



# Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 14, Issue 05

May 2012

## May Services "Memory"

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><b>May 6</b></p>	<p><b>Healthy Congregations</b> <i>Lay Leaders Jack Miller, Michelle Tomko, Lauren Porr, Barbara Miller, and Karen York</i> As we live and breathe! Time for our organizational check-up with our Healthy Congregations workshop team to reflect on the pulse of our organizational "body". Let's get to the heart of the matter and get a grip on our shared vision. Our team will introduce some of the concepts learned at the workshop and open the door to further discussion.</p>
<p><b>May 13</b></p>	<p><b>Mother Day -- Like No Other Day</b> <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> Yes, it's the Hallmark™ Holiday, but we can take the opportunity to go beyond sentimentality. It is, of course, everyone's day, but today we turn our attention to the voices of mothers.</p>
<p><b>May 20</b></p>	<p><b>Flower Communion -- The UU Celebration of Community</b> <i>Pastor Charlie Dieterich</i> Most of the year is filled with holidays from Jewish and Christian sources, but this ritual comes from Unitarian roots and is uniquely Unitarian Universalist. HOMEWORK: Look at your world and find a flower within it, it may be growing in your yard, come from a friend or be found along the road. Bring that beauty on Sunday Morning as your contribution to our bouquet. If the word "Communion" is scary, let this be an opportunity to redefine the term.</p>
<p><b>May 27</b></p>	<p><b>Let It Be</b> <i>Lay speaker Theresa McReynolds</i> Is there something you are holding onto that no longer serves you? Theresa will reflect on the wisdom of the saying, "Let It Be."</p>

**UUCSJS ANNUAL  
MEETING  
JUNE 3, 2012  
11:15 AM**

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS  
APPROVAL OF 2012-13 BUDGET  
BY-LAWS CHANGES  
VOTE TO ORDAIN PASTOR CHARLIE

## LAST CHANCE!

### BACKYARD HABITAT PLANT SWAP

Here's a reminder to pot up your extra native plants, if you haven't already done so, for our 4th Annual Native Plant Swap & Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 12. If you are a first time participant, be sure to check out information on how the swap works at our website: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)

#### Volunteer Help Needed for the 4th Annual Native Plant Swap & Sale

Our annual Native Plant Swap & Sale on Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 promotes sustainability and ways to reduce our carbon footprint. If this weren't enough, it also brings in a large number of community members, many of whom are visiting our Center for the first time. We need lots of volunteer help for this event: setting up tables, providing shade for volunteers, organizing native plants for pickup, and heirloom vegetables for sale – and the list goes on and on. Your help will be greatly appreciated! Please see the Social Justice Table for a sign-up sheet and additional details.

#### Reserve Your Organic Heirloom Vegetable 4-Packs Now

Missie Aprill is once again growing heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants for our UUCSJS sale that coincides with our native plant sale and swap. This year, Missie has planted them out in 4-packs which will provide gardeners with an inexpensive, gourmet selection. **We expect to sell out of these 4-packs quickly, so I am encouraging UUs to fill out the Organic Heirloom Vegetable Reserve Form which you will find on the Social Justice table.** We will set aside your selection for you, and you'll be able to pick them up and pay for your veggies on Friday, May 11 between 4-6 pm or on Saturday, May 12, between 9-2 pm.

### Wanted - Office Administrator

UUCSJS is currently looking for a new administrator. The qualified applicant will provide office support to staff and congregants of UUCSJS and manage the accessibility, security and upkeep of the UUCSJS facilities. If you are a self-starter with the ability to multitask, know Microsoft Office and can communicate effectively, this may be the job for you! For more details and to arrange an interview contact Joe Terrazzini. His email and phone number are in the Member Directory.

#### Do you like the Beatles?

#### Do you like dessert?

If so, save the date of Saturday, June 2 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Ask a member of the FUUN Committee for details...

## Who Says There Are No Second Chances in Life????

Auction events available in the spring!

### Beer Tasting II

Building on Richard and Cynthia Grzywinski's last year's event, enjoy a new assortment of beers and ales including "ginger beer" and homemade brews. Tasty snacks included. This will be at their home in Galloway.

