



The Communitarian

Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Toms River, NJ

A MULTI-MEDIA NEWSLETTER

February 2012

!!NOTE Winter is here. Check the UUOCC website and online calendar for services, meetings, and event updates!!

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation, are a vibrant, liberal religious community dedicated to providing a spiritual home for people of differing beliefs.

We welcome all who honor acceptance, respect, the richness of diversity, reason, love, and mutual trust.

As Unitarian Universalists, unified by life-affirming principles, we are inspired to deepen our understanding, expand our vision, nurture one another, and labor for justice and a peaceful world.

ATTENTION UUOCC CONGREGATION! There will be a whole-congregational information meeting on **Sunday, March 4** following Worship and Hospitality. The purpose of the meeting is to keep you up to date on UUOCC's budget and finances, to brief you on the Board retreat which is scheduled for February 18, and to inform you of milestones facing the congregation in the upcoming year. As always, we look forward to hearing your input as we plan for the coming months.



In service,
Elaine McConnell,
Board President

Rev. Betsy Scheuerman

revVIEW

my monthly message



[▶ click the pic](#)

David Kato

On January 26, 2011, David Kato, a courageous gay activist in Uganda, was hammered to death. Three months before, David Kato's face and address had been blazoned on the front page of a Ugandan tabloid, under the headline, "Hang Them." To my shame, I had forgotten about David Kato, until I saw an excerpt of a documentary film on the New York Times website.

There are so many injustices in the world; my attention span is too short, and Uganda is far away. It is easy to forget the truth of what John Donne wrote almost 500 years ago: "Every man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind."

Occasionally I ask myself, "Why do we do church?" Or more specifically, "why does UUOCC matter?" And today, my answer is: church helps us remember our humanity. It restores us, heals us, challenges us, and holds us in love. It connects us to one another. It involves us in our world. It reminds us that no one of us is an island.

There is a paradox in my answer: the homophobia in Uganda was itself stirred up by fundamentalist American Christian evangelicals. (I want to say, *so-called* Christians; I am convinced that

the Jesus depicted in the Gospels would have stood beside David Kato.)

Religion can bring out our worst and our best.

Unitarian Universalism is not perfect. UUOCC is not perfect. I am **definitely** imperfect, as are you. But imperfectly, we are trying to bring more love, more kindness, and more justice to our selves, our families, our communities, our county, our world. Imperfectly we try to live our principles, whether it be in Trenton, as UUs testify for marriage equality; or Phoenix, where we fight against hate-filled and prejudicial legislation targeting Latinos; or Uganda, where we support the human rights of lesbians, gays, and transgenders and their allies.

We have seven principles that we covenant to affirm and promote in Unitarian Universalism. For me, the most important principles are the first and the seventh:

- *the inherent worth and dignity of every person; and*
- *respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.*

Undergirding these principles is love. If you are curious about the current *Thirty Days of Love* campaign, go to standingonthesideoflove.org. The campaign culminates on Valentine’s Day, but I trust our working to become more loving and to stand with those in need of compassion and justice will be ongoing. Standing on the side of love and manifesting love are what we are called to do, every day.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

*In faith, hope, and love,
Betsy*



National Standing on the Side of Love Month:
Jan. 16, 2012 – Feb. 14, 2012 ➤ [click the pic](#)

Worship Schedule

UUOCC's Worship schedule is crafted and brought to you by the Worship Committee: Hank Douma, Linda Kay, Frank Kowalczyk, Cathy Wiczorek, Bonney Parker, and our Rev. Betsy Scheuerman.

Sunday **February 5** 10:30 am

“There's Something About ... Brigid”

by our

Rev. Betsy Scheuerman

The Celtic festival of Imbolc is closely linked to the goddess Brigid, who then morphed into St. Brigid of Kildare. This worship service will explore the tales, the legends, and the lessons of this most beloved Irish goddess/saint.



This service will celebrate SSL's "Month of Love," which runs from MLK's Birthday to Valentine's Day.

