



The Communitarian

Ocean County Congregation

September 2014

Summer greetings to you all! I hope that everyone had a fun and relaxing summer. I can't wait for the first service of the "new year." It happens to be one of my favorite services. For those that are new to UU, the first service after the summer is a tradition that we share each year, called Water Communion. Water Communion is a service designed to bring us all back together and share the water from where we've travelled and vacationed blending us all as one.

This summer my family and I went to Daytona Beach, Florida. Before we left, I filled a water bottle with a little water from both the ocean and the pool. At the service on September 7th, I will dump my water into a bowl and ask everyone else to do the same, sharing where they've been. Don't worry if you didn't bring back water from your travels. You can always use water from the kitchen sink as symbolic water. And if you didn't travel you are more than welcome to share the water from a garden hose, swimming pool, or even pond. As we all know, you don't need to travel to have a great time. This service is about coming together and sharing our good times.

I also wanted to give you a sneak peak of the next few services to come. On September 14th, Rev Julie Newhall will be back with a service about social media and where you fit in. In October, she'll also be doing a "Blessing of the Animals." Stay tuned for more information, which is sure to be a unique and wonderful service. For those that unaware, Rev Julie Newhall will be speaking with our congregation on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

On September 28th, I want to personally invite you all to come to church and experience something totally different. Pete Costanza, The Spiritual DJ, is back! The entire service is devoted to the music of the Beatles and how their music relates to our Seven Principles. It's going to be a singing good time. (P.S. Pete Costanza is my dad.)

In the coming months, we have many services prepared by many of our members. I guarantee it's going to be a wonderful fall season!

I want to thank my committee for helping me on each and every service. They all know who they are. Without all of them these services would never get done.

I offer this to you every newsletter, do you have an idea for a Sunday service? Whether it's a song, a poem, or even a sermon idea we'd love to hear from you. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 7PM at the church. If you can't make a meeting please feel free to talk to me at any service.

Thanks

Barb Antolick—Worship Committee Chair

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Building Committee

Barbara Antolick and Frank Kowalczyk

UUOCC BUILDING COMMITTEE

In a recent Building Committee meeting, Bonney Parker, our liaison with the Murray Grove Board, was given the following items for their Board to address: 1) Review our Church Building Criteria 2014 document. 2) Review the site layout for the church and parking lot. 3) Include us in the development of their Master Plan.

Bonney received positive responses to our requests as well as a copy of the Murray Grove Master Plan Study to be prepared by their architect, Thomas Kocubinski. The completed plan is scheduled for August, 2015. We will participate in a “charrette”, a form of focus group used by architects to identify needs and functions for architectural design. This is scheduled for October 18, 2014.

We have developed a Needs and Wants documents for discussion with our attorney, Mr. Tenant Magee, prior to developing a working relationship with Murray Grove relative to the funding and design of the church. A meeting will be scheduled. Elaine McConnell consented to be the sole contact with Mr. Magee for all attorney-related issues. The committee unanimously approved this decision.

The question of an early relocation to Murray Grove arose again to determine if this was still viable. At the time of our previous discussion with

MG, there was no room to meet our needs for Sunday services, committee meetings, administrative offices, hospitality needs. Temporary structures such as trailers are not allowed by Lacey township ordinances unless used for construction site purposes.

We feel it should be reopened to provide us with an earlier relocation to make known our presence and future home location in Murray Grove. Early relocation may also be a cost saving measure versus increased costs at our present location. Murray Grove will be doing some construction of rest room facilities so a temporary trailer may not be out of the question.

Murray Grove is very positive on our relocation to their site. They will include “Future Home of UUOCC” in their signage. They would like us to prepare a proposal with our needs in terms of space and times for service as well as a pro forma financial plan for the cost of building the church.

Our proposal to transfer the church endowment funds is still in its initial state. At present we have two options. We can cash out each of the account instruments (e.g., funds, stocks, etc.) and transfer the cash to MG. Another approach would be to create a joint account with MG and include some of their Board members as signatories and add to the present endowment amount any amount that is in their master plan for the church building. This will be a point of discussion with our attorney.