Saturday, May 12, 5:30 pm

Only two spots remaining

Cost: \$20 each

### Pine Barrens Wildflower Expedition

Join Jesse and Jack Connor, searching out early wildflowers on an easy trip to the pine barrens: trailing arbutus, bearberry, starflower, dragon's mouth, and others. Bring your cameras – up close views.

Sunday, May 20, following the service – You may want to bring a bag lunch.

Cost: \$15 per adult, \$5 per child.

### Tour "Old Barney"

Bill and Peg Felix will lead you in a walking tour of Barnegat Lighthouse and prepare a tasty lunch for you at their home in North Beach, one of the communities on Long Beach Island.

Saturday morning, June 2, 10 am

Only 2 spots left.

Cost: \$25 each

**To sign up for either of these events,  
visit the signup table in the vestibule,  
Write your name(s) on the signup sheet.  
Put the envelope in the basket provided at the table.**

### Do you grow your own food?

Well if you don't, you have to visit the grocery store.



**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!

## *Pastor's Page*

### Life in the Memory Lane

The other night at the UU Center a group was talking about the past. One member was recalling a service that emphasized the need for volunteering within the congregation. The service had been incredibly inspirational to them, though they could not remember who had led the service.

"I think it was one of Jack's," said someone else. "No, I remember that one -- this was one where there was lots of silence," came the reply.

Now Jack (Miller) was at the table that night, and having heard him speak, I know that he can be plenty inspirational and creative, so I hope he didn't take offense. And all these events happened before I arrived, so I don't actually know what they were talking about. But as I listened, I noticed HOW the conversation was going, rather than the facts of what was said. The group was in an altered state, reliving Sundays long gone...

Our congregation is growing up. In the first few years, I suspect, conversations never began with "Remember when...?" but now, for some of us, our love for this place is tied to both possibility and memory. We come, we help, we inspire each other because of what the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore has done for us, as well as in expectation of the future. The conversation about Volunteer Sunday sounded a bit like a group of siblings who had come home for the holidays, remembering events of their childhood.

In his hymn "As Tranquil Streams," Unitarian minister Marion Ham speaks of our faith as one that "...reveres the past, but trusts the dawning future more" and urges us to "adventure boldly and explore." Yes, it's a cheap rhyme, but it also frames my own "ecclesiology" (theory of what a church should be) quite accurately. Our memory is our strength, and a source of comfort and love. It is also the basis for future exploration, just as individuals come into adulthood with the accumulated experiences of childhood and youth knowing that their future is free to go beyond the bounds of the past.

This month Unitarians and Universalists celebrate our twin traditions. One celebration is the Universalist Convocation, held at Murray Grove, NJ (Parkway Exit 74) on the 18-20th of May. This national celebration will both honor the past and focus on the future ([murraygrove.org](http://murraygrove.org)). The second celebration will take place right here in Galloway, also on May 20th. That is

the date we selected for our Flower Communion, the "high holy day" of the Unitarian Universalist year.

The Flower Communion ritual is adapted from a Unitarian martyr -- yes, there have been martyrs in our past. Rev. Norbert Capek (CHA-pek) died in a concentration camp in 1942. He had founded the Unitarian movement in Czechoslovakia, and was that denomination's leader even after the Nazi takeover.

Rev. Capek, and his wife Rev. Maja (MY-a) Capek, developed the flower communion at the Prague church. Congregants (this means you!) were asked to bring a flower to the service. It could be one they grew, begged from a neighbor or found on the roadside. These were gathered in a large vase in the vestibule before the service. Then, during the service the flowers were brought in and consecrated as a symbol of shared community. These flowers were then distributed after the service as a reminder of the gifts received from community.

Over the years the ritual has been adapted for different congregation sizes and styles, but the understanding of "Communion" or sharing remains. It is a ritual of sorrow, remembering those who have died for religious liberty and a ritual of hope, as we turn our attention to the blessings we have today, and the possibilities of the future.

Memory is the theme for our services in May, and our Sunday programs reflect memory. In addition to the Flower Communion, the Healthy Congregations team will reflect on recent district-sponsored training, and mothers will come out from behind the greeting cards and speak! Then, on Memorial Day Sunday, Theresa McReynolds will lead a service called "Let it Be."