**Also on February 5 ...
Please join us in welcoming new members this Sunday.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday **February 12** 10:30 am

“Standing on the Side of Love”

by our

UUOCC's Worship Committee

Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, which seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It does this by elevating compassionate religious voices to influence public attitudes and public policy, and through community



➤ [click the pic](#)

➤ [click the pic](#)

activism, social networking, and media outreach, so that people across the nation are equipped to counter fear and make love real in the world.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday **February 19** 10:30 am

“The Art of Losing”

by our

Rev. Betsy Scheuerman

We celebrate "winners" and pity or mock "losers." But losing is part of the human condition; as inevitable as death and taxes. Can we, with the poet Elizabeth Bishop (I've stolen the sermon title from one of her poems) master the art of losing?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday **February 26** 10:30 am

“The Universe Story”

by guest minister

Rev. Phil Passantino

What spiritual wisdom can be gained from examining the 13.7 billion-year history of the Universe? Are we the waking universe itself?

Phil will give a musical sermon. He'll share songs he wrote that are inspired by the work of Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme, two leading theologians in the quest to integrate science and spirituality.

Phil Passantino is an ordained minister who has spoken in UU Fellowships from the Poconos to Ireland. He officiates unique and meaningful weddings, baptisms and funerals for people of all faith backgrounds. He's also a singer and guitarist. His website is www.AmazingCeremonies.com.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday **March 4** 10:30 am

“Sweet Water: Rights Wrongs and Justice”

by our

Rev. Betsy Scheuerman and our Social Justice Committee

Water is sometimes described as the source of life. But too many people in this world don't have access to *living* water, safe water, any water. Water is wasted, polluted, exploited, diverted. This will be an experiential and reflective service in honor of the UU Service Committee's annual *Justice Sunday*, and *World Water Day* (March 18th).

TWO FROM LINDA

#1

There will be a **UUOCC Worship Associates Training** on Saturday, March 3rd from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. We'll be discussing worship theory and how it applies to UUOCC. We'll also share some tips and tricks that will make your participation in Sunday services easier and more confident. All current worship associates, and anyone with an interest in the quality of Sunday services, whether you'd like to help lead worship or work behind the scenes, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please sign up on the back table so we know how many to expect.

#2

On Friday, April 6th at 7:30 pm, **UUOCC will have a celebration of Passover**. Please save the date – more details to follow.



➤ *click the pic*

Bake Sale

Sunday Feb. 12
Proceeds support UUOCC.
Contact Lexie Stewart
(astewart1018@comcast.net
, 732-503-4804)
Note: Homemade
goodies ONLY, please.



Elaine McConnell
The President
Reports ...



A New Year is underway!

At its January meeting, the Board's first order of business was to appoint Pat Robison and Catherine Wieczorek as Chairs of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Worship Committee respectively. Many thanks to both of them for agreeing to serve.

The Board also voted to apply for "Growing Stronger - a Workshop Series for the Small Congregation." This is a new workshop series being offered by the Central East Regional Group of the UUA and it is intended for congregations with fewer than 150 members. It appears to be a perfect fit for our congregation at this time. If accepted, UUOCC's team will consist of Linda Kay, Bonney Parker, Pat Robison, Gail Saxer and Rev. Betsy. Will Reisman and Catherine Wieczorek will serve as alternates. This workshop is a three year commitment, and team members will attend a mini-retreat every six months and be mentored by Mark Bernstein, workshop coordinator between retreats. A special thank-you to Linda Kay for preparing UUOCC's application to the workshop.

The Board will hold its annual retreat on February 18. Craig Hirshberg will facilitate and immediate past Board members are also invited to attend.

Our certificate of membership is due to UUA by February 1. This was delivered on-time. We reported that UUOCC has 53 members.

This promises to be both an eventful and challenging year for UUOCC. Rev Betsy's contract is up for renewal on September 1, and the current lease on our existing space expires April 1, 2013. Our expenditures continue to greatly outpace our revenues and we must find a way to close that gap if we wish to continue on the ambitious path we have set for ourselves. I am confident that by working together we can achieve that goal.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2012.



