



the MONMOUTH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

UUCMC Newsletter

WWW.UUCMC.ORG

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County Lincroft July-August 2006

Sunday Service Programs—10 am only

Our summer Sundays are coordinated by our Program Ministry and present a variety of voices and topics dear to our hearts and minds.

July 2 — “The Wider UU World” as seen by our delegates to GA (General Assembly). Each year the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations sponsors a General Assembly with about 4000 delegates from congregations across the country. Delegates attend plenary sessions, workshops and small groups and come back to their home congregations with new information and enthusiasm. This year, UUCMC will be honored as a new GREEN SANCTUARY CONGREGATION. Come join us as our delegates, Irene Gibson, John and Cori Hoffman, and Jan and Lynn Dash, share their impressions and possible “take-home” food for thought for Lincroft. The service will be followed by a discussion time.

July 9 — “UU Artists Share”

This summer artists who are members of our congregation discuss abstraction; some will discuss abstraction itself, others how it has influenced them. Some of the participating artists are Joanne Grazide, Bob Milling, Ann Milling, Jack Ives, Paul Newland and Lorraine Niemela.

July 16 — “Sustainable Living” Rich Held

Sustainability is equity over time; it is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This service will consider “how we are doing” against that definition through a short play adapted from the book “Ishmael” by Daniel Quinn followed by “open mike” discussion.

July 22 — “Jazz and the Way of the Buddha” Join jazz musician Sergio Dubois as he explores his musical talent and his spiritual path. Hear stimulating, provocative music and listen to the wise words of Pema Chodron.

July 30 — “A Summer Sing”

Come spend the morning singing favorite songs, hymns, rounds, chants from our hymnbook, Singing the Living Tradition. If you have a favorite, be prepared to call it out and we’ll sing it. A fun, lively, informative morning of song! Elaine Vander Plate Held, piano/organ...and any other musicians who show up to jam!!

August 6 — “Youth Worship”

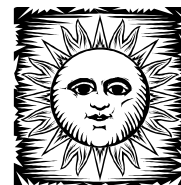
Donna Renfro and the Youth Group
Come and be surprised and delighted at the unique ways youth worship. Be prepared to move and sing and share!

August 13 — “Writer's Share...Words and Thoughts by UU Writers” Peg Rice Moir, Skip Leib, Vince Larkin, Florrie Hill, Lori Goldschmidt

The Writer's Group is a group of five local UUs who meet regularly to write and share their creations. Each year, these friends have created a summer service out of the varied poems, essays, musings, limericks, confessionals, etc. that were born of their monthly gatherings. Come and be a part of this morning of reflection, meditation and music. If time permits, we will invite attendees to participate, so come prepared!

August 20 — “Our Favorite Books” Lynn Dash and friends. Are you haunted by images, ideas, or thoughts from books that you read long ago? Or recently? Do you have a favorite book that you return to time and time again? Has this book influenced your life choices? How is it relevant to your thinking or appreciation for the world today? We'll share our favorite books and have time to hear about others' choices as well.

August 27 — “News From the Terrible Land of Eminent Domain” Dorothy Argyrous, attorney and local activist. Come hear about the struggle so many people, including some of our own members, are engaged in to hold onto their beloved homes. This is a valiant community issue we all need to know about.



Monmouth Unitarian Universalist

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of each month. Please submit articles on diskette whenever possible or email them to uucmc@yahoo.com.

Friends and members are encouraged to submit material. Priority is given to news and articles about the activities of this congregation.

The newsletter can be accessed via our website at www.uucmc.org. Click on newsletters. Username: newsletters Password: goodink. For others, there is a \$35 per year mailing fee. Monthly copies are placed in the foyer Sundays for anyone interested to take without charge.

Unless otherwise noted, phone numbers given in this newsletter are area code 732.