May this month be full of beauty, full of blessed memories and full of hope.

Pastor Charlie

**Pastor Charlie has regular office hours  
from 10 am to 2 pm Wednesdays  
at the UU Center.**

Feel free to call the office for a half hour appointment (he has his own mailbox on the answering machine), or send him a note at [minister@uucsjs.org](mailto:minister@uucsjs.org).

**Pastor Charlie to become  
the Reverend Dieterich...**

See page 6 for more information.



## ***The Paw Print***

*Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates*

Last month April showered animal lovers with many opportunities to exhibit the courage of their convictions. *SJAA* members seized every opportunity. We managed to again get letters printed in the Press of Atlantic City in protest of both the circus and the rodeo held in Atlantic City at Boardwalk Hall. The rodeo protest went well in spite of rodeo security using intimidation tactics. Plus, a total of 27 people including *PETA* members turned out to protest the circus. We even were blessed by vacationing Peter Bethune of Animal Planet's *Whale Wars* who offered words of encouragement to protesters on the line.

During the month of May, *SJAA* will be collecting donations for the Humane Society of Ocean City. *HSOC* is a private, non-profit organization that serves Ocean City and surrounding communities with a no-kill shelter, veterinary medical center, affordable spay & neuter clinic and humane educational center. Their mission is to provide a compassionate and healthy environment for the animals in their care until they can be adopted. *HSOC* also strives to reduce the suffering caused by pet overpopulation and animal cruelty. You can help the Humane Society of Ocean City by donating cat food, cat litter, dry dog food, leashes, bleach, *Dawn* dish soap, paper towels, 33 gallon trash bags, 13 gallon tall kitchen bags, 6-inch paper plates, Q-tips, sponges and towels. For a complete list of items needed or to find other ways to help, visit <http://www.hsocnj.org>.

We in *SJAA* hope that the congregation continue to notice our efforts and continue to help. At this juncture in our community, *SJAA* is the most active and outspoken community outreach. We realize it is a challenge to commit to activities "off the reservation" of *UUCSJS*. But, we cannot live our principles in a vacuum either. So get out there! And thank you for your continued donations and support.

P.S. We need a banner! It's time to add some gravitas to our protest line. Does anyone know of a place to get this donated or done with a limited budget? Thanks.

***All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.*** -- EDMUND BURKE

***Nature's great masterpiece, an elephant; the only harmless great thing.*** -- JOHN DONNE



**"(A)n exhilarating book of spells ...**

**This is history to be savored."**

— Stacy Schiff, *The NYT Book Review*

## **Book Group Crosses the Atlantic to Paris for *The Greater Journey***

As David McCullough writes, "Not all pioneers went west." In *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*, he tells the enthralling—and until now, untold—story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, and others who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900. What these hundreds of voyagers experienced and what they achieved, McCullough maintains, would profoundly alter American history.

On **Friday, May 18 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library**, join other book lovers as we envision ourselves "risking the hazardous journey across the Atlantic, ... embarked on a greater journey in the City of Light." Among the Americans brought almost-to-life are James Fenimore Cooper, Samuel F.B. Morse, Oliver Wendell Holmes, George P.A. Healy, Elizabeth Blackwell, Elihu Washburne, Charles Sumner, Emma Willard, and more. McCullough shows how Paris affected each in turn, and how they helped shape American art, medicine, writing, science, and politics in profound ways when they came back to the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Writers Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Henry James were all "discovering" the City of Light, McCullough tells us, marveling at the treasures in the Louvre and strolling along the boulevards. The population of Paris then stood at 800,000, while New York was 200,000 and Washington, DC, 25,000. Painters Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent, and sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens flourished, inspired by the French masters and by Paris itself.

McCullough's histories have always managed to combine meticulous research with sheer enthusiasm for his subjects, and it's hard not to come away with a sense that you've learned something new and important about whatever he's tackled.<sup>2</sup> *The Greater Journey* is a dazzling and kaleidoscopic foray into American history by one of its greatest living chroniclers.<sup>3</sup>

Our selection for June, *To a Mountain in Tibet* by Colin Thubron, is a memoir of discovery and loss, chronicling the author's journey to the holiest mountain on earth, the solitary peak of Kailas in modern-day Tibet. To Buddhists and Hindus, it is the mystic heart of the world and an ancient site of pilgrimage. It has never been climbed. Penny Harter will guide us in contemplating this vivid and powerful more-than-travelogue.