Nancy Lang
Social Justice
Committee



Since UUOCC is celebrating "Standing on the Side of Love" just now, it's timely to write about our work with Interfaith Hospitality Network this month. Through the Ocean County chapter we have the opportunity to offer loving service to homeless families who are housed at St. Paul's Lutheran church. Our volunteers will provide dinners and act as overnight hosts on February 13, 14 (yes, that's Valentine's day) and the 15th. **At this writing we still need one more cook for the 15th, and one more overnight host for the 14th.**

It's helpful, when trying to grasp the impact of IHN on the families it serves, to offer a personal story. Here is an excerpt from one of the mothers who penned a letter of gratitude which was printed in "IHN's publication, "Beacon of Hope."

*"Dear Interfaith Hospitality Network,
 Thank you so much for all that you have done. The last year of my life, which should have been the darkest, you filled with light, love and happy memories for me and my children. My faith in the goodness of humankind is reaffirmed. My children have learned a confidence and an understanding of values that will stay with them solidly throughout their lives.....Most of us go through life with the comfortable assumption that our families would step in to catch us if we fall. I discovered that a family and its resources might not be available when our crisis occurs.*

I came to IHN desperate after a month in a tent with my two children. The prospect of a job kept dangling just out of reach. IHN took us in with the simple promise of local churches to sleep in and hot meals, while I worked to repair my life. What we got was so much more...it was like a door opened for us....people who had no idea who we were met us with such compassion, generosity and support.

Several volunteers assisted me with legal representation. When my van broke down a caring volunteer towed my car in

the middle of a storm and drove me home.....another donated a vehicle so we wouldn't fail in our fight to get back on our feet.

I have never seen such a network of inherently good and genuinely loving people.....I can only say thank you and hope they know how special they are and what impact their actions have made on my life and on my children's forever.

*Signed,
A Grateful Recipient"*

This letter, a moving testimony, speaks volumes. I'm so proud that our congregation assists Interfaith Hospitality Network through volunteering and also through financial support. In February, one half of all non-designated funds collected at Sunday services will be given to IHN in line with our Share the Plate policy. I invite you all to be generous in supporting this humanitarian charity.



Share 'N Show A February Haiku



The plum tree's blossoms--
Shaken by early thunder
Withered by late snow

Dumb as the brook
In the bitter season stilled--
Wish-to-pray is prayer

Over icy fields,
In grey sun, jubilant
The crow's black shout

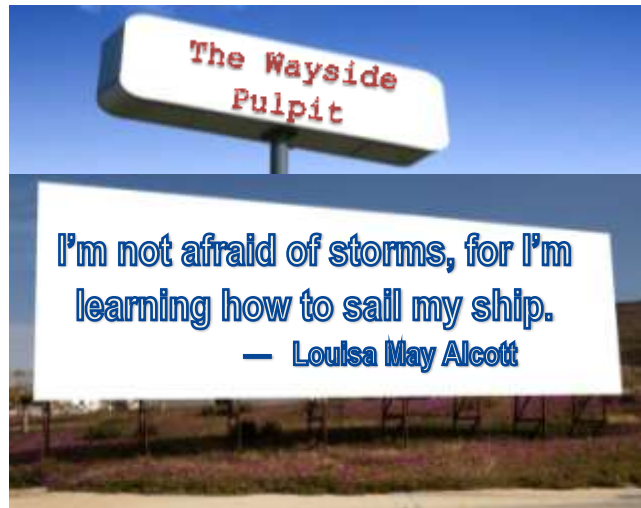
-- by Georgette Perry
Member of UU Church
of Huntsville, Alabama

Click [\[HERE\]](#) to learn about the "Haiku."

Share and Show is all about you. Send your poetry, stories, graphical content (i.e., photos, drawings, etc.). Kid's stuff too! Text and digital content (png, gif, jpg) should be emailed, and scanning is available to digitize your printed pictures, drawings, etc. Nothing political, please.

