



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 17, Issue 09

September 2015

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>Singing Our Sources <i>Lay speaker Barbara Miller, UUCSJS Music Director</i> Most Unitarian Universalists are aware of our Seven Principles. For many of us, the Principles are what first drew us to this faith. On the first Sunday in September we will explore the lesser known Six Sources of our living tradition through songs in <i>Singing the Journey</i>, affectionately known as the “teal hymnal.”</p>
<p>September 13</p>	<p>Water Gathering <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> The annual water "communion" is a ritual held each fall, in which UUCSJS members bring a small vial of water, collected during summer outings or travels, to pour into a shared container. Always a joyful, musical, and delightful time of re-connecting.</p>
<p>September 20</p>	<p>The Search <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain and the Ministerial Search Committee</i> Rev. Cain and the "MSC" (Ministerial Search Committee) will present a service that helps you understand the nature of ministry, the different kinds of ministers, and the process of selecting one, so that as you travel through this year of change, you can be an informed and engaged participant.</p>
<p>September 27</p>	<p>The Turning <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i> <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> will have just passed, but at this time of year, in the Jewish calendar, these are the High Holy Days. The time of turning, the act of forgiveness, and the renewal of vows are some of the most valuable, and most difficult practices we undertake in life. And yet, if we are to go forward, we are obligated to do them.</p>



SAVE THE DATE:
UUCSJS 11th Annual Service Auction!
Saturday, November 7, 2015

Anti-Racism Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2015
6:30 pm at the UU Center

Even if you haven't attended a meeting yet, please feel to join us!

Book Lovers Group

UUCSJS BOOK LOVERS GROUP will have our first meeting on Friday, September 18 at 7 pm at the UU Center. The selection for September is *THE BOYS IN THE BOAT: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*, by Daniel James Brown. "... out of the depths of the Depression comes an irresistible story of beating the odds and finding hope..." Nancy Brail will be leading our discussion. All are welcome!!!

Margaret Circle

Our next MARGARET CIRCLE will be Thursday, September 3. Please plan to meet in the library of the UU center promptly at 1 pm. After we share Joys and Concerns, there will be a short business session, followed by the food delights of host Kathryn Kelley.

Betsy Searight will present an article from Huffington Post and blog writer John Metta, titled "I, Racist." Betsy asked that those planning to attend read the article ahead, as we prepare to engage in a healthy discussion on the topic and issues presented by Metta.

You can obtain a paper copy of the article through Betsy on Sunday or by emailing Shelee McIlvaine. Come and join others in the Spirit of Loving-kindness

What's in the back of your closet?

Do you have more shoes than you wear?

A bin is in the UU Center foyer collecting new or gently used shoes for all ages in need by the less fortunate people in our area.

Please bring them any Sunday and drop them off. Much appreciation for supporting our efforts.



What's new with Family Promise of Atlantic County?

Soup-a-thon September 27

You've seen our ads for the Soup Sale coming soon, and if that's anywhere near as successful as our last one, it'll bring in some cash for Family Promise of Atlantic County.

Leading the Soup Sale once again is our expert fundraiser, **Colby Tippins**.

As some of you know, **Prim Reeves** has chaired the UUCSJS Family Promise Team since its inception, but is now stepping down. Prim brought us through the difficult early stages, and we value all that she has done these past two years to make Family Promise of Atlantic County viable.

Stepping into the role of team leader now is **Debbi Dagavarian**.

Our fundraising efforts continue. Again this year, we will raise funds for Family Promise of Atlantic County through **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends 25% off Shopping Pass**. Coupons cost only **\$5.00** each and the special shopping day at Boscov's is **Tuesday, October 20, 2015**.

Family Promise of Atlantic County will also hold a **wine tasting** again at the **Noyes Museum** this fall, and we have other exciting plans in the works, too.

Anyone interested in joining us for UUCSJS Family Promise Team meetings, please do! We meet every 2nd Monday of the month from 6:30-8:00 pm at the UU Center.

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!

FORCYNTHIA & From CYNTHIA

Reflections by Rev. Cynthia Cain

THREE LITTLE WORDS

I perform a lot of weddings. Part of the task, in preparing the couples beforehand, is to get them to contemplate what it means to say, “I do,” and “I love you,” and “With this ring,” and, “I thee wed.”

Such short phrases, and yet.... Worlds implied. Foundations upon which to build a relationship, create a family, and promises, commitments, that are going to take enormous reserves of courage, loyalty, strength, honesty, and perseverance.

So it is with the three words that we have decided to post outside our UU Center: BLACK LIVES MATTER.

