



# The Communitarian

Ocean County Congregation

Summer 2014

## Congregational Meeting - June 29, 2014

Dear Members and Friends of UUOCC,

For 30 years the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation has survived through thick and thin. We have weathered many storms and celebrated many milestones. We have worshiped together in many different buildings, always hoping that our next move would bring us closer to having a permanent home. Now with the generous donation from Pat Robison a church of our own is possible at Murray Grove. But it is only possible with the help of everyone who comes here.

We stand at the edge of our continued existence. We have not fully funded this year's budget. The Board of Trustees has made some difficult decisions and created a bare-bones budget but we still have a shortfall of \$20,000.

In the Chinese ideogram the figures for crisis are a combination of danger and opportunity. Part of the danger we face is that we will not be able to secure loans or grants to build our church if we cannot demonstrate fiscal responsibility for at least three to five years.

There is also the danger that we will not be able to continue as a congregation, either here or at Murray Grove if we do not increase our membership and our revenue. To do so, we must bring up our pledges to fully support the life of our congregation.

On **Sunday, June 29**, after worship, we have scheduled a Congregational Meeting. We will relish another 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday luncheon, offering "The Best of June Salads"--the freshest, best tasting and most inexpensive lunch you have ever had. While enjoying lunch in the sanctuary, you will hear about what is happening with our negotiations with Murray Grove and about strategies for growing our membership.

Most importantly we will hold a supplemental pledge drive. You will be able to double the generous anonymous \$5000 matching donation which will significantly help balance our budget and ensure the future of our congregation. Let's all plan on giving until it feels good.

So let's make sure we are all here at UUOCC on June 29. Once again it's vital for us to realize that the future of UUOCC depends on each and every one of us.

In faith and service,

UUOCC Board of Trustees

### Contact Us:

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Reverend Julie Newhall

## Who is my neighbor?

Dear Friends,

As you may know, Neighboring Faiths has been a very popular religious education experience for the youth of Unitarian Universalist families. In this program, students visit houses of worship of other faiths to learn more about worship practices there and about the beliefs of those in those congregations.

We adults sometimes remain oblivious to the lessons to be learned from such visits. We've left other traditions behind and settled into the UU world. We tend to stick together rather than continue exploring. As Unitarian Universalists, we are encouraged to pursue our searches for truth and meaning. Not to stop looking and listening and considering.

So, with summer fast upon us, why not step out one weekend or while you are travelling and visit other sacred spaces? Perhaps you will come back to UUOCC with ideas for building community, for social

action, for creating an enlivened worship space and experience, with ideas for guest speakers and for topics you are interested in.

During April and May, I followed my own advice and visited three synagogues in Amsterdam and three in Venice, site of the world's first "ghetto." I also visited two Jewish historical museums, the Jewish Quarter in Amsterdam and the theater there where Dutch Jews assembled and were sent off on the first step of their fateful journeys into Poland and Germany. Two days later, I went walking in the forest at Westerbork, site of the Labor Camp in northern Holland where trains then took Dutch Jews across the border. All of these visits made a deeply emotional impression on me...so much so that there will be a sermon about these experiences in the fall.

This summer, I will attend Quaker meetings in New Jersey. These will provide quiet moments for reflection. And who knows where I will go in New York City and Philadelphia?

Wishing you a summer of inspiration, reflection and relaxation.

Greenpeacefully,

Rev. Julie

You may be a Unitarian Universalist if:

The only time "Jesus" is mentioned at church is when someone falls down the stairs.





## President's Report

### Gail Marsh Saxer

I'm back from two weeks of being with Ray, my eldest son at 53. Ray has a fairly rare cancer known as GIST—gastrointestinal stroma tumors—a sarcoma. He had returned home from Stanford University Hospital where he underwent his third surgery in four years. Thirty-nine stitches were required to remove three tumors—one along with a quarter of the right lobe of his liver, a lymph node and one on his stomach. They were the size of a golf ball, a Ping-Pong ball and a tennis ball respectively. Ray is doing beautifully and is recuperating right on schedule. That's probably because he participated in triathlons and iron man sports and is in great shape.

I've known for four years that Ray has cancer. It was discovered when he went to the ER because of abdominal pain. In an emergency operation part of his stomach and all of his spleen were removed along with a tumor the size of a cantaloupe. A few months later more tumors were identified and surgically removed.