Send to newsletter@uuocc.org, or PO Box 5184, Toms River, NJ 08754, or hand-deliver at Sundays Worship services.

Placement depends on space availability, acceptance not guaranteed. Effort will be made to return submitted matter.



Bette Chosak More from ... Social Justice Committee

Dear UUOCC Community,
Several updates on **More Affordable Housing**:

- ✓ **H.E.L.P.**, a coalition of non-profits and congregations serving Homelessness issues and supporting the Lakewood/Tent City litigation, is **meeting on Monday, Feb. 13, at 7PM**, at the **Presbyterian Church, on Hooper Avenue, Toms River.**
- ✓ HUD had been pressuring Ocean County and several towns to improve their responses to implementing Affordable Housing plans and to identifying impediments. **Lakewood**, which proclaims that although they are 90,000 people today, that they will be 220,000 in twenty years, has developed rigid social/economic/and political ties to a singular community, and Lakewood is dragging its feet to implement housing for all. To address the pressure from HUD, Lakewood is holding a **Public Hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 15**, at the Municipal Building in Lakewood, 231 3rd Street, at 7 PM.
- ✓ TOMS RIVER is further along in its efforts to address the impediments to Affordable Housing and to develop the required ten year plan. It is holding a Public Hearing on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 6 PM at the Lomell Meeting Room in Toms River Town Hall, next to the library.

Additionally ...

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is sponsoring Imam Rasheed of the Ocean County Islamic Center, who will be sharing the fundamental principles that

governs his faith. This talk will be given at the House of Hope (behind the Presbyterian Church on Hooper Avenue) on Monday, February 27, at 7 PM. Please support and attend Imam Rasheed's discussion.

Much thanks,
Bette Chosak
for the UUOCC Social Justice Committee
and our initiatives

Pat Robison
Long Range
Planning
Committee



The LRPC is Back!

On Thursday Feb. 1, the 2012 Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) had our first meeting. Elaine McConnell, Bonney Parker, Will Reisman, Frank Kowalczyk, Hank Douma, Shirley Giles, Rhoda Costain and Rev. Betsy Scheuerman are committee members. Monthly meetings are planned.

Per UUOCC's By Laws, the responsibilities of this advisory committee are to assess and communicate congregational goals and to make recommendations to the Board on how to achieve the goals. In 2009, the LRPC did their study and produced a Five Year Long Range Plan which was accepted by the Board and then by the church membership.

The first of the new LRPC's tasks is to review our current status in relation to the Long Range Plan approved by the congregation in December, 2009. Presently, UUOCC is at the beginning of the third year of that plan. The current LRPC voted to update the plan as needed and to extend the projection to a full five years from now.

A vital matter behind our need to update the plan is that the lease for our current space needs renewal in March, 2013. The committee members felt it prudent to begin now to search for and to evaluate our options. Hank Douma volunteered to head a team to investigate other available spaces. The purposes are to learn about current market space pricing and to determine if spaces exist that could meet our needs better than our current site. Please contact Hank (info@uuocc.org, 732-244-3455) if you can help with leads.

The meeting closed with discussion about our dearly held wish to own a "home of our own" and how this might be accomplished. Pat described how UUOCC members and friends can help this happen by making "legacy" contributions. That is, by bequeathing a portion of one's estate to UUOCC. Other items discussed were an earlier proposal about our buying land, and our 2006 proposal to the Murray Grove Association to build a church at their Retreat and Renewal Center (a 241 year old UU organization in Lacey Township).

Committee members agreed to keep open minds, to seek out and to discuss options inline with UUOCC needs and goals.



Leave a Legacy of Love to UUOCC

By including UUOCC in your will, you can *Leave a Legacy of Love* for generations to come.

If you wish to make an unrestricted bequest, consider the following sample language:

I give and bequeath to the UUOCC, a New Jersey corporation, {the sum of _____ Dollars} {all or __% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate} to be used for the general purposes of UUOCC.

