but redeemers and benefactors, pious aspirants to be noble clay, plastic under the Almighty effort, let us advance on Chaos and the Dark.”

Ministry as a call, to advance upon chaos and the dark. Think of possibilities. Ponder the responsibilities.

Jim

**Please note! Board of Trustees meetings are ALWAYS open to the public.
Any member can observe – no advance “permission” or “RSVP” needed – just SHOW UP!**

Board meetings are the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

Notes from Board Meeting August 11, 2009

The Board is developing a Policies and Procedures Manual and would like all committees and staff to provide a summary of their mission and procedures. This should be submitted by the third week in September to Board Secretary Karen Zindell.

Next Board meeting – Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

COMMITTEE	BOARD LIASION
Adult Religious Education	Ruth Eaves
Building & Grounds Committee	John Searight
Children's Religious Education	Karen York
Communications Committee	Deb Dagavarian
Finance Committee	3 Board Members are Committee Members. No designated Liaison
Green Sanctuary Committee	Ruth Eaves
Interweave	Prim Reeves
Membership Committee	Deb Dagavarian
Social Justice Committee	Jim Gentile
Sunday Services Committee	Karen Zindell

UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Officers	Members At Large
Jim Gentile 10 <i>President</i>	Ruth Eaves 10
Debbi Dagavarian 10 <i>Vice President</i>	John Searight 11
Karen Zindell 11 <i>Secretary</i>	Karen York 11
Primrose Reeves 10 <i>Treasurer</i>	* year given is end of term, e.g. 11 means thru 6/30/2011

Default Committee Meeting schedule

1 st Sunday	Adult RE
2 nd Sunday	Children's RE
3 rd Sunday	Sunday Services
4 th Sunday	Membership, Social Justice
5 th Sunday	Potluck! <i>Please, no committee meetings.</i>

MARGARET CIRCLE

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3 at 1 pm in the Library at the UU Center moderated by Arlene Yacka. After lighting the chalice, we will have a brief sharing of significant happenings in our lives during the past month followed by refreshments and discussion.

The discussion will revolve around the woman for whom the Margaret Circle was named: Margaret Fuller. She was sometimes called "the most important woman of the nineteenth century." We will ask ourselves if we have the courage to stand up, as she did, in self-reliance, individualism, and absolute optimism.

Please RSVP to Arlene Yacka if you plan to attend. Hope to see you for an interesting, thought provoking discussion and shared goodwill.

UU Book Lovers

The UU book group will resume Friday, September 25 at 7 pm in the library of the UU center. The book chosen this month is *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. If you have any questions or wish to be included on our email list, please contact Helene Gentile.



Quotes attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright (a lifelong Unitarian):

“A doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines.”

“I believe in God, only I spell it Nature.”

“Organic buildings are the strength and lightness of the spiders' spinning, buildings qualified by light, bred by native character to environment, married to the ground.”

“Art for art's sake is a philosophy of the well-fed.”

“The heart is the chief feature of a functioning mind.”

Buy **Gift Cards** any Sunday for
Acme & Shoprite.

Don't you have to buy groceries anyway??!

Using these gift cards for groceries
nets the congregation 5%.

We also have Fair Trade coffee and tea!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MISSION: Broadening Religious Imaginations

ENGAGED SPIRITUALITY

One of the many joys of being a member of a small UU congregation like UUCSJS is that there are many more **golden opportunities** to participate in **engaged spirituality** activities.

You will remember the most inclusive **definition of spirituality** is that it involves a sense of (a) being centered, (b) being connected, and (c) being engaged:

- ✓ **Centered** means being comfortable with your sense of self;
- ✓ **Connected** means a sense of being in touch with something beyond oneself;
- ✓ **Engaged** means being involved with activities that provide meaning and purpose in one's life -- particularly as they offer service to others

In the case of UUCSJS, golden opportunities for **engaged spirituality** abound: for instance, taking care of coffee hour, participating in Sunday Services, assisting with the children's religious education classes, becoming an active member on one of our committees, or facilitating or participating in one of our Adult Religious Education Committee Programs.

Here are some of our Adult Religious Education Programs. Look for sign-up sheets, more information in the Sunday Order of Service, and talk with the facilitators.

Drumming for Peace led by **David Shaman**. Fun! Interactive drumming, singing, playing together, sharing. Talk with **David Shaman** or **Theresa McReynolds**.

Healing Power of Music, led by **Barbara Miller**, explores the healing power of music through singing, toning, chanting, listening, silence, and movement. One-hour sessions, offered to our Congregation and friends twice a month.

Spirituality Discussion Group, led by **Marsha Hannah and Seerat Emmanuel**. Discussions are based on *The Seat of the Soul* by Gary Zukav. Please feel free to join -- whenever the meeting occurs.

Discovering Your Ministry, led by **Marsha Hannah, Colby Tippins, and Karen York**. A 4-week course encourages you to explore your unique gifts and talents, and helps you identify your call to make a difference and put expression to your calling.