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Building Committee (Continued)

Barbara Antolick and Frank Kowalczyk

A Long Range Plan outline was prepared by Barbara Diamantopoulos using our 2009 Long Range Plan Report, the Nextsteps Weekend Report and the Rockford, Illinois UU Church LRP. The Long Range Plan Committee will be established as a committee separate from the Building Committee and composed of members of all church committees. Our initial focus, by the Nextsteps weekend analysis, is the membership growth of the congregation and a balanced operating budget each year, no more supplemental pledge campaigns. The Long Range Planning Committee should consist of members of the Membership, Church Building, Finance, and Worship committees, to name a few. Bonney Parker, Eileen Fallon and Elaine McConnell volunteered to be members of the LRP Committee. Anyone interested in becoming a member of this committee should contact Barbara Diamantopoulos.

of their commonality and joint commitment to a liberal faith. These were:

1. To strengthen one another in a free and disciplined search for truth as the foundation of our religious fellowship;
2. To cherish and spread the universal truths taught by the great prophets and teachers of humanity in every age and tradition, immemorially summarized in the Judeo-Christian heritage as love to God and love to man;
3. To affirm, defend and promote the supreme worth of every human personality, the dignity of man, and the use of the democratic method in human relationships;
4. To implement our vision of one world by striving for a world community founded on ideals of brotherhood, justice and peace;
5. To serve the needs of member churches and fellowships, to organize new churches and fellowships, and to extend and strengthen liberal religion;
6. To encourage cooperation with men of good will in every land.



This Month in
UU History
Frank Kowalczyk

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OUR SEVEN PRINCIPLES

Every week we are reminded about our Seven Principles during our communal gathering, as the Worship Associate points to them in the introduction to the service. But these principles have a history of birth and evolution of which we may know little. So, let's take a look at their history.

When the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America consolidated in 1961, they prepared a list of six principles as signs



This Month in UU History (Continued)

Our faith did not stand bound to a list of common beliefs but allowed for evolution as reason and changing times demanded. At the start there was no list of sources from which the faith arose. Also, as the Association was formed, one of the by-laws calls for a review of the Principles at no less than every 15 years.

The original principles were reviewed during the 1980s and the seventh principle was added, as well as six sources. The mention of earth-centered traditions was added in 1995.

A children's version of the seven principles was also adapted in the 1980s;

- Every person is important;
- All people should be treated fairly;
- Our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together;
- Each person must be free to search for what is true and right;

Freethinkers

are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs. This state of mind is not common, but it is essential for right thinking; where it is absent, discussion is apt to become worse than useless.

~ Leo Tolstoy ~

A Poem by Ganga White

Written at The Rainforest Benefit, April 1998

What if our religion was each other?
If our practice was our life?
If prayer was our words?
What if the temple was the earth?
If forests were our church?
If holy water—the rivers, lakes and oceans?
What if meditation was our relationships?
If the teacher was life?
If wisdom was self-knowledge?
If love was the center of our being?



Let YUUr Voice **BE HEARD** in Trenton in 2014-15! **Time for the UULMNJ 2014 Fall Issues Workshop!**

Saturday, September 27, 2014

9:00am-2:30pm

Hosted by the [Central Unitarian Church](#)
156 Forest Park Avenue, Paramus, NJ

This will be a working session to:

- Listen to informed speakers and get up to date information on our task forces
- Determine and discuss UULMNJ task force focus issues for the coming year
- Learn how to **MOBILIZE** UULMNJ action in your home congregation
- Meet with justice leaders from other congregations

Be **INSPIRED** by keynote speaker, [Udi Ofer](#), executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey. In his first year and a half at ACLU-NJ, Mr. Ofer has co-founded an unprecedented campaign to win the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in New Jersey, and also played a leading role in the passage of the New Jersey Dream Act.

Let this year's workshop be a congregational **TEAM BUILDER**. Bring 6 people from your congregation, enough for each task force to have a representative from your home congregation. This way your congregation gets first hand information on ways to move our Unitarian Universalist principles into key legislation!

Should I come to this workshop? Are you:

- A person who wants to make a difference by putting their faith into action
- Interested in the work of UULMNJ or the state legislative process
- A congregational liaison, action team member, social action chair, minister or staff
- A UULMNJ Task Force member?

If you identify with any of these statements then **YES!** You should join others like you in Paramus!

A working lunch will be provided. A donation is asked to cover this cost.

[Register NOW through September 22.](#)

Join UULMNJ Executive Director, Rev. Craig Hirshberg, for a round table discussion after the day's programming. Learn more about our new cable access series, currently in production!

Profile: New Member Jan Hagen

Jan's thoughts echo those of many a member who come to UU as adults. She says, "I've been a UU all my life. I just didn't know it."

UUOCC is indeed fortunate that Jan was introduced to us just a few months ago by her friend, member Lorraine Talbert. She brings a desire for spirituality and community, as well as a lifetime of diverse experiences.