If you prefer to provide a gift for a specific purpose that is close to your heart, please contact UUOCC to discuss your wishes. Naming UUOCC as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account, such as an IRA or 401(k), is another way to *Leave a Legacy of Love* and possibly achieve tax savings. Please consult with your tax adviser to see if such a gift would make sense for you.

**CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE
INFO: info@uuocc.org, or
732-244-3455**

Frank Kowalczyk
This Month in
UU History



Religious Freedom – A Unitarian Birthright

Our American Constitution respects our rights as citizens of the United States of America to practice a religion of choice. We obtained that right in 1791 with the ratification of the Bill of Rights. This concept of freedom of religion is pre-dated by several laws guaranteeing such freedom.

Just 5 years earlier, the Virginia colony enacted a law written by Thomas Jefferson that spoke to three rights – freedom to think, freedom to choose a religion and freedom to amend a law. From this document, the germ of religious freedom was sowed and led to our Bill of Rights.

In 1689, the British Parliament passed the Toleration Act which granted freedom to Dissenting Protestants such as Baptists and Congregationalists. These Nonconformists were allowed their own churches and preachers, subject to oaths of allegiance to the King. Catholics and Unitarians were not allowed these rights.

Roger Williams, forced to leave the Massachusetts colony for his religious views, formed Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations. In 1663, the colony's charter proclaimed that a "flourishing civil state may stand and best be maintained with full liberty in religious concerns". This colony experienced the first Baptist congregation (1638), the oldest synagogue (1763) and the oldest Quaker meetinghouse (1699) in the United States.

But we have to go back even further to discover the first national guarantee of religious freedom. The date is 1568; the place is Transylvania. The two leading characters are King John Sigismund and Francis David (pronounced Dah-veed), a theologian and court minister.

David was raised Catholic and went to study theology at Wittenberg. There he was exposed to the Protestant Reformation and converted to Lutheranism, becoming a minister. His continuing theological studies caused his beliefs to change to Calvinism and he then became Bishop of the Calvinist Church of Transylvania.

In Geneva in 1553, Michael Servetus was burned at the stake for his anti-Trinitarian views and his books *On the Errors of the Trinity* and *On the Restitution of Christianity*. Discussion of these texts exploded throughout Europe, from Spain to Italy to Poland and even to Transylvania. Francis David absorbed the newly-developed concepts of Christ's unity and David's eloquence led him to become the Court Preacher.

But discussion caused heated debates between the Calvinists and David that King John convened a synod to hear the disputes and prevent the controversy from disrupting the country. This synod was held in the town of Torda. The outcome of this discussion resulted in the Edict of Torda, whose significance was the following decree:

"In every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well, if not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve. Therefore none of the superintendents or others shall abuse the preachers, no one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone, and it is not permitted that anyone should threaten anyone else by imprisonment or by removal from his post for his teaching, for faith is the gift of God."



Furthermore, Unitarianism was accepted as one of Transylvania's "received" religions, (i.e., faiths already practiced by the citizenry) - Calvinism, Lutheranism and Catholicism being the other three. For the first time in history, we had a kingdom that had no state religion and that allowed for the practice of several religions. Unfortunately, this was short-lived. When King John died, his replacement was Catholic and the tide turned toward less freedom for other religions. And Francis David suffered for his Unitarianism, dying in prison after years of

imprisonment and accusation of preaching “innovative” religion.

That short-lived moment in our Unitarian-Universalist history proved the concept of religious freedom and eventually led to the freedoms we enjoy today.



**Will Reisman, Chair
Finance Committee**

“If We Don’t Do It ... Then Nobody Else Will”

This is my 6th re-write of this article. I am new to the position of Chair of the Finance Committee (FC), but, I am not new to leadership or to the new responsibilities I now have. The committee members are: Frank Kowalczyk, Bonney Parker, Pat Robison, Hank Douma and Rhoda Costain. Elaine McConnell and Rev. Betsy also attend FC meetings. Most have served on the church’s FC before, some even several times. Many are on the Long Range Planning and other committees as well. The team carries significant stewardship experience.