These are not just words that denote a particular movement, or words that are being used to antagonize or instigate. While detractors would claim that they are, that their sole purpose is to divide, to undermine law enforcement, and to racialize things that are not based in racism, every shred of evidence from community studies over the last 50 years, to the recent Department of Justice findings, will underscore the truth that these three words need to be lifted up. Why do they make people so furious?

As I write, the National Democratic Party has decided to sign on to the Black Lives Matter platform: http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/dnc-passes-resolution-supporting-black-lives-matter?cid=sm_tw_msnbc

A town in Massachusetts has posted a “Black Lives Matter” banner on their City Hall and the mayor explains why:

<http://commonwealthmagazine.org/opinion/black-lives-matter-more-than-a-slogan/>

Indeed, this town did something we did NOT do. They put up a banner that says “#BlackLivesMatter,” which identifies them even more narrowly with the movement itself. While we do support the movement, we chose to simply put the words on our sign. Black Lives Matter. For me, to read those words every day, over and over, like a mantra (because they are also on my wristband), is a spiritual exercise. If I believe

Black Lives Matter, then what will I do differently today? Will I spend my time, my money, my talent, my energy, differently? In many cases, the answer has been yes. Yes, I will. It’s a kind of self-education and examination, an awakening to a new world and a new way of seeing to something to which I have been blind.

The mayor of Somerville, MA wrote this: “This is a movement of awakening and clarity. It is asking us to be leaders within our families and our communities. It is asking us to remember our history and clearly see our present, and most urgently to shape a fair and equal future. This banner is an acknowledgement of our reality. It is our commitment to real change.” I encourage you to read his editorial.

This is the kind of clarity UUs and progressive people of faith must project, among ourselves and out into the community.

I heard a beautiful thing today. At a meeting in Egg Harbor Township hosted by the NAACP, the Atlantic County Prosecutor Jim McClain spoke to the question of Black Lives Matter. He said he has pondered this deeply, and read about it from both sides. 100 gold stars right there! And he realized that maybe the statement needs more words for some people. Maybe they need it to say: “Black Lives Matter... because they haven’t mattered as much as they should up to now.”

An audible sigh went through the room. And then, *applause*. All except the 3 white women, obviously spouses of the officers on the panel. The mostly-Black audience felt acknowledged by a very-privileged, powerful, and knowledgeable man in the community.

And yet, people attack us for putting this on a sign. Signs have been destroyed, defaced, and stolen all over the country. In New Mexico, the word “White” was spray painted over “Black” so the sign read, “White Lives Matter.” You and I both know this is the world we are living in. Is that acceptable?

Three little words. How can you say they aren’t true?

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

Children's RE Classes begin Sunday, September 20

This year, we will have three Children's Religious Education classes each Sunday. See below for a brief description of the age groups and topics for each class, and feel free to contact Heidi Jansch, DRE at sjsdre@gmail.com for more information or with any questions.

SpiritPlay Pre-K - 1st Grades

SpiritPlay is a storytelling religious education program. During each class, the storyteller relates a story while presenting visual cues (small objects or pictures) to the children as a way to help the children remember the story.

Windows and Mirrors 2nd-6th Grades

Windows and Mirrors nurtures children's ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about and respect those of others. The program teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's viewpoint matters.

D'Oh God! and The Fifth Dimension Grades 7 and Up

The animated show *The Simpsons* is unique in that its characters are often seen attending church. *D'oh, God!* uses episodes of *The Simpsons* as the basis for in-depth discussions of a wide variety of religious topics.

The Twilight Zone tackled a diversity of social issues and political statements not seen in shows of its time. *The Fifth Dimension* uses episodes of *The Twilight Zone* as the basis for in-depth discussions of a wide variety of topics.

Heidi Jansch
Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education



Bob Gillies Memorial Celebration Saturday, Sept. 12, 11 am *Opportunity to Participate*

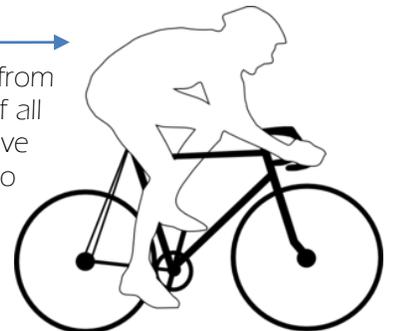
Our congregation has the opportunity to honor our beloved members, Peg and Bob Gillies by providing a luncheon following the Memorial Service at the UU Center on Saturday, September 12.

