



The Monmouth Unitarian Universalist

WWW.UUCMC.ORG

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Religious Education News
- Board News
- Social Action
- Committee News
- Adjunct Groups
- Upcoming Events



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft, New Jersey

October 2011



October's Theme: *RESPECT*

When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you.

~ Laozi (Lao Tzu, Lao Tse, Lao Tsu)

The essence of democracy is its assurance that every human being should so respect himself and should be so respected in his own personality that he should have opportunity equal to that of every other human being to show what he was meant to become.

~ Anna Garlin Spencer

If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem. It is true that you may fool all of the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

~ Abraham Lincoln

Humans are ambitious and rational and proud. And we don't fall in line with people who don't respect us and who we don't believe have our best interests at heart. We are willing to follow leaders, but only to the extent that we believe they call on our best, not our worst.

~ Rachel Maddow

It is the duty of every cultured man or woman to read sympathetically the scriptures of the world. If we are to respect others' religions as we would have them respect our own, a friendly study of the world's religions is a sacred duty.

~ Mohandas K. Gandhi

Thinking of You U

Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst, Minister

Respecting ourselves and each other seems like a basic assumption in our community. Of course we believe we act respectfully all of the time – right?! I suppose this is always a matter of perspective, and how much tolerance we have for the tension in our disagreements.

I spent a few days in Santa Fe, New Mexico with my daughter this summer. Santa Fe is an interesting intersection of multiple cultures - Native American, Anglo, Spanish and Mexican. The history of how such different people came to live in the same place is told in numerous museums in the area. Some tell the story of colonization and conquest from the point of view of the victors. Some tell the stories of the victims. The most interesting and lively ones let the people tell their own stories. These museums and galleries seem the most respectful to me. They show that within the big stories of persecution, conquest and discovery, live much more complex, less clearly right and wrong real lives. People of every race and creed were trying to live their lives with dignity and respect. Every group suffered through chapters of widespread death and loss, though none so grievous as the native peoples. Whether I agreed with them or not, the exhibits that told real stories by real people upended my assumptions. Things did not fit in neat boxes labeled good and bad. In the end I had to respect the stories themselves.

One thought for this month of studying the meaning of respect is to set aside the assumptions we bring about a group or identity, and just listen to the real stories real people tell.

Respectfully yours,
Rev. Virginia



Next month's theme is **Humility**. If you have any inspiring quotes or readings, please forward them on to Rev. Virginia.

Sunday Services — 10:30am

October 2 *Whose Are We?*

Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst

This troubling question has been the source of discussion and discernment among UU ministers recently. We each are held - by individuals, by groups and identities, and by our beliefs and affinities. We are all held accountable and hopefully held in care somewhere. Today we will explore what the question ‘*Whose Are We?*’. And we will celebrate Association Sunday by sharing our offering with the Unitarian Universalist efforts to help fund theological education for religious professionals. *Music by Louise Chernosky and the UU Singers.*

October 9 *Naming the Holy*

Rev. Julie Newhall

We Unitarian Universalists have many understandings of what we value and hold sacred. In today’s service, we’ll consider different perspectives and hear the poignant and inspirational music of Peter Mayer as presented in gorgeous music videos edited by Connie Barlow. These sermon-songs and images remind us of the mystery and majesty present in the universe while celebrating creation and our place in it. Come see and hear for yourself. *Music by Jan Dash.*

October 16 *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral*

Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst

What is the nature of our respect for the land, the creatures that inhabit the earth and all that grows here? Sometimes we romanticize it, sometimes we ignore it, sometimes we might even get it right. *Music by Elaine Held; Liz Mitchell, cello; and Susanne Kelly, soprano.*



October 23 *R.E.S.P.E.C.T.*

Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst

Can I get a little respect here? Who among us hasn’t asked this question? Respect for the individual’s worth and dignity and respect for the interdependent web – we say these are important to us. How are we doing? *Music by Louise Chernosky and the UU Singers.*

October 30 *Held in Memory*

Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst

Halloween, All Souls and our relationship with the ancestors all depend on the memories we carry about those who have died. And human memory is tricky! Why do I forget so much? And why do I remember certain things? We will honor those who have died this year in our annual reading of the names for All Souls. Please send names of your loved ones who have died this year to Virginia@uucmc.org. *Music by Louise Chernosky and Joel DeWitt.*

Sunday Dialogs — 9am (coffee 8:45am)

October 2 - “Teachers, Teachers Unions, and Public Education Today”

Branden Rippey

Under pressure from the current state administration, NJ public school teachers are vigorously contesting layoffs, cut-backs on benefits, even the prospect of private businesses offering education for profit. Mr. Rippey, a labor and political activist, will give us an overview of the development of teachers unions and insider’s view of the teachers’ struggle.