President's Column

Last night we held our first meeting of the Board of Governance since the Annual Meeting. We had a full agenda, but, most importantly, we were able to fill three open leadership positions. Susan Gentry, who was elected VP of Religious Education at the Annual Meeting, resigned because of a new job in Connecticut. We wish her well, and she will be missed. Fortunately, the Nominating Committee immediately put forward Stacey Abate, who was appointed with the consent of the Board and has accepted. Ro Cedola, also put forward by the Nominating Committee as Board Secretary, was appointed and accepted. Finally, Elaine Held was appointed by the Board to an open, one-year slot on the Nominating Committee. Our thanks to all those who acted so quickly to fill these important positions. And to the three volunteers who accepted these positions. On June 18 we will hold our joint Board/Council Retreat. If we can make as much progress there as we did last night, we will truly have the year off to a flying start.

I want to echo the remarks I made at the close of the Annual Meeting. It is no secret that we face challenges. We are challenged by an extraordinarily tight budget due to our costs rising faster than our revenues. We are challenged by gaps in our leadership structure even after our recent appointments. We are challenged by a 9am service that often does not draw enough congregants to feel comfortable. But we have faced and overcome many more serious challenges together in the 16 years Cori and I have been attending UUCMC. When Harold Dean, our long-term Minister retired, we pulled together and called Kathleen to a Ministry that has endured. We built our wonderful new Earth Room and office space, even though we were not sure we had the money to do it and one of the principal means of financing the project fell through. We pulled together a Capital Campaign to refurbish our physical plant and the results of that effort are immediately apparent through the hard work of the Building Committee under Bob Guenther's leadership. And we have much to look forward to: Kathleen's return from sabbatical, our 50th Anniversary Celebration, our certification as a Green Sanctuary and the addition of solar power to our plant. When I look around, I see signs of energy and commitment everywhere. If you look, I am sure you will also. Let's focus on our goals and ministries and meet our long-term goal of remaining a voice for free and pluralistic religion in Central New Jersey.

I want to leave you with some words from Edward Everett Hale, a Unitarian Minister, grand-nephew of Nathan Hale and Chaplain to the US Senate at the turn of the Century:

"I am only one,
But I am one.

I cannot do everything,
But I can do something.

And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

Peace,

John



Religious Exploration Ministry New & Views

by Donna Renfro, RE Director

RE VIEWS

Summer Camp – August 14-18

Chalice Camp is a week-long summer day camp for 1st to 6th graders that introduces the basic theological gifts of our Unitarian and Universalist heritage to elementary aged children. Lively worship, activities that span a range of learning styles, games, art, community building, and UU theater are highlights of the week-long camp. We still have room for about 10 campers for the third annual Summer Chalice Camp. Hours are 9-5, with an extra 30 minutes coverage either way for \$30 if you sign up. Cost is \$125. Favorite quote from Lucas Franco – “Chalice Camp was my favorite camp last year, and my mom said it was the cheapest!”

Summer Sundays for Children

We have great things planned for the children this summer! Remember, the children will go directly into the community room for their activities. They will not be in the Earth Room for the first part of the service.

June 25, Wizard Day, with Jennifer Hagon-LaFountain
 July 9, Juggling, with Raphael and Emma Barker Lasar
 July 16, Pathfinding, Treasure Hunting, with Aida Murphy
 July 23, Jewelry making, with Carol Ann Lee and Valerie Leighton
 July 30, Balloon Animals, with Raphael and Emma Barker Lasar
 August 6, “Environmental Play” by Haylee Carscadden, with Jennifer Hagon-LaFountain
 August 13, Pottery, with Anne Milling
 August 20, Our Camp Experience, with the Chalice Camp Campers
 August 27, Pottery, with Anne Milling

Every Sunday in the summer is covered except the two holidays, July 4 weekend and Labor Day weekend. We had planned for those just to be free play on the playground days. So if no one signs up to be the leader, and you bring your children, please be prepared to have them in the service with you, or go to the playground with them.

Also, ever so sadly, Susan and Sage Gentry are moving to Connecticut later this summer. Susan could use some help being the coordinator for the summer. Please contact her at sagentry@verizon.net, or 732-495-6314.