A Taste of InterPlay led by **Pam Altaffer**. Interplay is a practice and philosophy rooted in the transformational power of play. It helps us approach life with more freedom, creativity, and joy. It involves the use of movement, storytelling, and voice to balance mind and body.

PRINCIPLED COMMITMENT -- Couples Program: Facilitated by **Barbara Clark**. This program weaves Unitarian Universalist values, Principles, and Sources with four "strands": 1) Spiritual Development, 2) Ethical Development, 3) UU Identity Development, and 4) Faith Development. In bringing together UU values, relationship

skills, covenanting, fellowship, *and fun*, this program offers couples an opportunity to build and enhance a principled commitment to one another. Any committed couple, of any affectional orientation, is encouraged to take part.

BUILDING YOUR OWN UU THEOLOGY: Facilitated by **Marsha Hannah**. Building Your Own Theology was developed to help Unitarian Universalists in their "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." It is a systematic, disciplined, and communal approach to the process of building a new theology on the residue of the old. It can be exciting, and endlessly frustrating. Why? Because it has to do with the stuff of human experience, and the meaning of being and becoming.

Of course, you can come to our next Adult Religious Education Committee meeting (6th of September, after Sunday Service) and enjoy learning more about some of the "**engaged spirituality**" opportunities available to you through the Adult Religious Educational programs being sponsored by the Committee.

Everyone is welcome. Bring all your ideas and suggestions.

Barbara J Clark, Chair, Adult Religious Education

Tired of the RAT RACE?

Learn how to change your life and change your world with the deep movement practices of InterPlay. InterPlay is an active, creative way to unlock the wisdom of the body; a set of practical tools and ideas to help individuals and communities thrive. Anybody can do it! If you would like to become a "recovering serious person," and are intrigued by this crazy idea that we can save the world with play, then InterPlay is for you. Learn more at www.interplay.org. Certified Interplay Leader Pamela Altaffer LCSW has been helping people achieve their goal

is in her psychotherapy practice for over 25 years. InterPlay is a way to bring healthy fun, play, creativity, connection wholeness, and delight into your life.

October 17, 2009

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

What will happen if you do Interplay?

- ❖ Effortlessly find oneself in the "Now" or the "Present".
- ❖ Release joys and/or sorrows through creativity.
- ❖ See one's friends and community members in fresh and delightful ways.
- ❖ Notice feelings of love, connection, and joy emerge with grace and ease.
- ❖ Deepen and expand one's relationship with oneself and community.
- ❖ Experience your connection to Spirit through stillness and play.

Doesn't that sound wonderful???

Children's Religious Education

Back to School with Children's Religious Education

As the summer comes to an end, we say goodbye to lazy days (if we actually had any!) and get back into the hectic schedule that accompanies the academic year. But before we look ahead, we take a moment to say "Thank you!" to all the folks who kept our children engaged throughout the summer by hosting a Summer Session for the kids: **Kyle Jones, Debbi Dagavarian, Kim Peters, Jack Miller, Karen York, Angela Jones, Prim Reeves, Jesse Connor, Michelle Bellinger, Steve Fiedler, David Shaman, Colby Tippins** and **Karen Zindell**. Thank you all for giving your time to share a Sunday with our children!

We will be participating in the **Pinwheels for Peace Project** with all the children on September 20, and our classes will begin on September 27. This year, the Children's RE program will include four grade levels once again. *Spirit Play*, for children in grades PreK-2 will explore stories from many traditions and encourage the children to wonder about some big questions. *Spirit of Adventure* for our 3rd and 4th graders uses themes such as sports, medicine and science to discover the people and values of UUism., while the 5th through 7th graders will experience the Bible as one of our UU sources in *Bibleodeon*. Our teens (8th grade and up) will explore ethics and theological issues in popular films and cartoons in *Popcorn Theology*.

Karen York, Katy Cardwell, Michael Cluff, and Joe Terrazinni have agreed to be lead teachers for the first segment of the school year, but we need contributions from the rest of the congregation to make our RE program work. What we need are not monetary contributions, but donations of time. Each week we need teaching assistants, a healthy snack for the kids, and a supervisor for the toddler room. Please join us at our first **Ice Cream Sunday** following the service on September 13 to sign up to offer your assistance in one (or more) of these ways; you will be rewarded, not only with the gratitude of our children and families, but also with ice cream!

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

Missing the grandkids?

Get your cuteness fix by supervising the Toddler Room on Sunday.

Please call Lori Waters to volunteer.

FUUN Committee sponsors an Old Fashioned Family Picnic at the UU Center

Sunday afternoon, September 20

More details to follow in the Sunday Order of Service
Announcements and Midweek Announcements

Sign up to assist in
Children's RE classes this year and
join us for some sweet treats and fun at

ICE CREAM SUNDAY

In the UU Center Lounge

**Sunday, September 13,
following service**



Got Stuff?

We are now collecting donation information for the UUCSJS's Fifth Annual Service Auction! Donation forms are available in your Order of Service, at the Auction Table in the foyer, and will be sent to you by email.