Branden Rippey holds a BA in History and a Masters in Teaching History both from Rutgers University. He has taught for thirteen years in the Newark Public Schools and is currently a NJ Teachers’ Union Building Representative.

October 9 - “Introduction to Theosophy”

Marianne C. Wichowski, RMT

According to the Theosophical Society in America website, this spiritual philosophy “encourages open minded inquiry into world religions, philosophy, science and the arts in order to understand the wisdom of the ages, respect of the unity of all life, and help people explore spiritual self-transformation.” Marianne will tell us about its history and impact on current thought trends.

Marianne Wichowski has been an active member of the Red Bank Theosophical Society Lodge since 2001, serving as president and secretary. She is an energy-healing practitioner, using Reiki, IET and Magnified Healing, and attends meetings of the A.R.E.

October 16 - “Connecting the Dots”

Nick Curto

Coming from a New England, Italian/Irish Catholic background into the national realm of gay activism certainly had its road blocks along the way that had to be navigated and overcome. That journey made me dig deep within myself and question everything and, in so doing, helped me find strength to develop and grow.

Nick Curto, born in Massachusetts, graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston. While at MassArt, he was president of The Drama Club and the Newman Club. After graduation, he moved to New York City and is a creative Artist, Designer, Writer, Composer, Gay Activist, Spiritual Activist, Paranormal Researcher.

October 23 - “Paths to Atheism and Beyond”

Florrie Hill, John Luard, Bettie Rogers, Irwin Schpok, Tim Zebo

Five members of UUCMC left their traditional belief systems to find more personally acceptable explanations of life’s wonders. Atheism, Humanism, and Naturalism are among their stories. This presentation is about the questions asked when childhood religions no longer fit and the risks and rewards that come from stepping outside the belief in God typical of most religious thought.

Florrie Hill artist, retired teacher; *John Luard* past Dialog presenter; *Bettie Rogers*, retired journalist, photographer, teacher of ESL; *Irwin Schpok* past-President UUCMC; *Tim Zebo* of Dialogs, “Is Religion Good or Bad for Society?”, “Can Science Answer Moral Questions?”

October 30 - “Israel – A Society In Search of Social Justice”

Amir Mané

“The people demand social justice!” This slogan reverberated throughout Israel this summer. The demonstration started on July 14th when a Tel Aviv student pitched a tent in a city avenue, protesting the high cost of living. Her ‘Facebook event’ grew to the largest series of demonstrations and marches for social justice in the history of Israel.

Amir Mané was born and raised in Israel. He came to the US for graduate school and made his home in NJ. An empty-nester, with two boys attending college, he lives in Lincroft with his wife of 25 years.



Religious Exploration Ministry



Building Bridges
Michelle McKenzie-Creech,
Director Religious Education

This month, our new Junior Youth Group (JYG) will begin meeting. JYG is for youth in 6th-8th grade. The group's focus will be primarily social with opportunities for social justice and service-oriented activities. Our first meeting will be Friday, October 7th from 6:00 to 9:00pm. We will start by joining in on the Fellowship Friday potluck and then do some fun activities to get to know each other better. Activities this year may include: skit in a bag, sleepovers, bowling, arts and crafts, game nights and movie nights. **Lots of fun will be had!**

Our high school youth are participating in the **Neighboring Faiths** program on the first and third Sunday of each month. The program introduces youth to the faith traditions within the larger community and actively engages them in exploring the ritual practices of other religious groups. Our Neighboring Faiths year will conclude with a trip to Boston to explore and learn about our own Unitarian Universalist heritage.