New RE Ministry/Committee Members

We thank Wini Lamont and Sarah Fischell for all their time, effort, concern, and love for the RE Ministry, and we wish them well in their new leadership positions. We appreciate these new persons to RE Ministry, and those who are remaining on the committee.

VP RE, also serves on the Board of Governance

Stacey Abate, staceyabate@hotmail.com, 732-920-4195

RE Chair, also serves on the Council

Joan Farkas, jbfarkas@optonline.net, 732-252-6881

PreK-K concerns, family newsletters

Nicole Mednis, Nicole@iemednis.com, 732-708-0711

Parent-Teacher Communications

Margaret Moro, mvmoro@verizon.net, 732-872-8777

Special Events

Louise Ille, louiseille@yahoo.com, 732-341-9555

RE Publicity, Special Events

Jen LaFountain, abismommie@comcast.net, 732-542-1201

Finances

Lynn Franco, lynnm75@optonline.net, 732-972-6913

Curriculum

Nancy Phalanukorn, [mnjphalanukorn@earthlink.com](mailto:mnpjphalanukorn@earthlink.com), 732-935-0441

Scribe

Lori Carscadden, fidgit@aol.com, 732-500-4949

Social Action

OPEN

Youth

OPEN

We would love to have more members. There is simply too much to be done for me to do without help, so I will work on delegating more this year. I feel certain that this incredibly energized group will make wonderful things happen for RE, in a very organized and thoughtful approach. Next year, 07-08, I am eligible for a 5 month sabbatical, so it is important that someone else can make RE run efficiently.

Summer DRE Office Hours. My contract as your full-time DRE allows me to have two weeks of vacation and two weeks of study time in the summer. I will be at Star Island for RE Week 7/15 – 22. There are still spaces available for RE Week. If there’s ANY way YOU can go, I highly recommend it. I will take the Unitarian Universalist Identity Renaissance Module August 1-3 at Murray Grove. I will be on vacation July 1-14, and take study time the last week in July. At other times I plan to be at the Meetinghouse Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-9pm, and Wednesdays and Fridays, noon-6, except for occasional meetings. Please use my cell phone, 732-513-8867, to contact me if you have an urgent need to talk to me at times other than those listed above. Also, since my schedule is flexible, please call to make sure I’m here if you want to stop by to chat.

“Summer afternoon - Summer afternoon... the two most beautiful words in the English language” by Henry James.

World Religions and UU Identity

Those topics will be our focus next year, for all children. We plan to incorporate holidays, social action projects, and all congregation activities around these themes. From the registrations we expect at this time, for 06-07, we will be grouping our classes slightly differently next year, and have a wider age range in the earlier years. At both 9 and 11 am, there will be three classes, PreK to 1st Grade, 2nd to 5th grade, and 6th & 7th grade. 6th and 7th graders will be having visitors from other religions, and going on field trips to their places of worship. At 11 am, all the 8th & 9th graders will have O.W.L., Our Whole Lives UU sexuality education for three weeks, and a no-curriculum day on the fourth week. They will meet in Edge-wood from 10:45 to 12:15.

— Donna Renfro
Director Religious Education

Murray Grove CHALICE CAMP "Con" *August 18, 5pm to Aug 19, 7 pm*

The goal of the Chalice Camp 'Con' is to deepen children's, youth's, and adults' understanding of themselves as Unitarian Universalists and to expand their knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and their capacity to be articulate about our faith. The activities will include worship in the historic chapel and outdoors, yoga, drumming circle, glitter toes, group building exercises, games, drama, art, swimming and a service project.

Food will be provided. Adults will sleep mostly in beds two to a room, though some will supervise the children's sleeping areas. Children under 6 are invited to sleep in parents' room. All children and supervising adults will need sleeping bags.

\$20 for registered Chalice campers
\$35 for children who did not attend Chalice Camp
\$50 for adults. One free registration for each new to UU child or adult you bring.

— Donna Renfro
Director Religious Education

RE Registration Forms Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You!