There will be a food signup sheet on the two Sundays prior (August 30 and September 6), to see that our food categories are all adequately covered. We will simplify the luncheon a bit by limiting our menu to **sandwiches, cold salads/side dishes, and desserts**. The signup sheets will be in the lobby. If you need to, or prefer, contact either Carolynn Baum or Betsy Searight with your selection.

With the Gillies family and friends, and our congregation, we are expecting a large gathering. We will set up the food in the lobby, desserts in the library. Folks may take their lunch back into the sanctuary, or may go outside to sit at our tables which will be set up in the shade.

We expect that this occasion will be a large outpouring of love, respect, and gratitude to Bob and Peg. Thank you for your participation.

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"We must not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we began and to know the place for the first time."
~ T. S. Eliot



WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL

By Heidi Jansch

Aside from the paid staff position of the Director of Religious Education, the UUCSJS Children's Religious Education program is staffed entirely by **VOLUNTEERS** who support our congregation each and every Sunday by sharing their time and talents with our youth. These volunteers serve us as members of our Children's RE Committee, classroom teachers or assistants, Toddler Room supervisors, and Summer Session leaders.

Our Children's RE Committee meets monthly with the DRE to support and assist with the RE program, provide suggestions, and address concerns. Members of the CRE Committee are **Betsy Erbaugh, Paul Utts, Ronda Cluff, Colby Tippins, Karen York, Kelli Flores, Jessica Dunn, and Katy Cardwell**. Special thanks to Betsy Erbaugh, who has served as the CRE Committee Chair for the past year, and Jessica Dunn who has recently stepped up to take on this role for the upcoming year.

Our Teachers for the 2014-2015 school year included **Karen York, Jessica Dunn, TJ Jansch, Mariann Maene, Neil Hutchison, Kelli Flores, Michael Cluff, Bud Smith, Betsy Erbaugh, Paul Utts and Melissa Hutchison**. Each one brought heart and soul to our classes as they shared their time and made meaningful connections with our youth.

Class Assistants help serve as teacher's helpers, help us adhere to our safe congregation policy and add a fresh perspective to the lessons. Members of UUCSJS are welcome to assist when able and willing, and much appreciated when they donate their Sunday to RE. *Thank you to all those who help when asked!* Several of our

members make a commitment to sign up early and often to assist in RE and deserve special recognition: **Margaret Rea, Dana Dyuk, Ronda Cluff, and Abbie Smith**. **Colby Tippins** assists often and is our resident party planner for our fall and spring celebrations. **Meredith Massey** and **Olivia Smith** were ever-present in the toddler room last year, welcoming some of our youngest members, and often being first to meet visiting young families.

Our RE school year concludes in June but the summer months are always fun-filled for the kids at UUCSJS thanks to our *Summer Session Leaders*. In the summer months, a whole new group of volunteers share their Sundays with our youth, each leading an all-ages activity during our lesson time. This summer we were delighted to welcome **Pam Hendrick, Jesse Connor, Mariann Maene, Jessica Dunn, Colby Tippins, Debbi Dagavarian, TJ Jansch, Michelle Tomko, Bud Smith, Karen York, Karen Zindell, and Barbara Miller**. Each of these wonderful folks shared their time and talents with the kids, and we look forward to welcoming you back again in the upcoming year!



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS August 2015

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Art Wexler presiding. After lighting the chalice, joys and concerns were shared.

• Announcements

—The next **Board Talk Back** will be held Sunday, September 13 at 11:15 am in a downstairs classroom.

• Updates/Follow-Up

—**Leadership Changes re Family Promise (FP)**. The president welcomed Prim Reeves, retiring chair of the FP team, to discuss what lies ahead for this important committee. UUCSJS may need to be ready to host homeless families “in six months or less,” Prim said, in answer to where things stand right now. (UUCSJS is one of 13 congregations committed to Family Promise of Atlantic County, which started organizing some two years ago. The congregation approved our own participation at the Annual Meeting in June 2014.)

After discussion, the Board recommended that several possibilities for new and emerging leadership be considered, including additional recruitment; the sense of the Board was that the organization and responsibilities of FP are likely to change significantly as we begin actually hosting families.