A vibrant youth ministry is vital to our congregation and our denomination. We continue to look for opportunities for our youth to participate in the life of the congregation in meaningful ways. Several of our youth have joined our RE teaching teams and committees at UUCMC. As a denomination, we have learned that there is no one-size-fits-all youth ministry. For this reason, our Religious Education Committee is in the process of forming a **Youth-Adult Committee**. The function of this group will be to help support our youth programs and development of new programs to meet the needs of our youth here at UUCMC.

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future” ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

In service,
 Michelle

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
 Work from Home: Thursday

RE News



RE has REturned!!!

Thank you to all the parents who got their **Registration and Co-op Volunteer forms** in. We couldn't do it without you! Anyone still needing to fill out forms, please see the RE table in the Community Room after services (or go to <http://fd8.formdesk.com/uucongregationofmonmouthcounty/reregistration>).

Some RE dates to REmember:

- October 2 — RE Open House: Come and check out our REmarkable RE program and teachers!
- October 7 — Fellowship Friday
- October 30 — Halloween Party: Kids, come dressed in your costume!
- November 4 — Fellowship Friday
- November 19 — RE Family Spaghetti Dinner
- December 2 — Fellowship Friday

Monthly Theme REflection - **Respect**

As Unitarian Universalists, we don't give our children dogmatic absolutes. Ours is a religion that embraces paradox, complexity, and diversity. Perhaps our absolutes are LOVE, the context of life, and HOPE, the creativity of life—and of course, RESPECT.

~ Amanda L. Ailman, “Do Children Need Religion?”

Calling all Youth - are you interested in having a leadership role in your congregation? Do you have good ideas to share? If so, be part of our new Youth-Adult Committee. Contact Michelle or Sari for more info.



Adult Religious Education

12 Steps to a Compassionate Life Reading Group

Be part of a monthly reading and discussion group that will explore this book by Karen Armstrong. Karen was the Ware Lecturer on “The Challenge of Compassion” at UUA's General Assembly in June, 2011 (www.uua.org/ga/programming).

The group meets on the first Wednesdays each month from 12:30-2:00, in order to explore in depth each of the “12 steps.” The next meeting is Oct. 5th. Copies of the book will be available from the convener, Lynn Dash.

For any questions, contact Lynn at Ldash@comcast.net

Board News

Board of Governance 2011-2012

President	Sarah Fischell	Treasurer	Bob Kelley	VP at Large	Judy Stevens
Senior VP	Rich Held	VP Staff Resources	Woody Ross	VP at Large	Sandy Blakelock
Secretary	Steve Knowlton	VP at Large	Tricia Maguire	Council Moderator	Cori Hoffman

Our Growth Plan

Sarah Fischell, President

As you all know, our congregation is has worked hard over the last few years to develop and follow a five-year strategic plan. Some of the most important parts of this work have been our work on building multigenerational community, adding our Sunday Morning Dialog, reducing our collective and individual carbon footprints, growing covenant circles, improving our welcoming and integration of visitors and new members, and building “healthy congregations” capacities.

We will get a big boost in achieving more of our strategic plan goals through being part of our UU region’s Threshold Congregations Program. As part of this program, we get access to UU professionals and other congregations as we try to better “Create Community, Transform Ourselves and Transform the World.”

The Threshold Program Steering Committee’s first task has been to make a short video about our congregation.

Our second task has been to articulate our Growth Goals in a format requested by the Threshold Program. Our goals grow straight out of our existing strategic planning and initiatives work. (Remember that “growth” means all the kinds of growth needed to improve our ability to Create Community, Transform Ourselves and Transform the World.)

Here are our current thoughts of the projects that we think are most important to UUCMC’s growth:

Sunday Mornings: Improve our services, fellowship and religious education by building a strong youth program and by reaching all of our growing congregation.

More Engagement: Better engage our congregation and potential congregants by implementing total hospitality in all our ministries and by improving our electronic and paper communications.

Spiritual Growth: Develop a spiritual growth model that will help each of us grow our spirits as demanded by Unitarian Universalism, including work on our multicultural awareness, on covenant in our community, on learning to act on our beliefs, and on understanding the sources of our tradition.

Full Service Stewardship: Understand the spiritual value of generosity, unpack historical barriers and examine how we align resources (time, treasure and talent) with values.

Social Action: Select and pursue our next outreach project.