After that Ray was taking medication orally to inhibit the growth of new tumors and any that were still present. He underwent CAT scans every three months. As the medication seemed effective, the scans were reduced to every four months and eventually to every six months. All was going very well.

Then this past January the scan showed possible growth in the existing tumors. They were watched and a second scan three months later showed definite

growth.

I took all of this in stride. I really handled the situation well. That is until I returned home after spending two glorious weeks with Ray, his wife Kathleen and his two stepdaughters Nikki and Dani. Then the rose-colored glasses fell off and I came face-to-face with the actuality of Ray's health situation and what it portends for his and our future.

When my son Mark died very suddenly in 2000, I felt an overwhelming sense of fear in addition to everything else. I feel that same fear now for Ray and I don't know what to do with it.

All I know is that there are so many of us who go through these and other kinds of traumas. They are inescapable. Somehow we manage to deal with them but I don't know how we do it.

For me a good part of managing is sharing my feelings with the communities of family, of friends and of UUOCC. Another part is being held for a minute by those I love. I tell myself that it is what it is; there is nothing I can do to change it; just deal with it and keep a positive outlook. BUT then there is the silent screaming and the busyness to keep from thinking; the complete exhaustion and depression and the struggle to climb out of it all. The list goes on.

As I write this I want more than anything to be authentic. I want to share all the ways I cope (or do not cope) because I am certain I am not alone. Let us keep each other and our families in the warm circle of our embraces.

In faith and love,



## YUUR Voice in Trenton

### Reverend Craig Hirshberg

UULMNJ has been extremely busy. Here are a few of the highlights this month:

A new task force Criminal Justice: Ending the New Jim Crow was approved by the board at its February meeting. The chair is Al Stawsky from our Palisades congregation. If you would like to get involved on this active task force, contact Al at [alynways@gmail.com](mailto:alynways@gmail.com). To view the UULMNJ Ending Jim Crow policy brief, Go to the UULMNJ website [www.uulmnj.org](http://www.uulmnj.org).

The immigration task force launched a 1000 letter campaign to address the detention conditions in New Jersey. UU's across the state signed letters at coffee hour during the month of March. The letters, addressed to Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security, were collected at the April 5 plenary.

The Gun Violence Prevention Task force is supporting new proposed state legislation to reduce magazines to a maximum of ten rounds. It is also promoting resolutions within local town councils, requiring the town to purchase guns only from socially responsible gun manufacturers. For more GVP information, contact Diane Finn, chair at [finnflynn@verizon.net](mailto:finnflynn@verizon.net)

From our immigration task force: The Delaware River Basin Commission is meeting on March 11, and the Obama administration holds one of five key votes on the commission's decision whether or not to allow fracking in the Delaware River Basin.

UULMNJ hosted its **5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Plenary Meeting on April 5** at the Princeton Congregation. The keynote speaker was Gordon MacInnes, President of New Jersey Policy Perspective.



### Worship Report

#### Barbara Antolick

Last year it was decided that the Worship Committee cut their budget basically in half in order to help the overall church budget. By doing this, I'm still asking all of you to help me and the committee in presenting Sunday services. We're all different and everyone has different interests, so I'm sure we

can present some wonderful services. If you're interested in presenting a service please see me. If you'd like to present but don't have a topic in mind you're in luck. Below is the log-in info for the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) that you'll be hearing more about as the year goes on. Look around and if you find something you like, let me know. It's quite a site.

Just in case you need a reminder, here's how to enter the CLF site:

Go to: [http://www.questformeaning.org/connecting/find\\_local\\_community](http://www.questformeaning.org/connecting/find_local_community)

- Login: churchonline

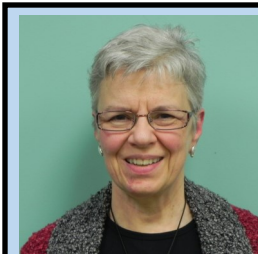
Password: community

I also want to send out a special thank you to my committee. From the Order of Service, to the music, to the Worship Associates, to the people who come up with interesting topics, I can't thank you enough. You make my job easier.

Thanks!

Barb





## Music Director Report

Linda Kay

### How to Hear 'Your Kind of Music'

#### During a Sunday Service

Unitarian Universalists are theologically and musically diverse; and UU musicians seek to represent that diversity in Sunday service music. Our gray hymnal, published in 1993, reflects our Christian, Jewish and humanist roots. There are twenty-five African American spirituals, reflecting our sensitivity to racial diversity after the turbulent 1960s. The teal supplement, published in 2005, helps fill the gap between hardcover editions.