—**New Web Developments**. The president then welcomed Mariann Maene, who together with Board vice president and “Tech Team” fellow, Jon Luoma, presented an overview of where things stand with respect to revamping the UUCSJS website. In discussion, the technical and substantive aspects of maintaining the website were clearly distinguished; recent progress has slowed through lack of up-to-date content. Luoma agreed to request new material as needed to update the website in advance of its relaunch, supported by WordPress, as soon as the new UUA template becomes available, if not sooner. [FYI: trial UUCSJS website at <http://main.uucsjs.org/> -jgp]

• Reports

1) **Treasurer’s Report**. Treasurer Karen York distributed her written report for August 2015 showing account balances (as of 07/30/15) as follows: TD Bank Checking/Operating: \$16,667.61; TD Bank Designated: \$458.47 (of that, \$208.47 Margaret’s Circle); TD Bank Reserve (Capital): \$8,886.15; and Fidelity Investments Reserve (Capital): \$1,793.40. [Total Reserve: \$2,669.55 (minus \$8,000 to repay internal loans). *Total of all accounts: \$27,805.63.*

The treasurer noted: a) CC3 donations will be applied first to paying off internal bridge loans and then to additional principal payments; b) \$1,500 to be transferred to Fidelity Reserve, when available; and c) new minimum balance to maintain in TD Reserve will be \$1,500.

—*A motion that the Board authorize the reallocation of \$1,374.02 from Minister Benefits (Health Care) to Professional Expenses, in order to reimburse Rev. Cynthia Cain for expenses related to attendance at UUA General Assembly [June 24-28 in Portland, OR], was adopted unanimously by those present.*

(This action was taken because \$387.25/month budgeted for health care expenses were not disbursed during the first four and a half months of Rev. Cain’s ministry.)

—*A motion that the Board approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented by Treasurer York was adopted unanimously by those present.* [The treasurer’s complete written report(s) may be found in the “Members Only” section of our website at <http://members.uucsjs.org/board-agendas-minutes/>.]

2) **Minister’s Report**. There was no written report this month due to Rev. Cain’s absence on study leave and vacation. Having returned August 8, she asked Board members to sign up

to deliver words of welcome and receive the offering on upcoming Sundays when she is in the pulpit, as agreed at last month’s meeting. She announced that a recognition dinner for those who increased their pledges or pledged for the first time will be held Saturday, August 22 by members of the staff. And also, arrangements are in progress for displaying the “Black Lives Matter” banner at UUCSJS on Sunday, August 23 at 2:30 pm; members of the Anti-Racism Task Force have been available on Sundays to meet with congregants to discuss the action.

3) **Staff & Committee Reports**. The secretary reported that there were no reports this month other than from Music Director Barbara Miller, and Heidi Jannsch, Director of RE; for now, the paucity of reports is being attributed by the Board to “dog days of summer.”

• Discussion/Action Items

—**Bylaws Language re Ad Hoc Committee Chairs**. It was brought to the Board’s attention by Prim Reeves, former Chair, UU Family Promise Team, that our Bylaws fail to stipulate that the chair of an Ad Hoc or Temporary Committee must be a member of the congregation, as is made clear for Standing and Congregational committees. Reeves requested the Board’s opinion on this matter.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board “that the chair of an Ad Hoc or Temporary Committee shall be an active member of the congregation.” The Board concluded that this section of the Bylaws [Section 8.1 b)] should be revised at the earliest opportunity, but that calling a special meeting for this purpose alone was unwarranted.

—**Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Budgeting**. The amount of \$5,000 was approved in the FY 15-16 budget for “Ministerial Search & Settlement,” an estimate based on a \$7,600 figure suggested by our MSR, Rev. Don Garrett, in the 19-page document provided in March entitled, *Board Responsibilities in the Ministerial Transition Process*. The MSC seeks clarification on budgeting.

After discussion, the Board concluded: a) the MSC itself determines how the budget is allocated; b) the Board regards the amount approved in the budget as an estimate; and c) the Board looks forward to the opportunity to meet with Jim Gentile, MSC Chair and Board liaison to discuss this or any other matter.

—**Peace Pilgrim Collection Request**. Congregant Doug Dickinson requested a Sunday collection in honor of Peace Pilgrim [Mildred Norman; 1908-1981] and the 8th Annual Pilgrim Celebration, September 19 & 20, Egg Harbor City.

—*A motion that the Board approve a Second Collection to benefit Friends of Peace Pilgrim, a 501(c)(3) organization, date to be determined, was adopted unanimously by those present.*

• New Business

—**Website & Social Media Task Force**. With the support of Vice President Luoma, speaking on behalf of the informal “Tech Team,” the Board established a new committee to handle some of the tasks formerly under “Communications.”

—*A motion that the Board form a new Ad Hoc Committee to be called Website & Social Media Task Force, for the purposes of developing, implementing, and administering the UUCSJS website and any other UUCSJS interfaces with social media, to include design and technical aspects as well as obtaining content and other material as necessary, was adopted unanimously.*

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

— Judy Pereira, Secretary

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on **Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 6:30 pm** in the Lounge at the UU Center, 75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

Five ways to support BLACK LIVES MATTER

Many Unitarian Universalists want to support the Black Lives Matter movement. Here are five ways to get started.