What can you donate? Well, of course, "stuff" (new or gently-used only), services (surfing lessons, resume writing, repair work around the house, etc.), dinners and events (make your own pizza party, a dinner at your home, a trip to the movies for kids, etc.), or handmade items and baked goods (pies, vegan and regular pesto, handcrafted earrings and pottery, etc.).

When is this big event? **Saturday, November 14.** We have three types of auctions. First is a **silent auction** for most of the items, services, dinners/events and handmade goodies. Second is a **chance auction**, for which you buy tickets and bid on items by placing a ticket (or more, depending on how much you want to increase your chances of winning!) in a cup by the item. And finally is the **live auction**, with exciting bidding on prizes to fit almost anyone's budget.

Remember to donate! And don't wait another week to fill out a donation form! Do it NOW!

FULL GREEN AHEAD

If you missed Missie Aprill's terrific and inspirational sermon on the current UUA Study Action Issue, Ethical Eating on August 23, it will soon be available on our sermon archive at Yahoo groups.

In *Slow Food Smorgasbord*, Missie made a powerful case for eating food that is good, clean, and fair -- a practice that conforms to the our UU principles and those espoused by the Slow Food movement. Since reducing meat consumption is the most powerful change you can make to reduce the effects of global climate change -- better than trading in that clunker for cash -- I encourage you to share Missie's sermon with friends and colleagues.

The UUA has a great website with information and recommendations for action, books, films, and more. <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/ethicaleating/>.

Find out more about Slow Food at <http://slowfood.cape-may.net/>

Locate organic farms at: http://www.nofanj.org/cof_files/farmlist.htm

What's Happening in Social Justice?

The Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration held on August 6th at Stockton College was a success. The event was sponsored by the Coalition for Peace and Justice and UUCSJS with the The Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center the the AC Area Friends in supporting roles. **Seventy people** attended the event which began with Karen assisting Jesse J and Gracie C in the presentation of paper cranes to the two Hibakusha. This year's event was made even more memorable by the heartfelt testimony of the translator, Ms. Shiho Burke. Ms. Burke, who grew up in Hiroshima, and now resides in Ocean City, recounted how her mother miraculously survived the bombing of Hiroshima. Ms. Burke went on to work and advocate for peace.

Halloween Dance Friday, October 30 Costumes and prizes.

Music by *PACKAGE GOODS*.

It's a fund raiser for the UU- FUUN Committee.
Reserve the date on your calendar and stay tuned for more details.

Murray Grove Homecoming Box Lunch Fun(d)Raiser

For the ninth year in a row, our congregation will be providing boxed lunches during this wonderful gathering of over 100 UU's from around the region for inspiration, music, storytelling, visioning, food, and fun in celebration of Universalism.

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 historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74 off the Garden State Parkway). "Homecoming" is the annual celebration and Universalist "tent revival" honoring John Murray's arrival in New Jersey and the beginning of the Universalist movement here.

This year's Homecoming celebration features Rev. Meg Barnhouse, UU minister, storyteller, and musician leading the afternoon revival entitled "*All Fire, No Brimstone*". There will be workshops and special music offered during the event. This year a pre-homecoming concert on Friday September 25 will feature the music of Kiya Heartwood and Rev. Barnhouse. It sounds like a great program with activities all weekend. Homecoming runs from **10:00 am to 4:00 pm rain or shine**. For more information see the Murray Grove web site <http://www.murraygrove.org/>

There are several ways for you to help with our portion of the program, and you can sign up to do more than one thing. Watch for sign up sheets on Sunday or contact Karen York. Below are descriptions of the jobs:

Overall Coordinator: Karen York

Baking: We serve home-baked cookies and brownies for dessert. We need about 10 people to bake two dozen individual portions of baked goods, and arrange to get them to Murray Grove (or to a person who is going to Murray Grove). We could use someone to coordinate the collections and transport of baked goods.

Shopping: Be in charge of purchasing materials for the lunches. Lists and amounts will be provided. Costs will be reimbursed. (Time frame: one or two weeks before the event).

Advance preparation: A couple of days before the event (Wednesday Sept 23 or Thursday Sept 24), we need 3-5 people to help wash fruit and veggies in advance of the event.

Make and serve lunches: Saturday Sept. 26. We need 8-12 people to make sandwiches on Saturday morning and to help in serving the lunches and drinks.

This is a great event and it is fun to be a part of the activities for the weekend, and at the same time it raises some funds (\$500-800) for the congregation.

Don't throw out those old ink cartridges and cell phones... Donate them!

Through Planet Green Recycling Program, the Children's RE program will be collecting these items and raising funds for playground equipment. Please look for the drop boxes in the vestibule. And please place your donations in a plastic bag before dropping them in the boxes. The children thank you and the earth thanks you!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister

vacant
minister@uucsjs.org

Music Director & Sunday Service Coordinator

Barbara Miller
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Director of Religious Education & Staff Coordinator

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Board of Trustees 2009-10

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John Searight, Karen York, Karen Zindell



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September 2009

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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