Of course, that doesn't mean we can't have other styles of music in our services. Rock, country, classical, avant garde, folk, blues, bluegrass, jazz, pop, Broadway and rap are a few of the genres we've had in the past.

I welcome your participation in providing music for Sunday services. There are a few rules, naturally: nothing 'explicit;' respect time constraints; relate to the service topic, if possible; and embody our seven principles, especially the dignity and worth of other opinions, i.e., no bashing.

I will play your selection(s) if you give me a CD. For each track, please provide the track number and the timing. If you want to use another device, you'll need to do it yourself. I'd suggest you come in earlier in the week to make sure you know how. The boombox accepts iPods, other Apple players, and many mp3 players.

For service music, I would need to know your choices the Monday before the service. Give me the name of the piece and the author(s) (not the performing artist,) for the order of service.

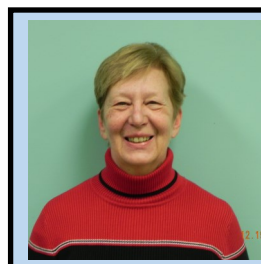
Opening Music, three to five minutes long, prepares listeners for the service. If you want me to perform a piece, let me know two weeks ahead and I will work with you to see if that's feasible.

'Hymns' can be any piece that has verses and a repeating chorus. It should run no more than three minutes long and be easy to sing. If using a recording, review the piece to see if it has an instrumental introduction or instrumental interludes between verses, repeating endings, etc. Note these in the lyrics insert you create so everyone feels included. I'll email you the template for the insert.

Offertory music must be compatible with folks getting out their cash or checkbooks! Don't ask them to juggle an insert at the same time. Offertory music runs between one and two minutes.

For the more ambitious, pre-service music consists of a 15 minute set that ends with "Spirit of Life," the signal to gather for worship. So your set would be about 12 and a half minutes long. I can email you "Spirit of Life" to include in your set. Provide the exact timing of the CD, so I know when to start it.

That's about it! I look forward to hearing your music.



## Social Justice Report

Elaine McConnell

UUOCC will co-host with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Beachwood for Interfaith Hospitality again on July 7, 8 and 9. We need 2 volunteers to provide dinner for each of the three evenings and two overnight volunteers. This is one of UUOCC's primary on-going commitments and we invite you to participate in this worthwhile activity.

For more information - or to volunteer - please contact any member of the Social Justice Committee.

The Committee will be presenting Sunday's service on June 29 in conjunction with UUA's Justice Sunday 2014 theme - "Plant Seeds, Harvest Hope". This seems particularly apropos to us this year as we prepare to launch the new community garden and Bonney Parker, who will be our speaker on the 29th, will provide a local focus to the national theme.

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(Social Justice Report Continued ...)

Many thanks to all for your on-going participation in the 1st Sunday second (monetary) collections for designated charities and organizations and in the 3rd Sunday special collection of items for the Hope Center. Primary recipients of the monetary collections are The Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, The Hope Center, and Interfaith Hospitality Network. Other recipients this year include UUA for Justice Sunday and Association Sunday and UUOCC's Wrangle Brook Community Garden.



We met with Murray Grove Board members on May 16th, Friday at 7 pm, here at UUOCC, to discuss the following agenda items:

#### UUOCC Church Building Criteria - 2014

Two site layouts for locating the church on Murray Grove – included with transmittal. The layout recommended meets the 100' setback from Rte. 9 required by Forked River Township. We propose an entrance road modification that directs the eye toward the church building upon entry, with a parking facility in the open field beyond. Road modifications may be tarred or gravel.

Status of our response to their "Considerations for UUOCC Church Facility on Murray Grove Property" – We have only begun to address the very detailed and quite specific questions and plan to develop a set or our own, since we do not have the time and experience that Murray Grove personnel have managing their facility. Some will require the assistance of an attorney

Alternatives to cost sharing funds between UUOCC and MG – We proposed are two options – transfer all funds to MG and allow them to build the church; and merge our and their funds to design a whole new complex. We are in process of determining whether Pat Robison provided anything in writing beyond stipulating the use of the endowment funds for a church facility. Ron Schaeffer proposed having Murray Grove as a broker for UUOCC, loaning up to \$145,000 to add to the moneys available for the design and construction of the church. If either of the two options are selected, then in exchange for UUOCC actions we would propose that:

- UUOCC will always be able to hold 10:30 am Sunday service.