UUCMC RE Families: you will shortly be receiving your fall registration packets in the mail. For the first time in several years, our pledge drive shortfalls will result in a registration fee for RE classes. The fee, while nominal, will go a long way towards preserving the quality Sunday Programs in which your family currently participates. The fee will offset the cost of materials, teacher training, supplies and activities and, while tax deductible, is not in lieu of our pledge commitments. The fee will be \$35 per child with a \$95 per family maximum contribution. Scholarships are available through Donna Renfro if your family has a financial need. Be sure and check out the registration form for a special discount for those families able to register before August 7. We on the RE committee are excited with our plans for next year's programming, which includes an increased emphasis on World Religions and Social Action in addition to our commitment to increasing UU Identity for our youth. Register now to show your commitment to our children's future.

— Joan Farkas
Religious Education

Hold This Date and Time! Sept. 10, 9:15am

We are inviting all RE families, parents, children and youth, to a light breakfast Sept. 10, 9:15am, before the first regular service of the year at 10am. We want to explain more about RE happenings next year, so we, The RE Committee and I will make a brief presentation from 9:30 to 9:45. There will be more time for fellowship from 9:45 to 10, and then again after the service, when we will have a picnic for the entire congregation. The children will be in part of the service at 10, then have activities all together back in the Community Room. I'm not sure yet if we're having a water communion in the main service. I would encourage you to bring your special water from the summer, and be willing to share what about it you will bring to our UU community next year.

RE Helpers and Teachers Needed for 2006-07

Would you consider teaching RE next year beginning in September 06? We especially need teachers at 9 am. Our children come from the most diverse groups at UUCMC. As we go forward with our world religions emphasis next year, we need teachers who have backgrounds and perspectives as diverse as those of our children, and our congregation. We need more men to become RE teachers. Training will be provided; August 26, Sept 9, and one other meeting with your teaching team to be scheduled in early September. We need helpers too, who could share music, art, read stories, help with social action. Please fill out the RE helper/teacher note card from my door, and leave it in the registration envelope on my door.

— Donna Renfro
Director Religious Education

Committee News

Committees

Religious Education
Adult Enrichment
Program
Aesthetics
Performing Arts
Music

Grounds
Building
Finance
Membership
Caring Committee
Hospitality

Social Action
Welcoming Congregation
Kids for Social Action
Green Sanctuary/Environmental
Peace and Justice
Interfaith Hospitality

Come celebrate our 50th year, 2006-2007!

For the past two years, our Committee has been planning a series of events to celebrate our 50th year. Since we are such a diverse community, our congregation is better served with a series of celebrations and programs, rather than a single event.

- **Saturday October 7, 2006** we are planning a dinner at the Old Orchard Inn, from 6 pm-10 pm, with music and short talks and reminiscences from present and past members. Tickets will go on sale this summer during coffee hour, and announcements will be mailed to past members who have moved. Contact Angie Morfogen at 732-866-9028 or soffronas@aol.com, or any member of the committee. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet old friends and, for our newer members, to learn about the amazing things our members have done in the name of social justice.
- **Sunday, October 8**, Rev. Hepler will officiate at the service with Rev. Ken Sawyer, who grew up here in the earlier days of our congregation and currently serves as UU minister in Wayland, Massachusetts.
- **Sunday, October 8 at 2 PM**, the same day, but a later time, former member and award-winning science fiction writer Fred Pohl will present a program.
- **Saturday, December 16**, Rev. John Buehrens will present a workshop based on his book *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals*. A progressive interpretation of the Bible is relevant, especially as he states, “a distorted view of the Bible has become politically influential and almost dominant”
- **Sunday December 17**, Rev. Buehrens will present a service titled “Expectations” about Advent/Chanukah/Solstice.
- At a date to be determined with the DRE and the RE Committee, we will have an event specifically focused on child friendly activities, so children can learn about their own UU history and feel included in the celebrations.
- Also at a future date, Maxine Guenther will lead a program about the artist Frederick Franck and the work entitled “Icon” in front of our Meeting House.