Match Infrastructure to Needs: Complete our strategic plan by making a multiyear plan for our needs for programs, staff, processes and facilities. Create a Congregational Covenant.

I still sometimes wonder who reads this column. Drop me a line to let me know you are reading this, please.

In community,

Sarah

732-758-9654
sfischell@comcast.net



Dollar\$ and \$en\$e

Annual Budget, Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012

	ACTUAL TO DATE	BUDGET/ PLEDGED
ANNUAL GIVING	\$53,165	\$267,208/\$254,814
TOTAL INCOME	\$81,212	\$410,758
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$62,819	\$410,758
NET INCOME	\$18,393	

So far, so good for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. If you haven’t yet completed your pledge payments from the last year, it’s never too late to do so; we’d welcome the support. Also, if you haven’t sent in your pledge commitment for this year, please do so – **we’re still short of the pledges that were budgeted for this year.** At the time of this writing, the roof work will soon be done, and we’ll be enjoying the confidence that leaks are a thing of the past. Recall that this is being funded by a loan from the UUCMC Endowment, to be repaid over 12 years.

— Bob Kelley, Treasurer

Committee News

Committee Chairs

Building	Bob Guenther	Grounds	Charly Nelson	Public Information	Ben Murphy/Cynthia Frunzi
Community Life	Janet Freed/Elaine Macina	Membership	Marinel Mukherjee	Religious Education	Sari Alburthus
Denominational Affairs	Gil Hutchinson	Music	Elaine Held/Susanne Kelly	Social Action	Bill Nordahl/David Reskof
Finance & Administration	Donald Chong	Program:	Skip Leib		

SOCIAL ACTION

Share the Plate: On October 2, we will celebrate Association Sunday by sharing our offering for the education of UU ministers, religious educators and music directors. Funds raised on this Sunday, nationwide, will help provide scholarships, grants, and training.

For the remaining four Sundays, our **Share the Plate** recipient will be the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (**UU-UNO**), which was founded in 1962 after the US Ambassador to the UN and a Unitarian, Adlai Stevenson, wrote to UUA President Greeley suggesting that each UU congregation nominate an envoy. Today the UU-UNO represents 138 congregations. UUCMC members Roshan Chaddha and Jan Dash serve on their Board of Directors.

Thank you to the volunteers from our congregation who helped to serve meals and host **Family Promise** guests the week of September 4th at the Middletown United Methodist Church. There are quite a few families with children involved right now. Our next chance to help will be the week of Thanksgiving, November 20-26. Please sign up at the Social Action table or contact Anne Shramko, [732-671-9457](tel:732-671-9457).

We're planning to set up a **support group for unemployed UU members**. We are soliciting the help of professionals who have expertise in financial management, personnel matters and in psychological trauma to consult with the group. Anyone interested, to be either a consultant or a group member can contact Dave Reskof or Bill Nordahl.

Info on **Crop Walk** is on the last page of this newsletter!

Next Social Action Committee Meeting – Wednesday, October 5th at 7:30 pm in the East Room. We invite all who are interested to join us.

To get involved, contact Social Action Co-Chairs
Dave Reskof (732) 747-8742 or giareskof@aol.com
Bill Nordahl (732) 409-7319 or bill.nordahl@gmail.com

UUs part of tar sands pipeline protest —a Call to Action

From August 20 to September 3, in Washington, DC, a coalition of groups including UU Ministry for Earth and Green Sanctuary, 350.org, Tar Sands Action, and Peaceful Uprising protested the proposed pipeline extension that would carry dirty tar sand oil 1700 miles from Canada to Texas refineries. Each day, protesters were arrested for civil disobedience, because they would not move from the White House sidewalk. By the end of the two-week period, over 1200 people had been arrested.

On August 29, the day of an Interfaith Rally to protest the pipeline, UUCMC member Lynn Dash was part of a group of participating UUs, who were largely represented among the many faith groups pointing out the unjust, unethical, destructive effect of tar sands and the proposed pipeline. Many of the group crossed the street and were arrested, including two UU ministers.