- UUOCC will be responsible for maintenance of the church building.

-UUOCC and MG will share responsibility for the parking lot.

-Joint ventures and projects for UUOCC and MG will be considered

-MG will be the Prime contractor for the construction of the building

-UUOCC will have representation at building construction meetings before and during construction and will be kept advised of any substantial changes that are proposed to the design and implementation of the building

(Subsequent to the meeting, the Murray Grove Board unanimously accepted the suggestion of accepting our endowment in toto and acting as designer and constructor of the facility. More discussion on UUOCC part is required, including the determination of the conditions under which we will accept this arrangement. For example, we definitely want to have total priority for the use of the church for Sunday morning services throughout the year.)

A Master Plan for Murray Grove is in process by their architect, Thomas Kocubinski. He will look at our suggested locations and our preliminary arrangement of the church interior

Status of sign at MG indicating UUOCC future presence. Murray Grove is considering a sign indicating "Future Home of UUOCC"

Preliminary time-line to on-site building completion in 2020. UUOCC has begun the development of a time-line that will include the major milestones between where we are today up until the completion and use of the church in 2020.

We indicated that UUOCC concern is that our operational finances are balanced and we have a Long Range Plan in place. This has substantial impact on any building plans we wish to proceed on. That is the reason we developed the first draft of a time-line to 2020.

In terms of our need to get our church built, it was suggested that we have information available to our Sunday members and visitors hyping our "dream" in the form of

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our church planned location, and as it develops through the next few years. Potential members may be amenable knowing in advance that a financial commitment will be sought from them as members. This information should also be included in our website and Facebook pages.

Some suggestions for our, UUOCC, plans:

Brainstorm with Lincroft DRE and with UUCSJS about membership and capital campaign drives.

Study the history of UUCSJS in the design and construction of their church.



creating huge ruts dangerous to the Berkeley Township's Parks and Recreation lawn mowers who tried to keep the weeds down. Additionally some people thought this open area was a perfect place to throw their garbage, dead Christmas trees and other debris. In preparation for planting this year, Berkeley Township Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments graded and smoothed the ruts, added top soil and planted grass seed in the large open field. Concrete barriers were placed temporarily at the entrance and a large berm was created adjacent to the railroad bed to keep out unauthorized vehicles. When the fence surrounding the planting area is erected the concrete barriers will be removed and a gate will be placed at the entrance for the members of the community garden. Wrangle Brook Community Garden will have 3' high raised beds to enable those who are physically challenged to be able to enjoy the benefits of raising their own vegetables. The garden will be an organic one. No chemical or inorganic pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers will be permitted. Members are encouraged to grow seedlings for planting from organic or heirloom/heritage seeds.

We welcome individuals, schools and organizations to become a part of this endeavor. For more information, email [info@uuocc.org](mailto:info@uuocc.org) or call 732-244-3455.



Community Garden  
Bonney Parker

Wrangle Brook Community Garden is a project sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation, in cooperation with Berkeley Township. Located on the edge of Wrangle Brook and bordered by River Terrace in Toms River and Southhampton Drive in Berkeley Township, this community garden is beginning to take form. Membership is offered to those who wish to plant vegetables for themselves and their families and/or who wish to work in the "Common Ground"



section raising vegetables for distribution to food banks.

The Unitarian Universalists, whose mission is to "Embrace the Soul, Embolden the Spirit and Enrich the Community, have been working with Berkeley Township to beautify and develop 4+ acres of vacant land that had been left unattended for many years. Off road vehicles, dirt bikes and quads had been using this land,

You may be a Unitarian Universalist if:

You have trouble singing hymns  
because you're always reading ahead to  
see if you agree with the words.

# What's Happening ?

**UUOCC Congressional Meeting**

**Sunday June 29, 2014**

## **Agenda**

- 1. We have been offered a \$5000 matching donation by a very generous member. Yippee! This gives us a golden opportunity to come close to closing the gap in our budget for 2014. We will have a supplemental pledge drive to do just that at this meeting.**
- 2. We will bring everyone up to date on our negotiations to have a home at Murray Grove. The Building Committee has been busy and has much to report.**
- 3. We will report on the strategies developed to increase membership and visibility of UUOCC and report on implementation.**
- 4. While we act on the above, we will be enjoying our 5th Sunday Luncheon.**

**This will be a day chock full of activity and decision-making. It will be a day when we as "keepers of the dream of UUOCC" assure that the dream continues--grows and expands--resulting in our very own church at Murray Grove.**

**Please make your calendars now. We are a small congregation and every single one of us is vital to meet the goals we have set for ourselves.**



# What's Happening ?

## Fifth Sunday Luncheon June 29

Join UUOCC fellow members and friends for lunch on Sunday, June 29 following the service. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and less for children. The feature this month will be salads. All types of salads... vegetable, grain, egg, tuna and several others will be offered.