KENNY WILEY, UUWORLD.ORG

In this time of renewed attention and energy toward racial justice work, there exists in UU spaces tremendous excitement — but also caution and fear. Here are five ways UUs can engage with Black Lives Matter:

1. Learn

Many UUs come to racial justice conversations with good intentions but a lack of information about the realities of racial inequality and injustice as it exists today in their own communities. Get up to speed by following publications that cover Black Lives Matter and other racial justice movements, such as *Colorlines*, *The Root*, and *Black Voices* from the *Huffington Post*. White UUs need to talk with each other about whiteness, white supremacy, and “white fragility.” Not all UUs are white, of course, but I am often asked whether mostly white congregations can do racial justice work. Yes, they can!

2. Connect

UUs need to connect to and embrace the BLM movement as it exists today. Today’s movement does not look like the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s, during which older black men (many of whom were clergy) got most of the credit and controlled the messaging and strategy.

3. Support

Protests need food and water. Movements cost money. Events need setup and takedown help, and meetings need physical spaces. After connecting with local leaders, offering assistance can be a great way to show solidarity.

4. Engage

Make it known you are a part of this movement. Post about it on Facebook. Buy a yard sign or bumper sticker, even though it might get stolen. Go to protests or community meetings —they’re usually just a Twitter or Facebook search away. Sacrifice part of your week to let your commitment to this work be visible.

5. Stay Woke

The term “stay woke” is used on social media by people who continue pointing to the ever-growing list of victims of state violence, racial profiling, or other racial injustices. Unitarian Universalists, too, can “stay woke” by continuing to grapple with the magnitude of the work ahead, and by refusing to succumb to the temptation to ignore the racial realities of our country.

It is imperative, whatever our level of education or our privileges, that none of us looks away. If we are to live up to our First Principle, and truly honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person, then we must proclaim, with words and deeds, that black lives matter.



What Can YOU Donate?

11th Annual UUCSJS Service Auction

Services: raking leaves, guitar lessons, repair work around the house, surfing experiences, ride to and from the airport, housecleaning, babysitting, therapeutic massage . . .

Dinners/Events: fondue party, kayaking, ethnic dinner, beer tasting, nature excursion, make your own pizza party, murder mystery party, vegan dinner . . .

Items: kitchen tools, funky clothes, home decor, theatre gift certificate, kids’ toys, potted plant, cookie jar . . .

Handmade and Baked Goods: jewelry, pesto, pies, cookies, homemade wine, artwork, homegrown herbs, crocheted sweater, vegan cupcakes . . .

Find donation forms on the sign-up table in the back of the sanctuary!

Auction date: November 7 @ 6:30 pm

Ministerial Search Committee Update

In spite of the varied vacation schedules, the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has met several times this summer to work on the Congregational Survey, the document that gives a full picture of our congregation to a potential minister. It will describe our past as well as communicate our hopes for the future. Almost ready to go out to our members, we ask you to complete it with careful consideration. On September 5, Rev. Libby Smith will meet with the MSC to lead a workshop which will acquaint us with the major milestones in the search process, which includes procedures for building trust, decision making, and attaining consensus. The MSC members are Betsy Erbaugh, Jim Gentile, Marsha Hannah, Jack Miller, Betsy Searight, Paul Utts, and Angela Wexler.

HERE’S YOUR CHANCE TO SING! "Y’ALL COME" CHOIR NEXT TWO WEEKS

"Y’all come" is a phrase used to describe an unauditioned choir where anyone could feel welcome to join in and sing some simple and fun songs. Reading music is not a requirement! We will be having two Y’all Come choir rehearsals the next two weeks -- August 30 and September 6. We will meet at 9 am and prepare a couple of songs for the Water Gathering Service on September 13. I especially encourage families to come and bring children. Kid-friendly activities and warm-ups will be featured.

BONUS: Membership in this temporary musical community also includes an invitation to the Choir and RE picnic at my house on September 6. Contact Barbara at uucsjsmusic@gmail.com if interested.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Staff

Interim Minister
Rev. Cynthia Cain

**Music Director &
Worship Coordinator**
Barbara Miller
uucsjsmusic@comcast.net

Associate Credentialed Director of Religious Education
Heidi Jansch
sjsdre@gmail.com

Office Administrator
Corrin Disman
uucsjsadmin@gmail.com

Bookkeeper
Kathleen Hartnett
uucsjs.bookkeeper@gmail.com



**P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240
(609) 965-9400**

Board of Trustees 2015-16

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

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org
Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

September 2015

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