The fossil fuel from tar sands is extremely destructive to the environment, from the way it is extracted, through the lands the pipeline traverses, to risk of leaks. Not only would the accelerated extraction resulting from an approval of the pipeline spew more greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, its development would further contribute to global warming by distracting our country from moving toward renewable, sustainable energy. **It's an issue that ultimately affects the whole planet.**

Our President is due to sign either an approval or denial of the pipeline by December, 2011. In the meantime, the State Department is holding hearings and accepting written comments. It's not too late to take action:

www.ministryforearth.org
www.peacefuluprising.org
www.350.org
www.uua.org/greensanctuary



--Lynn Dash, Social Action
Climate Change Action Team

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee



One of the UUSC’s ongoing projects is assuring potable water is available to all the peoples of the world.

UUSC’s goal is to ensure **sustainable access to safe, sufficient, affordable water** to every person by enshrining the human right to water into law — internationally, nationally, statewide, and locally.

Water is essential for life. Yet, nearly 1 billion people lack access to safe water, and 2.5 billion don’t have adequate sanitation — more people have access to a cell phone than a toilet. The statistics are staggering. Even more surprising is how simple and cost-effective the solutions are.

According to a 2006 United Nations Development Program report entitled “Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis,” every \$1 spent in the clean-water and sanitation sector creates on average another \$8 in costs averted and productivity gained.

Urge your representative to fully fund this important legislation. Proposed cuts to foreign assistance threaten full implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act (WPA), a law that signals that the U.S. is willing to be a leader in international water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance for countries in need.

Water underlies all aspects of human existence — and by 2025, nearly two-thirds of the world’s population will be living under water-stressed conditions.

Please urge your representative to do the following:

- Preserve foreign aid funding for the WPA.
- Encourage the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop a coordinated strategy to fully implement the WPA, including consultation with marginalized communities to develop sustainable and appropriate technologies.
- Direct aid to countries with greatest needs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



Social Action Film Series

20th in our series: *The Quantum Activist*
 Sunday, October 23rd at 6 pm in the Community Room

The **Quantum Activist** tells the story of a man who challenges us to rethink our very notions of existence and reality, with a force and scope not felt since Einstein.

Dr. Amit Goswami, Ph.D, a pioneer of this revolutionary new perspective within science, shares with us his vision of the unlimited potential of consciousness as the ground of all being, and how this revelation can actually help us to live better. With a poignant relevance to the problems of our day, this film follows Dr. Goswami as he demonstrates how our mistaken views of reality have led to our current environmental, social, economic and spiritual crisis. At stake is nothing less than our survival upon the planet.

Sarah Klepner - sarah.klepner@gmail.com
 Dan Ciaglia - [732-284-6312](tel:732-284-6312)

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY

Community Life is rollin’! We are most grateful to the help of the Dialog folks who are providing our bagels for both Dialog and after Service, so we are off to a terrific start of the “new year”! The congregational picnic was Sept 18 and the weather was delicious and the food sensational.

There are many opportunities to help our community. We always need Community Hour Hosts/ Hostesses! No cooking is required. Just cutting some bagels and making sure the coffee pots are full and sweeping up the crumbs. That’s all!

We’re also looking for Soup Luncheon Hosts/Hostesses so if you can give a couple hours during the winter months, please give a call.

Always had fantasies of being a part of a kitchen design team? Join ours! Have great ideas for Community Life? Join us! Our next meeting will be after service on Oct. 16th in the East Room. Call Janet or Elaine for info.

— **Community Life Chairs**

Elaine Macina - emacina511@yahoo.com or [732-544-0843](tel:732-544-0843)
 Janet Freed - janfre510@yahoo.com or [732-359-6277](tel:732-359-6277)



Gift Card Program

You may have noticed a sign in Community Hour but not wandered over to see what it's all about. Well, **we are making money!** We get a percentage of every supermarket gift card we sell. Ergo, the more we sell, the more the congregation makes.

If just half of our congregation participated in the program, **we could earn thousands of dollars each year!** Imagine if it became a habit for everyone! We've got cards for Acme, A&P, Foodtown, ShopRite, Dean's Market. *What a simple way to help the congregation!*



BULBS! BULBS! BULBS!

Buy your spring flowering bulbs from UUCMC and help raise funds for our programs! Prices are reasonable, and the flowers are guaranteed to grow!

Order during Community Hour. The bulbs will be delivered for the fall planting season.