Your FC records income and spending, pays the bills, etc., and reports to the Board. As in the past, the FC creates and operates fundraising projects that are absolutely essential to the/any church’s operations. This includes the Annual Membership Renewal and Pledge Campaign and other means to raise money to operate our church. This is what the FC does.

Now I turn to the topic of our current status.

Last September, the FC organized and kicked-off 2012’s Membership Renewal and Pledge Campaign. Conservative goals for promised funding were set, and those were based on the experiences of the last few years.

Concurrently, the FC prepared the 2012 Budget. On December 11th the proposed Budget was presented to church membership. That budget included expectations for pledge and other income, and it forecast expenditures. Everything presented was based on the experiences of prior years. The budget was approved by the congregation..

The Membership and Pledge Campaign ended at January’s close, only a short while ago. Instead of raising a projected \$45,000, we received pledges for \$36,987, a **shortfall of \$8,013, or 17.8%**.

Unresolved, this shortfall will cause the congregations significant financial challenges.

The new and current situation dictates that, to pay our bills through 2012, the congregation will need to withdraw \$8,013 more from our endowment fund reserves (\$98,762.62 as at 1/1/2012) than was budgeted in December. Rephrased, instead of drawing a budgeted sum of \$42,975 over the course of 2012 from the endowment account to pay our way, the congregation now needs \$50,975.

Additionally, this shortfall kicks off another domino effect problem: By drawing that much more in 2012 from our savings accounts this year, the

At UUOCC .. a 1979 classic for everyone!
Saturday Cinema Matinee
Feb. 25, 2-4pm

[click the pic](#)

**by ...Francis Ford Coppola
with ... Kelly Reno, Mickey Rooney,
Terri Garr and Hoyt Axton**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

All are welcome!
Admission is free; Open donations are encouraged to defer presentation costs (heat, electricity, etc.).
Bring your favorite snacks, beverages!

congregation as a whole now needs to become completely self-sufficient from income alone sometime in 2013 instead of by the end of 2014. The Long Range Plan Committee is already studying this situation.

Congregation's leaders never planned to be fully self-reliant and self-sufficient from incomes alone anytime before the end of 2014. The Five Year Plan forecast that starting with 2009, it will take us a full 5 years until our church could be completely self-sufficient from incomes alone, this via growth of membership and resulting incomes. The Plan calculated that in 2012 members and the congregation would provide \$45,000 in pledge income, and so in 2012 we would draw \$42,012 to balance the budget. The Five Year Plan projected that by the end of 2014 we could have enough income (mainly from pledges) to pay all of UUOCC's expenses without drawing any additional funds from the remaining endowment accounts. Truth be told, the Five Year Plan has been very much right on target since adopted. Until today.

A message that I am trying to convey is: the congregation – *members plus everyone else* – through pledges, fundraisers and other donations – absolutely *must* annually raise sufficient income to keep our doors open. Either this, or UUOCC will cease as we know it now. Following the current track we might not be able to have a home of our own, and/or we may need to discontinue having even a half-time minister.

This the absolute bottom line.

By opening our own site here in the Holiday Mall and by hiring a minister, as per 2009's Five Year Plan, we are growing and we are "getting our numbers." That's great. We're "getting our numbers"; but we have not been getting the funds that are so essential to letting the Board to pay our way. Raw statistics are that our "per-person income" needs to be higher. That's the truth. (Do you tithe? I do!)

Solving the problem is ultimately and only in the congregation's hands. We collectively as a church community have little choice but to do what's needed or things will change drastically in ways most don't want. And what we must do is dig deeper in order to keep our Toms River church going forward. With pledges. With donations and gifts. Through Planned Giving (bequeathing). With fundraising. When the Sunday collection basket comes to you. And, very importantly, with other service (a/k/a volunteering) too.

I'm going to wind this down now. Plain talk and tough words were used in this report. This report to

you was hard for me to write. This because I am the bearer of difficult news. I spelled-out the problem, and I described what the results can be.