At the June 15 meeting we also will choose ten new selections for next year. Please email your ideas to Judy Pereira so we can put together a wish list ahead of time. Book lovers will then break for two months and return in September.

Everybody is invited to book group, no sign-up necessary. Plan to attend as often as you can on the third Friday of the month, September through June. For more information or to get reminders, see Judy Pereira. Hope to see you on Friday, June 15. Bring a light snack to share, if you wish.

<sup>1</sup>Darryl Campbell, reviewing hardcover edition (2011) (amazon.com)  
<sup>2,3</sup>Ibid.

*Explore...*

*Discover...*

*Relax...*

*Reflect...*

*Share...*

*Play!*

## **Murray Grove Annual Gathering and Overnight: Two Nights!! -- June 15- 17**

Each year members of our congregation get together for a cookout and gathering at the Murray Grove historical site and retreat center located in Lanoka Harbor, NJ (Exit 74 off the Garden State Parkway). This year's gathering will be Friday June 15 to Sunday June 17 -- Two Nights. Murray Grove is an important historical site in our Universalism heritage with a history dating back to the 1700's. We are fortunate to be located so close to this special place and this gathering is an opportunity to relax, get to know one another better, and explore our Universalist roots.

Friday night there will be cookout/potluck dinner and campfire. Saturday we often have a nature/bird walk, some intergenerational games, and Sunday will include a visit to the Thomas Potter Memorial chapel. There is also a labyrinth to enjoy, and their newly upgraded saltwater swimming pool is available (weather permitting). Everyone is invited and kids especially enjoy the event.

Overnight accommodations are dormitory style housing with two twin beds per room and shared bathrooms. We have 22 beds available if you want to stay overnight. The congregation will purchase food for breakfast and lunch. To offset expenses, we are requesting a donation of \$20 for adults/night or \$10 for kids/ night or \$40/ adult for the weekend. A donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted, and please do not let the cost keep you at home. If you can't join us for the full weekend please consider coming up on Friday for the cookout, or Saturday for a portion of the day (\$10 fee for day use).

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

## **Annual Stewardship Campaign**

### **Sooooo Close....**

We are nearing the end of our 2012-2013 annual stewardship campaign. With a majority of the congregation canvassed, we have pledges totaling \$152,000. That's a great start and continues to demonstrate the generosity and commitment of our congregation, but it is also \$6,000 short of our goal of \$158,000.

Our budget this year has been increased by 18% in order to provide staff with compensation and benefits that are closer to the fair compensation guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association. And we intend to increase the time of Pastor Charlie Dieterich to help us strengthen our outreach and impact in the local community.

The Finance Committee has recommended to the Board that we "stay the course" and move forward with the budget as planned. The budget process at UUCSJS is one of our greatest demonstrations of faith. We propose a budget, it goes back and forth between the Board and Finance Committee (we just finished version 5) and then we ask the congregation to pledge their support for the budget. Without everyone's generous pledges we would not be able to develop a financial roadmap for the coming year, making commitments on several levels impossible.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this year's annual campaign a success; it takes many people working hard to make it happen. Its not easy asking congregants for money and our society in general avoids the subject. The task is made easier thanks to the strength of our congregation's commitment to this community. It is one of the many ways that, when I'm in despair about the state of humanity, my optimism is renewed and my faith restored by this group; thank you all for that.

In Fellowship,  
Paul Utts  
Stewardship Chair

Money, which represents the prose of life,  
and which is hardly spoken of in parlors without an apology,  
is, in its effects and laws, as beautiful as roses.  
*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The use of money is all the advantage there is in having money.  
*- Benjamin Franklin*

Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons.  
*- Woody Allen*

Why is there so much month left at the end of the money?  
*- John Barrymore*

# Save the Date!

## Sunday, September 30, 2012

Join us for the **Ordination of Charlie Dieterich**  
at the U.U. Congregation of the South Jersey Shore,  
in Galloway Township, New Jersey  
(near Atlantic City)



### Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS April 2012

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 6:30 pm in the UU Center Lounge, President Jim Gentile presiding. The meeting opened with VP Debbi Dagavarian's reading the April chalice lighting words from the Unitarian Church of South Africa, followed by the opportunity for sharing joys and concerns.