Her first interesting job was as a mother's helper at a dude ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The fact that she didn't know how to ride a horse—one of the requirements--didn't stop her. Thankfully, she's a quick study, and learned on the job. And what a glorious place it was to wake up in every day, located as it is in the beautiful Teton Mountains.

That wasn't the only beautiful setting that Jan has experienced. Indeed, her first child was born in Hawaii, which Jan had travelled to with her first husband, an academic. She's also lived in Berkeley, California and up-state New York. In fact, she says that she moved to Leisure Knoll in Manchester from "paradise," an eight-acre, wooded parcel in the Poconos. Over time, it required too much work, however, so she decided to move to a place where she could be close to her grown children and to her grandchildren.

Mother's helper in the American West was only her first of many types of jobs. She's been a social worker, a teacher of ESL (English as a Second Language), and a teacher of emotionally disturbed children. She's even taught adults how to swim (which she calls her most difficult job). She believes, though, that her greatest training was the one she undertook to be a hospice volunteer. How did she manage to succeed in this wide variety of occupations? She learned long ago that, "If you make it about the other person, you will be blessed."

When asked which historical figure she'd most like to meet, Jan does not hesitate. "Mark Twain," she responds immediately. The reason she would choose Twain shows why Jan fits in so well with us here at UUOCC: "He knew how to laugh at life; he was unostentatious; he treated people fairly—no exclusivity."

My Philosophy by Jan Hagen

There once was a man named Zorba the Greek

Who said that if it's happiness you seek,

A madness in life is imperative;

It is the only way to live.

I agree and have discovered in fact

That a madness in life keeps sanity intact.

We at UUOCC would also like to welcome our newest member, Noreen Brennan. She will be profiled in an upcoming issue of The Communitarian

What's Happening ?

Fifth Sunday Brunch August 31st

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

The HOPE Center is currently looking for back to school supplies. They are in need of: note-books, NEW book bags, pens, pencils, rulers, folders, crayons, highlighters. They are also collecting gently used jewelry for their upcoming sale. Jewelry needs to be turned in by Aug. 25th

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.

Raffle tickets are available from UUOCC. Email your request to info@uuocc.org or call 732-244-3455.



We are steadily improving our online presence.

Please check us out online !

Our website www.UUOCC.org

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/uuocc>

Our Twitter page <https://twitter.com/UUOCC>

Our Instagram page <http://instagram.com/uuocc>

What's Happening ?

Religious Education (RE)

The September, we will begin a new RE program for all children. It is entitled "Love Surrounds Us." This curriculum came from the UUA's Tapestry of Faith Lifespan Curriculum, which can be found on the UUA's website.

The goals of this program will:

- Teach the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles
- Develop connections among love, the Principles, and the communities of home, school, faith, and world
- Lift up Unitarian Universalism and the Principles in activities and stories
- Teach children skills for forgiveness, love, sharing, acceptance, caring, and peace in a loving community
- Explore rituals that help us focus on and celebrate UU Principles.

We are asking for volunteers to teach the program. We would like to have 8 volunteers (2 each week) to commit to a Sunday each month. So if you agree to the 1st Sunday, you would be responsible to teach every 1st Sunday between September and June (2nd Sunday, etc). The entire curriculum is online, so you can look it over ahead of time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barb Antolick at home, or speak with her at church.



"Quilted Wall Hangings" Created by Donna Schlichting

Donna is the sister of our Barbara D.

Upcoming Services

August 31st – *5th Sunday Brunch*

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

September 7th – “Water Communion” – Barb Antolick

Welcome back from an amazing summer! Join us this Sunday for a UU tradition that blends the waters of our travels and experiences together. You are greatly encouraged to bring water from wherever you have travelled and share with us the unique experience you had. If you didn't travel, but still had a summer to remember, you may bring symbolic water from your kitchen tap, pool, garden hose, etc. We want to share in your experience. We will come together as community as this “new year” begins.

September 14th – Rev Julie Newhall

September 21st – “Assumptions” – Presented by the Worship Committee

September 28th – “Spiritual DJ – The Beatles” – Pete Costanza

This service is a musical experience you'll never forget. Join Pete Costanza, The Spiritual DJ, as he plays The Beatles and relates their music to our 7 principles.

October 5th – PFLAG service

October 12th – Rev Julie Newhall (Blessing of the Animals)

October 19th – Stewardship service – Presented by the UUOCC Board

October 26th – “Assumptions” – Presented by the Worship Committee

November 2nd – Jan Hagen

November 9th – Rev Julie Newhall

November 16th – “Assumptions” – Presented by the Worship Committee