Recognizing the hardships faced by congregation, your FC is already working overtime to get us all through this. Rather than meet on the more customary monthly basis (12 meetings per year), the 2012 FC agreed to meet every third calendar week (17 meetings per year).

It is incredibly HARD to ask and ask and ask again for everyone's generosity.

But this now is my job. I willingly and with full understanding accepted this job.

I love my UU faith.

I love my UU congregation.

And I take my UUOCC job very seriously.



On Serving with Grace

Even twelve-step programs and secular psychologies have discovered the profound effect that doing good for others has on oneself. In ***Blessing the World***, the **Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker** quotes a member of a congregation she served who explained why he tithes. His insight applies equally well to giving time and energy to the church instead of money:

To tithe is to tell the truth about who I am. If I did not tithe, it would say that I was a person who had nothing to give, a person who had received nothing from life. A person who did not matter to the larger society or whose life's meaning was in providing for his own needs alone. But in fact, who I am is the opposite of all of these things. I am a person who has something to give. I am a person who has received abundantly from life. I am a person whose presence matters in the world, and I am a person whose life has meaning because I am connected to and care about many things larger than myself. If I did not tithe, I would lose track of these truths about who I am.

Work and service devoted to something greater than one's self lifts you out of the narrow sphere of individual concerns, enlarges one's perspective, and provides context for the joys and concerns of your own life. It's a reality check, bringing us constantly back to the truth of our 7th UU Principle, in which we affirm the interconnected web of all existence.

"Mardi Gras" Hike Feb 21, 10am

This event brought to you by Pat Robison & Will Reisman. "We intend to go; come join us! Signup for this at the church Membership/Greeters Table."

Bad weather cancels event!

Feb 21 (Tues): "Mardi Gras" Hike at Jakes Branch County Park (Beachwood).

10am. 4 miles, easy "parade" pace.

Beechwood's Jakes Branch County Park has a wonderful nature center with interesting hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360-degree view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Meet-up at Jakes Branch Park, 1100 Double Trouble Rd, Beechwood. Option for lunch at the Sand Castle Diner, Beechwood. – Food fit for a King".

Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com (W)



Hank Douma

The Searchers



Weather permitting, we continue to meet in the afternoon during the winter months, and Rhoda is always glad to have us meet at her home. Once again we will get together at 2:00 pm, and we will do our search adventure for about two hours. **But we're meeting on Wednesday, February 22 this time in order to accommodate our regular attendees changing schedules.** Stay tuned however in case of a date change.

Since we are moving steadily and deeper into the political season we will take on that subject. It's always good to have a reading on the subject to get us properly stimulated. We don't have to agree with the opinions of the writer – after all, there are multitudes of opinions about politics in America. But what to read? There is so much out there! Does the American political system still work? If so, who does it work for, and how?

I am suggesting an essay with a very strange title, and by a poet no less. His name is Phil Rockstroh and the title is, "Occupying Libido:

Negotiating a Landscape of Hypocrisy and Hungry Ghosts." It is about five pages long and I will have a few copies printed up for those who want to pick one up at UUOCC. Here is the internet link as well for those who can do it that way

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article30355.htm>. If you use the link you will also be able to go to Phil's web site and even view him in an interview.

###

The Searchers is a lively discussion group which meets monthly, generally at our church site, peering into issues and topics of interest to UUs and others. **All are welcome.**

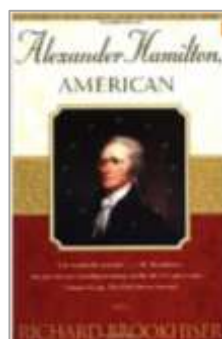


"It does take a village"

Hazel Burke
Book Club
& Potluck



Our meeting will be on Saturday, February 25 at 12:00 noon. This is the fourth Saturday in February rather than the third. We had to make this date



➤ *click the pic*

Brookhiser.

change because UUOCC will be holding a board retreat there on the 18th. Bring one of your favorite foods if you can, **and also bring the book so it can be returned to the library.** If you haven't read the book come anyway and enjoy a stimulating discussion.