In addition to arranging specific events, the following things have been accomplished (or are in the works):

- Our congregation’s history has been rewritten and updated; the book has been sent to the printer.
- The 50th Anniversary Photo Directory, available in the fall, has been compiled.
- In the autumn, an interactive time line, on which people will be encouraged to add their thoughts, wishes, and photos, will hang in the Community Room.
- A DVD set, consisting of a documentary and a series of informal conversations, preserving the faces and voices of many of our beloved members who were involved in seminal events, will be available next year.

For the October 7 dinner, tickets will go on sale this summer during coffee hour, and announcements will be mailed to past members who have moved. Contact Angie Morfogen at 732-866-9028 or soffronas@aol.com, or any member of the committee. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 5:30 PM. Please feel free to join us. We can always use more help and new ideas.

— Angie Morfogen
50th Anniversary Committee

Social Action Highlights

IHN – Judy O’Keefe and Peter Bellincampi coordinated the hosting at St. Luke’s Methodist in Long Branch in June. Our next week will be in August. Beginning in August, SA will be contributing \$150 to St. Luke’s on each of our four hosting weeks to help defray costs of food, diapers, etc.

Peace and Justice – Peace vigils continue in Red Bank, Wednesdays from 4:45 – 5:45pm and at Fort Monmouth on Saturdays from 12 noon – 1pm. Central NJ P&J continues to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Meeting House.

St. Mark’s Soup Kitchen – Anne Owen and her family will do the buying, cooking and serving for July and August.

Green Sanctuary – Thanks to an affirmative vote by the congregation at the June 11 Congregational Meeting, we are now a certified Green Sanctuary and will receive our certificate at General Assembly in the end of June.

On May 24 we co-sponsored, with St. Mary’s in Colt’s Neck, a program, “Earth: Our Home in Jeopardy” by Sister Carol Zinn.

Nuclear Watch news from Laura Cayford – On June 5, at a Brick Town meeting, Gov. Corzine stated that “Oyster Creek is a low-production plant and not worth the safety risk.” Now if he would only get angry! A nuclear plant in Maine closed after that Governor received a whistle blower’s report and reacted appropriately. In Utah, Native Americans scored a victory. Nuclear utilities there wanted to dump high-level radioactive wastes on the Goshute Reservation. The Nuclear Information Resource Service (NIRS) was central in getting Congress to back a needed rail line.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold two public meetings on July 12 in Toms River to describe the preliminary results of its environmental review of the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant and to accept public comment. They will be held at 1:30pm and 7 p.m. at the Quality Inn, 815 Rt. 37, Toms River. To pre-register call 800-368-5642, ext. 1191, or email kEIS@nrc.gov.

Homes for NJ – Gov. Corzine has put \$40 million in the budget for the State Rental Assistance Program.

Allen Project – Judith Carluccio and Elaine Held have planned programs to continue the Allen Project, a joint project with the Allen Chapel in Asbury Park, for next year.

SA Focus for 2006-07 – Many ideas were presented at our June meeting. From these we will choose several from which the congregation can choose.

There will be no SA meeting in July. Next meeting will be Monday, Aug. 7, at 7 pm.

– Irene Gibson
Social Action Committee

UUCMC 50 Year History Book

A special thank you to Anne Carpenter, Nancy Rossbach and Ellen Chaddha, who have spent the past two years collecting information and photos for our new history book. They did much research and writing to get it ready for printing. It was my pleasure working with this group as the book’s designer and press coordinator in the past four months. The 92 page book will be available to all in September.

– Jack Ives
50th Anniversary Committee

Network of Spiritual Progressives Meeting, Tuesday July 18

Are you interested in the recent conference in Washington DC of the Network of Spiritual Progressives? Over 1200 people from 39 states were there and many more wanted to attend than could be accommodated. We will have a meeting locally on TUESDAY, JULY 18 at 7 pm to hear about the work of the NSP and decide if we wish to follow up in our region.