Autumn Art Festival



Save the date, and support your local artists! Saturday, November 12, from 10 am through 4 pm, UUCMC will host an Autumn Art Festival. The show features artists from within and outside of our congregation, featuring paintings, photography, jewelry, pottery, collage, and other media. This show will be juried by John Salvi, whose work has included painting, photography, and printmaking. All items are original and handmade by the artist.

For more information, please contact a member of the Aesthetics Committee or Angie Morfogen at 732-866-9028/soffronas@gmail.com.



UUCMC Solar System's Lifetime Performance (since 9/22/06)

Reading taken 9/1/11

Total:	58,583 pounds of CO ₂ pollution avoided
53,258 Kwhrs produced	90,540 pounds of coal consumption avoided
	160 barrels of oil consumption avoided

MUSIC!MUSIC!MUSIC!

Calling all performers! Do you have a talent to share? The UUCMC Cabaret is scheduled for Saturday, October 22. If you are interested in performing, please contact Elaine Held or Susanne Kelly.

This month, the UU Singers will sing in the services on October 2 and 22. They will sing a rousing version of "Die Gedanken sind Frei" ("Thoughts are Free"), a sixteenth-century German protest song newly arranged by Elizabeth Alexander, an arrangement of Jim Scott's Unitarian hymn "The Oneness of Everything," and "All You Need is Love" by Paul McCartney. The Singers rehearse Thursday nights from 6:45-8:30 pm. Visitors and new singers are welcome!

(Children's Choir and our Pick-up Band will begin in November. Details will be announced soon.)

— Louise Chernosky, Music Director
lec2116@columbia.edu

Our Annual Giving Campaigns

Our Annual Giving Campaign for this fiscal year continues. To date, all who have participated have helped our average pledge per UUCMC household to increase by almost \$200 to a total of \$1,530. That is terrific!... especially given that we are not in the best of economic times. Thank you to all who have made their pledge this year.

And if for some reason you have not had a chance to pledge...as mentioned, the campaign continues. You can send your pledge to Maggi, our Administrator via email (uucmc@uucmc.org), pick up a pledge form at the meetinghouse or, soon, you will be able to make your pledge online. (Watch for information regarding online capability).

Remember that every pledge counts; please be as generous as your situation allows.

An **important reminder:** when paying by check please indicate which fiscal year the payment is for, by writing either 2010-11 or 2011-12 in the memo field.

Thanks to all who have added your vibrant notes to our lovely, complex harmonies...and **thanks for your generosity.**

~ Your Stewardship Committee

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

UN Sunday ~ In celebration of the founding of the United Nations on October 24th, 1945, the UU-United Nations Office invites congregations and individual UUs to deepen their understanding of the UN by devoting one service in October to reaffirming the connections between UU principles and vital issues dealt with at the UN. This year's UN Sunday will take place on October 23rd. The UU-UNO will be our Share the Plate charity for all but the first Sunday of October. See the Social Action News section of this newsletter for details.

The 6th Annual Leadership Day: Defying Gravity will take place November 5 at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (Manhasset, NY). The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, renowned author of *Tribal Church* and *Reframing Hope* and expert on multigenerational congregational life. The afternoon workshops will sort congregational leaders by their role – ministers, DREs, presidents, treasurers, worship chairs, musicians, committees on ministry, young adult leaders, and others. The cost will be modest, since the program is generously underwritten by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, and scholarships are available. Watch for further details.

And...Check out the pictures and comments from the 2011 GA on the front bulletin board! That's where information about GA in Phoenix next year will show up as well. We are looking forward to a huge response to what has transpired in terms of human rights issues in Arizona, along with all of the other wonderful aspects of being at GA in person, for our largest delegation ever to GA from UUCMC. We will also be looking into live streaming events to be broadcast on the big screen at the meetinghouse for those who aren't able to travel to Phoenix.

— Gil Hutchinson, Denominational Affairs Chair

Path To Membership Fall 2011

If you are thinking about becoming a UUCMC member, this series of classes are for you. We require that all newcomers attend these classes in order to become members. If you would like to join and are unable to attend, please speak to the Minister or the Membership Committee. Please register by signing up on the Office door and indicate there if you will need childcare.