The book we will be reading is "Alexander Hamilton, American" (2000) by Richard

Alexander Hamilton is one of the least understood, most important, and most impassioned and inspiring of the founding fathers.

At last Hamilton has found a modern biographer who can bring him to full-blooded life. In these pages, Alexander Hamilton sheds his skewed image as the "bastard brat of a Scotch peddler," sex scandal survivor, and notoriously doomed dueling partner of Aaron Burr.

Examined up close, throughout his meteoric and ever-fascinating (if tragically brief) life, Hamilton can at last be seen as one of the most crucial of the founders. Here, thanks to Brookhiser's accustomed wit and grace, this quintessential American lives again.



Will Reisman Geek Talk

How to Save Bucks on Ink Cartridges

I use a seven year old HP 8250a inkjet printer. I use fewer ink cartridges now than ever before and I save some bucks. You can too.

With my HP 8250a Inkjet Printer, I can print at either of 5 different speeds. This means I can get either of five different output qualities. My "Fast Draft" zips paper thru the printer very fast, and the device sprays the minimal amount of ink. Because the printer is spitting out ink less densely, it uses less ink. And when I print something like a resume with the best output quality, I can set my printer to print in "Best" quality, which prints pages more slowly because the device uses more because it sprays a denser pattern in order to create "nicest" looking output. But my "Fast Draft" mode is perfectly acceptable for most of the correspondence I send out.

So ... my "Draft" setting squirts less ink onto the paper than my slower but higher quality "Normal," and my "Best" gobbles-up ink like a ... well, you get the message here.

Odds are that your inkjet printer will let you control this too. When you begin a print job, a window usually pops open that you use to do things like set the number of copies you want and the such. Look in that pop-up window for "Printer properties," click that, and another sub-window will pop-up that lets one adjust the output quality to the different setting that your printer permits. Printers vary with what they call this, and how they let you setup your output. Experiment a bit with this and you will save bucks on inkjet cartridges.

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**Geek Talk** will appear occasionally, as space allows and as tips become available. Have a tip for our readers? Email it to

[newsletter@uuocc.org](mailto:newsletter@uuocc.org). Photos will be accepted, but no guarantees can be made that submissions will be listed. But send stuff anyway. Let's see how this comes along, shall we?

Presented by Maureen Price, UUOCC member ...

## *Maureen Cooks: Cookshop*

**COOKSHOP:**

**A FOOD ADVENTURE**

Tuesday Feb 14, 6pm – Valentine Delights

Tuesday Feb 21 – No class

Tuesday Feb 21, 6pm – (TBD)

**ARE YOU INTERESTED  
IN GETTING  
HEALTHIER AND  
FEELING BETTER BY  
CHANGING YOUR  
DIET?**

I AM COMMITTED TO  
EDUCATING AND  
EMPOWERING  
FAMILIES TO MAKE  
HEALTHY,  
NUTRITIOUS, AND  
DELICIOUS MEALS.



MY INTERACTIVE  
"COOKSHOP" WILL TEACH YOU ABOUT PREPARING  
FOOD THAT CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO YOUR  
DIET. IN EACH CLASS I WILL PREPARE A VARIETY OF  
NOURISHING FOODS, PROVIDE RECIPES, SAMPLING,  
AND NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION.

<http://www.maureencooks.webs.com>

**See you soon at Cookshop, okay?**

**Maureen**

## **The Communitarian**

~~ The Newsletter of ~~



**Unitarian Universalist**

**Ocean County Congregation**

734 Route 37 West • PO Box 5184

Toms River, NJ 08754

[www.uuocc.org](http://www.uuocc.org) • 732-244-3455 • [info@uuocc.org](mailto:info@uuocc.org)

Rev. Betsy Scheuerman, Minister

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Production – Hank Douma

**COMMENTS, FEEDBACK ARE WELCOME.**


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**Friday, Saturday and Sunday**  
**March 30, 31, April 1, 2012**

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