• **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chair and Board member John Searight distributed his "UUCSJS Fund Balances 4-17-12," pointing out the checking account balance was rather low and funds had been transferred earlier that day. Reserve Funds were up some \$1,500, he added, and Fidelity Investments (two cash funds) were about the same, as usual. The chairman summed up by saying, "We're doing okay, but barely."

Concerning the annual campaign, stewards are busy gathering in the remaining pledge cards. We have achieved nearly 93% of our goal, Searight said, having received pledges of \$146,727 against a goal of \$158,000, leaving \$11,273 still to go.

• **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Prim Reeves submitted the "Financial Report for March 2012," reporting that income for the month was \$1,600 *better than* budget, and expenses \$468 over budget. (With two full months left in this fiscal year, year-to-date income is \$4,000 under budget, and expenses, \$4,100 under budget.) "It's tight, but we're making it," she said, advising us to support the plant sale fundraiser in early May and caution committee chairs to watch expenditures carefully.

As of early April we ended our association with Brite Idea Energy as broker for our Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs), Reeves reported, and plan to form a relationship with a new entity that will be more financially beneficial.

• **Minister's Report**

Pastor Dieterich said that since his written report to the Board, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) at UUA headquarters in Boston reported receiving certification of completion for his last course requirement. "You're done," they said, to which he answered, "No, I'm not!" So said because

there are two more years of evaluations and renewals still to go before achieving "Final Fellowship." (At this level of Preliminary Fellowship, however, he gets to walk across the stage at June's General Assembly (GA) in Phoenix and his name published in July's *UUWorld* magazine.) Charlie reported he registered for GA (June 20-24) and ministers' days held before, and plans to stay in Arizona State University student housing.

He was in Lincroft on April 14 for the meeting of the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ (UULMNJ), casting two votes and attending workshops on two new initiatives – Education, and Equal Access to Marriage. On Saturday night he attended a dance honoring the Reverend Charles J. Stevens of the UU Church at Washington Crossing, followed on April 15 by an afternoon program celebrating Stevens' 15 years of service. Charlie attended "Youth Sunday" at the UU Congregation of Princeton that Sunday morning. Also away April 21-22, he's then back home and apartment hunting – mid-May is moving time!

Summing up, Charlie said a big thing on his mind is starting to look at goals for next year. He's also deep in books by John Muir to prepare for the "auction offer sermon" won/chosen by Bud Smith. He plans to take part in the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) July 15-21 in Radford, Virginia.

Finally, the Ordination Committee is up and running, headed by Prim Reeves. **Pastor Charlie's ordination is set for Sunday, September 30, 2012, here at the UUCSJS Center.** The committee envisions the event as a celebration for us all, showcasing our congregation and demonstrating just how to throw a party at the South Jersey Shore!

• **Annual Meeting**

– **Notice:** The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 11:15 am, immediately following the Sunday Service. Notices will go out 30 days in advance by special mailing (electronic, whenever possible), and be placed in the newsletter and Midweeks by the Board secretary.

– **Agenda:** The agenda will include 1) election of the Board of Trustees, 2) approval of the budget for the coming fiscal year, 3) approval of the UUCSJS Bylaws as revised by subcommittee, 4) election of the Nominations Committee, 5) election of the Committee on Ministry, 6) congregational vote to ordain Charles B. Dieterich, 7) election of representatives to the UUA General Assembly (GA), and 8) additional items from the floor, if any.

– **Annual Report:** The Board secretary will assemble year-end staff and committee reports and other messages and prepare the Annual Report for 2011-12, to be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm, and reconvened immediately in Executive Session for a further half-hour.

– Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 6:30 pm** at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd.

### UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2011-2012

Jim Gentile (12), President  
Debbi Dagavarian (12), Vice President  
Judy Pereira (13), Secretary  
Primrose Reeves (12), Treasurer  
John Searight (13), Member at Large  
Joe Terrazzini (12), Member at Large  
Art Wexler (13), Member at Large

### **UUCSJS a local leader in the "99% Spring" Campaign**

Last month, UUCSJS participated in the 99% Spring Movement (an outgrowth of Occupy Wall Street). On April 11, in our UU Center Sanctuary, we hosted a 3-hour training session for peaceful, nonviolent direct action, as did many other UU congregations around the US. Five members or friends of our congregation and 25 individuals from our community attended. We concluded by choosing a one-day protest demonstration outside of the Wells Fargo branch office in Linwood, New Jersey to draw attention to the individuals and families who have been hurt by the recession and foreclosures caused, in very large part, by the actions of mortgage bankers, particularly Wells Fargo. The day chosen was Monday, April 23, 2012, the day preceding the annual Wells Fargo Shareholder meeting in San Francisco, California.

A core group met again in our sanctuary on April 18 to finalize plans and individual schedules. The demonstration went off perfectly with as many as 12 people posted outside of the bank for the full day. We provided a handout describing Wells Fargo's practices and encouraged depositors to "Move Your Money" into local community banks, savings and loans, and credit unions, for which we provided a list.

A similar protest is planned for May 9 at the Bank of America in Absecon.

### **WEDNESDAY MORNING TASKS TEAM 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAYS, 9:30-11:30 am**

Here's an opportunity to help out at UU on a regular basis - or occasionally when your schedule allows. Barbara Miller and I will be volunteering at the Center from 9:30-11:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. We'd love to have you join us for outside work: weeding, dead-heading, watering, pruning, and attending to other light chores. In inclement weather we'll switch to inside work: cleaning, straightening, organizing, and similar types of light housework.

There is always a daunting list of things that need to be tended to at our Center - just as at our homes. Unlike weeding or vacuuming by myself at home, I have found that volunteering towards easily-accomplished, shared goals is a terrific way to deepen friendships with fellow UUs. I hope you'll consider joining us on a regular - or occasional - basis.

Also, for those of you who can work or stay until noon, there's the opportunity of joining Pastor Charlie for lunch on the deck!

Jesse Connor

## **Children's Religious Education**

Last month our RE families spent a Sunday afternoon sprucing up the downstairs areas; because of them our classrooms, lounge, toddler room, bathrooms and stairwells are all clean and neat! Thank you so much to the parents and kids that gave their time to help maintain our RE and community spaces!

Our Coming of Age class is nearing the end of their COA journey. At the end of April, the class will provide a congregational service by dedicating a class period to helping Jesse Connor prepare some items for the Plant Swap fund raiser. In May, the group will begin to plan their end-of-year service with Melissa Hutchison. Please plan to join the class at the Sunday Service on June 10 as they celebrate the milestone of COA graduation!

The children's RE committee is currently planning our annual congregational gathering at Murray Grove, which will take place this year from June 15-17. Our kids always enjoy this event, but it isn't exclusively for families - members are invited to spend this relaxed weekend with UUCSJS friends. For more information, see the notice in this newsletter, or contact me at [sjsdre@gmail.com](mailto:sjsdre@gmail.com). Later in the summer, Murray Grove is offering its first week-long camp for UU kids in grades 3-6. See me for a brochure if you know a UU child who would like to attend.

As you may have noticed on Sunday mornings, we have some future RE students (also known as "babies") attending regularly. If you are willing to spend some time with these little ones in the toddler room during the service, your help would be most appreciated. Please see me to sign up for a Sunday when you would be available to support our young families by providing this important service.

-- Heidi Janssch  
Director of Religious Education

### **UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings**

#### **Margaret Fuller Circle - Thursday, May 3, 1 pm**

For our meeting on May 3 at 1:00 pm in the UU Center Library, Peg Felix is going to escort us in a review from her trip to France. Since she will only be returning the day before she presents her perspective on her trip, I'm sure it will still reflect the enthusiasm and clarity of her visit. Kathryn Kelley will serve refreshments during our break, following the sharing of our personal month's journeys and a short business meeting.

All women in the congregation are welcome to join us for an interesting trip to France and discussion that evolves from it.  
--Arlene Yacka, Circle Leader

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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Pastor Charlie Dieterich

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**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

**May 2012**

**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of the South Jersey Shore  
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