We will ask you to vote for your favorite and the person who prepared that salad will win a prize. To make this as successful as the macaroni and cheese event, we'll need you to make your very best salad and donate it for the Fifth Sunday Lunch.

There's a sign up sheet on the table or you can e-mail or phone Annette Bergins and let us know what type of salad you will be preparing.

Annette phone 732-681-9023

e-mail [downtheshore@optimum.net](mailto:downtheshore@optimum.net)

## Linda Kay's Photo Exhibit



There's always something going on here at UUOCC. To stay in the know, check our web-site at [www.UUOCC.org](http://www.UUOCC.org) which has a link to our calendar.

Also please Like Us on Facebook !



## Raffle: Ted Jaslow's Painting "Stoopwork"

Ted Jaslow, our very own UUOCC artist, has once again very generously donated an original painting for our benefit.

The painting, "Stoopwork," is executed in acrylics on canvas and is 22" x 30" framed. It is valued at \$2,000 so this is a rare opportunity to obtain the work of an established and well-known artist to add to your collection or to begin a collection of your own. It is on view at UUOCC.

The tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will take place following the service on Sunday, September 14, 2014. The proceeds will benefit the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC.)

Mr. Jaslow was born in Brooklyn, New York, the grandson of a Russian woodcarver. He was initially interested in sculpture, and learned how to draw while traveling the New York City subway to the High School of Music & Art by drawing the other passengers. He believes, along with Ingres, that "drawing is the conscience of art." Having started his studies in sculpture, it was only later that he turned his attention to two-dimensional art, and he now spends all his time with painting and graphics.

He has been described as a humanist, people being the major subject matter of his paintings, which are currently executed in acrylics on canvas. His works are valued from \$800 to \$5,000. For more information about Mr. Jaslow and to view his work, visit his website at [www.tedjaslow.com](http://www.tedjaslow.com).

Raffle tickets are available from UUOCC. Email your request to [info@uuocc.org](mailto:info@uuocc.org) or call 732-244-3455.



# 2014 Summer Services

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** – *“Before Everything Else: An Interactive Service”* – Presented by Gail M Saxer

Fundamental to a congregation is understanding and verbalizing its purpose for the community as a whole and for the members individually. Together we will explore our concept of UUOCC's purpose and how it embraces our soul, emboldens our spirit and enriches the community.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** – *“Prayer and UUism”* – Presented by Rich Saylor

This will be a discussion on how UU's view prayer

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** – *“Charities: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly”* – Presented by Shirl Giles

Another installment of which charities are the best and worst and what grade the Better Business Bureau gives them.

**July 27<sup>th</sup>** – *“Sunrise Service”* – Presented by Nancy Ellson

Come join us at the beach at sunrise for a service you won't forget. More info to follow.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – *“Future: The Sixth Extinction” (full documentary)* – Presented by Hank Douma

Throughout the history of evolution, five major catastrophes have shaken the earth's surface. After them life had to reorganize from species that survived. Today 27,000 species disappear each year, an amount equal to or greater than that struck Earth during the previous extinction processes. Are we facing the Sixth Extinction? Are humans the cause of this ecological disaster? This documentary explores these issues to provide lines of inquiry that will lead us to the answers.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>** – *“Why Do You Come To Church?”* – Presented by Barb Antolick

Why is it that you come to church? A round table discussion of what keeps you coming back each week to UUOCC.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>** – *“UU's Legislative Ministry--Enriching the Community”* – Presented by Gail M Saxer

The service will focus on gun violence and how UU congregations throughout the state, with the guidance of our state Legislative Ministry, have been influencing our legislators and the Governor to protect our families and their children.

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** – *“The Seven Principles: Articles of Belief? Opinions by Doug Muder (UU World) and Kurt Vonnegut (Cat's Cradle)”* – Presented by Frank Boardman, a member of UUFA in Athens, GA and a friend of Annette Bergins

**August 31<sup>st</sup>** – *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch*

Join us during the service hour for brunch and great conversation. It's a great end to a great summer!