Many people at the conference expressed frustration at the continuing fear-based manipulation that skews moral and ethical principles in our country today. The NSP is helping people find their voices and act on their concerns to help make our country and the world a better place.

The Network of Spiritual Progressives, a project of TIKKUN (“to heal a broken world”), comprises a wide variety of individuals: some from mainstream faith traditions, some “spiritual but not religious,” and some simply those whose moral and ethical thinking propels them to stand up for what is truly the right thing to do. An example in the NSP’s Covenant for America says that a budget is a moral document and suggests looking at the ethical implications of cutting funds for poor people while spending billions on no-bid contracts for war. NSP emphasizes hope, not fear.

Reference: Rabbi Michael Lerner’s *The Left Hand of God* (meaning hope, not fear); Tikkun web-site, Rabbi Lerner’s *The Politics of Meaning*.

For questions, please contact Lynn Dash at Ldash@comcast.net.

– Lynn Dash
Social Action Committee

The Next Chapter

A new group for women over 45 will be starting in the fall. The focus of this group is an exploration for women who are experiencing the question, "What is next for me?" knowing that the answer is NOT "doing more of what I have been doing." This exploration will focus on journeying inward and centering, something women typically have not practiced much. The guided process will include journaling, visualization, meditation, and sharing in order to unfold the next chapter. The group will be led by Margaret Moro, Ph.D., who has been a psychotherapist and teacher for almost 20 years. The group will meet for six weeks, 2 hours per week, with a retreat (overnight) at the end. The cost will be \$150. For more information, contact Margaret at mvmoro@verizon.net or 872-8777.

— Margaret Moro
Adult Enrichment Committee

Calling All Knitters!

From a recent thank you note:

Just wanted to let you know I received the box. The blankets and hats are great. The nurses and parents love them. We get a lot of compliments. Tell everyone we really appreciate it. Thank you!

The hospital we have been sending things to is in Chicago and is called "Northwestern Memorial Hospital" and we send to the Neonatal ICU and the neonatal nursery which is part of the Prentice Women's Hospital there. We also send to PROJECT LINUS NEW JERSEY and WARM UP AMERICA.

We will continue to meet throughout the summer on the normal 3rd Thursday at 10am in the East Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions, please call Betsy Haas at 389-5435 for details or email betsyhaas@comcast.net.

— Betsy Haas
Adult Enrichment Committee

Sociable Suppers Group

The Sociable Supper Restaurant Group will meet on Sunday, July 16, at 6pm at the Japanese restaurant, Oyako Tso. The restaurant is BYOB and is at 7 West Main Street, Freehold. Please call Judy or Stuart at 732-264-6845 for reservations.

— Judy Willson
Community Life Committee

Community Life

Community News

- With joy, **Dave and Sylvia Noyes** welcome granddaughter, Molly Elizabeth Burden, born May 9. She joins her brother, Anthony.

"Summer Refreshment Hour"

Any questions, please call Carol Ann Lee at 732-236-1478 or carolannlee@comcast.net.

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| July 2 Liz Tortorella Ivan Polonsky | 10 AM Service 747-7519 741-8438 |
| July 9 Mary & Steve Laudano | 10 AM Service 441-9746 |
| July 16 Judith & Dan Carluccio | 10 AM Service 270-6365 |
| July 23 Irene & Tom Gibson | 10 AM Service 671-5572 |
| July 30 Robert Kelley Barbara Knitel | 10 AM Service 542-4127 528-6387 |
| August 6 Sylvia Noyes Susie Raczkiwicz | 10 AM Service 542-2437 741-5063 |
| August 13 Sally & Jim Palmer | 10 AM Service 409-7842 |
| August 20 Bettie Rogers Anne Marie Shotwell | 10 AM Service 671-2651 988-9711 |
| August 27 Adeline Arnold Sue Ziegler-Frieri | 10 AM Service 566-7310 741-7516 |



the Monmouth Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Monmouth County
1475 West Front Street
Lincroft, New Jersey 07738

Wheelchair Accessible

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