Part I – RU UU? October 23, Noon – 1:30

This overview of the history, traditions and practices of Unitarian Universalism begins with a chance to get to know others who are searching like you. Together you will learn about our stories, symbols and principles. This session is led by Rev. Virginia Jarocho-Ernst and there will be time to ask questions.

Part II - Articulating Your Faith November 6, Noon – 1:30

What do you believe about the big questions about life and death, good and evil, God and humanity? We will begin exploring UU theologies and practices and talking about what we each believe and why.

Part III - UUCMC and Me December 4, Noon – 1:30

What are the rights and responsibilities of membership in this UU congregation? How can you get involved and how can you become a member? Find out the answers in this session led by our Membership Committee and other lay leaders of UUCMC. You will have the opportunity to become a member at the end of this session. **To recognize and welcome new members, we invite you to light the chalice at a Sunday morning service following your commitment to UUCMC.*



If you'd like to schedule a **child dedication** please contact Rev. Virginia. We will be celebrating two child dedications on Oct. 2 and 23 in the service if you would like to see what this ritual of blessing and commitment to our children is like.

First Fridays! ~ Fellowship Fridays are back with great class offerings in a new and improved format!

Join us from 6-9 pm the first Friday of each month **starting October 7th**. We'll have a potluck dinner, worship and work-shop sessions for all ages. Registration is only \$1 or a can of food to share with a local food bank. Register in the Community Room after service. You can see a full description in last month's newsletter.

Adult and Youth Programming

“Five Questions: A Theological Process of Discovery and Growth” led by Rev. Virginia (6 sessions)

We'll work together to answer the theological questions that underpin liberal theology. With reflection, conversation and some homework, we'll craft a credo statement, a unique reflection of where we are on our journey. Participants are asked to make a commitment to be at all sessions, to make the best of the experience for yourself and the group.

“Parenting 101: Turning Chaos into Peace and Harmony” led by Michelle, CRE, and Sue Balding (3 sessions)

Learn effective parenting tools for a peaceful home, and see how Unitarian Universalism fits into your everyday living.

“Got Facebook? Two Perspectives on using Social Media” led by Ben Murphy and Jo Grazide (October session)

Go through initial setup for Facebook, open an account and see how to “friend” people. They'll also show you some tips and tricks for keeping Facebook running smoothly, privacy settings and getting in touch with friends.

“Handyman Plumbing Tips” led by Bob Guenther (November session)

“Social Dancing for Adults” led by Patricia Brennan (December session)

Children's Programming

October 7 — We will be learning about respecting the Earth and making Green Pumpkin People.

November 4 — We will be learning about humility and making Gratitude Chalice.

December 2 — We will be learning about kindness and making Survival Snowmen.

Each session will also have a visit from a special guest, Aunt Bertha, who visited RE classes in September to introduce herself and say hello.



Murray Grove News Update

Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center: peaceful, affordable space - open year-round - perfect for retreats, family reunions and holiday gatherings. It's not far from Lincroft, and it offers an opportunity to be in the **cradle of our Universalist history**. Visit murraygrove.org for more information about its history and its future.

Musical/Artistic Coffee Houses. Once a month, we offer live entertainment from 7:00-9:00 (doors open at 6:30). Bring your favorite appetizers and/or desserts to share, and BYOB. Kindly RSVP. It's only \$10/person!

- **October 12: Pat Guadagno**, saloon singer: “A... remarkable repertoire that spans decades of Country, Blues, Rock and Soul music” ~ New York Times.
- **November 9: Frank Fotusky**, virtuoso acoustic blues guitarist & singer.

We need your help to keep history alive! Volunteer, meet new people and enjoy live music! Charly and Jean Nelson, wonderful volunteers from UUCMC, are leading regular **work parties**, often coinciding with our coffee houses. Call Charly to join the fun: [732-747-0737](tel:732-747-0737). Even just a couple of hours make a difference; there's always something to do!

Don't miss our new quarterly e-newsletter, the **Hand-in-Hand!** To receive it, email newsletter@murraygrove.org.

For information and registration: Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center
PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 - [609-693-5558](tel:609-693-5558) ~ murraygrove@murraygrove.org ~ www.murraygrove.org

Monmouth Unitarian Universalist

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County
 1475 West Front Street
 Lincroft, N.J. 07738
 Phone: 747-0707 Fax: 741-9399
 www.uucmc.org

Minister

Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst
 Office: 741-6111
 Email: Minister@uucmc.org

Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Rosemarie Newberry
 Cell: 331-9463
 Email: rnewberry0320@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education

Michelle McKenzie-Creech
 Office: 741-8016
 Email: dre@uucmc.org

Music Director

Louise Chernosky
 Cell: 585-905-8183
 Email: lec2116@columbia.edu

President

Sarah Fischell
 Home: 758-9654
 Email: sfischell@comcast.net

Administrator

Maggi Riordan
 Office: 747-0707
 Email: uucmc@uucmc.org

Membership Coordinator

Yvonne Stern
 Office: 747-0707
 Email: membership@uucmc.org

Caretaker

Arya Connett
 Home: 741-0342

Copy Editor/Layout: Maggi Riordan

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of each month at 4pm. Please submit articles to uucmc@uucmc.org.

This newsletter is for news and articles about the activities of this congregation. All submissions should be limited to 100-150 words unless factual information requires more.

The newsletter can be accessed via our website at www.uucmc.org. Click on Newsletters. Copies are available to take without charge in the foyer on Sundays. For others, there is a \$35 per year mailing fee.

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

Adjunct Groups

Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought

Please join us for the twelfth annual **United We Sing**. We will be keeping to a strict time limit this year. However, if you have any suggestions for a group or individual to present their spiritual/faith tradition's version of giving thanks please contact Stevi at lischinsmith@verizon.net.

Date: Sunday, Nov. 20th. Time 4:00 – 5:30. A dinner with foods from several cultures will follow. Please bring friends, neighbors, family. More info about **United We Sing** is at <http://interfaith-mcwret.org/>.

LINCROFT ZEN SANGHA

Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm

A short Zen Buddhist Service is followed by three 25-minute periods of sitting meditation interspersed with walking meditation. Come for one or more sittings. Beginners' instruction starts at 6:30. "To practice zazen (sitting meditation) is to become awake to one's life in the universe and awake to the universe's response. The practice of zazen, in silence or speech, stillness or action, is a wild adventure." Sensei Merle Kodo Boyd, guiding teacher. All are welcome.

Contact: Elaine Held – evdplate@gmail.com or (732)774-3492.

Tai Chi for Beginners

Mondays, 6 pm, Community Room

This class will help recognize the "qi" in our bodies. We will learn the practice called "nanlaoshu" or "the art of how to grow old." This practice enables us to strengthen and straighten our bodies, increase flexibility and improve our general health and well-being. No sign-up is necessary. Open to beginners and all others. For more information, contact Dan Ciaglia at 284-6312 or danciaglia@gmail.com. \$5 donation.

— Dan Ciaglia, Adult REC



The Lincroft Center for Children

Infant/Toddler, Preschool & Kindergarten

Half-Day and Full-Day Programs Available

TLC is an adjunct of UUCMC

Call Kim King or Mary English at 732-430-0643, kking109@aol.com.

Please see website:

www.thelincroftcenterforchildren.org



Upcoming Events

The 31st annual **Red Bank CROP Walk** Sunday, October 16 at 1:30pm!

Join us in raising money to stop hunger in our community and abroad by picking up a sponsor envelope at Community Hour **and** by raising money at www.cropwalkonline.org/redbanknj, our **online team** page. Click on **Join a Team** button, put **Unitarian Universalist of Monmouth Co** in the Team Name box and follow the instructions. For donations only, click on the left sidebar.



The walk is 5 miles, representing the distance many people of the world walk to get water every day. If you can't walk, you can be a **CROP Spirit Walker** and raise money to help out. Last year we raised over \$2,200, let's increase this with a goal of \$3,000!

Contact Molly Walker at mollvwalk@aol.com or 462-8139.

CABARET

"If we only have love"
Saturday, October 22, 7-9 pm

"Fundraiser" Event
Tickets \$20 (available October 2)

Assorted Tapas, Dessert
and Libations

Performers contact
Elaine Held or
Susanne Kelly



The Monmouth Unitarian Universalist

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

Wheelchair Accessible



Address Correction Requested

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE EXPEDITE