

UCSI

NEWSLETTER

Religious Exploration Page 2 <i>Work and Fellowship</i> <i>Page 5</i>	Services Page 3 <i>Columns</i> <i>Simply Susan, Minister</i> <i>Page 4</i> <i>Rona's Reflections</i> <i>Page 6</i>	Members News <i>Page 7</i> <i>Last Word</i> <i>Page 8</i>	SPECIAL EVENTS <i>Pic & Barbecue - Sept. 12</i> <i>Car Wash - Sept. 26th</i> CONCERT FUNDRAISER SEPT. 25TH <i>Arts Prog. Sept. 26th</i>
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Email: PSKARL3@gmail.com

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark R.E. Consultant: Sue Fertig

Church Secretary: Stella Fishman B& G Supervisor: Brian Fontana

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September 5
10:45 a.m.

in the yard next to the
parish hall

In the pulpit: Rev. Karlson
Guest musicians

Golden Retrieval - a Labor of Love for Animals. Mark Doty's poem "Golden Retrievals" speaks about the gifts animals give us by their presence and reminds us to be present. We'll devote this service to our feathered, furred or scaly friends and sing and tell stories as part of our blessing. We invite you to bring yours in suitable carriers or leashes or present their pictures to be blessed - even if they can be held only in memory.

September 12, 2010 10:45 a.m.

Return Again—A Water Ceremony Near Yom Kippur

In the pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark

The late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach wrote a beautiful piece called *Return Again*. The Hebrew word "tshuva," often translated as repentance during Yom Kippur, literally means "return." As we return to regular Sunday

worship celebrations, we recognize the significance of our journeys together collectively with a Water Ceremony and an appreciation of our staff. Please bring a small container of water or "virtual water" to share the significance of your spiritual journeys this summer. This Celebration is multigenerational for people of all ages.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Our new R.E. Consultant, Sue Fertig, is bringing 15 years of R.E. experience and expertise to the UCSI - Welcome, Sue!

The R.E. Program begins on Sunday the 19th, but the welcoming potluck will be held at Simone's house on September 11th! New families call the church to get on the e-list.

A welcome back salute to our veteran guides, Viv Vassar for the Explorers Room and Morna Martell as Youth Group Advisor and a hearty welcome to new teachers, Wilder Selzer, Vanessa Hall, and Kate Howard in the Early Childhood Room.

UCSI youth are planning a service related trip to New Orleans in the spring - they have started to raise money - please support their CAR WASH on Sept. 26th after services. A Youth Grant application has been submitted as well.

The R.E. Committee will meet on Sept. 26; besides Simone, the members are Loretta Choquet, Vanessa Hall and Kate Howard. Mary Hernandez will be the liaison to the Social Justice Committee and Risa Anderson to the Arts Committee.

We look forward to an outstanding year!

*Simone Andrews,
Chair, R.E. Committee*

*Family Greeter for
September*



Yea! We're all in the same boat and back to our classrooms!

A rainy spring and inadequate dehumidifiers prompted concern about the downstairs space, so a consultant was retained to inspect the space. He found no mold or unhealthy conditions; new dehumidifying equipment has been purchased and installed and all is well below!

Great Opportunity: *One or two adults needed to work with dynamic interesting kids in the Explorer Room once or twice a month*



SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS

September 26, 2010 10:45 a.m.



In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark

October 2nd is Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. His message of non-violence, religious tolerance and universal love and compassion inspired leaders like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez. Unitarian minister John Haynes Holmes, who served Community Church in Manhattan for many years, wrote a book on Gandhi that introduced Gandhi to this country. On this Staten Island Love Your Neighbor Interfaith Sunday where churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and religions unite in messages of love, we lift up the work of Gandhi in the peacemaking and non-violence movement.



September 19, 2010 10:45 a.m.

“Where Do We Come From, Who Are We, Where Are We Going”

In the pulpit: Elizabeth Terry and Rev. Karlson,
Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark

We again welcome Elizabeth Terry, the trainer for the Partners for Sacred Places program as we celebrate this church's living legacy, who we are and how we decide together where we're going next as a community. Following worship, Elizabeth will facilitate an Asset Mapping exercise to deepen our understanding of next steps. All are invited to this workshop.



Rev. Mark Kiyimba, Kampala, Uganda

October 3, 2010 10:45 a.m.

National Coming Out Day Celebration

In the pulpit: Rev. Mark Kiyimba and Susan Karlson

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark

The Rev. Mark Kiyimba is the founding minister of the Unitarian Universalist church in Kampala, Uganda. His church sponsors an HIV/AIDS orphanage there and openly welcomes LGBT people. When Mark first requested to preach at our church, he asked us to invite the LGBT community. We will hold a special collection for the Kampala church and its orphanage. Please give generously to this congregation that serves so many people in Uganda. If you cannot be with us on this Sunday, you can mail a designated donation to the UCSI, at the address below.

SIMPLY SUSAN

Building a New Way

This year's theme at the Unitarian Church of Staten Island is "Building a New Way". I understand that some people thought that theme sounded like a critique - that we're doing something wrong at the church or we haven't been quite good enough. Far from it!

"Building a New Way" is recognizing that life on Staten Island and our country is changing - radically. The stereotypes about Staten Island just don't fit anymore with diverse ethnic, racial and religious groups here. Look what has happened on Staten Island this summer.

About 10 alleged hate crimes are still being investigated. Violence hit our streets and ratcheted up this community's response.

Our city councilwoman, Debi Rose, initiated a community campaign, (I am Staten Island - iamsi.info) in collaboration with other elected officials, business groups, clergy roundtables, educational response teams, anti-violence task forces, youth engagement, police and law enforcement and public relations committees.

There is a planned Interfaith Weekend Against Hate and we will be participating in that the weekend of September 24-26th. Educational public service announcements are being launched. The curriculum, Respect for All will return to our public schools. Increased monitoring and security cameras will appear in Port Richmond, the scene of much of the violence against those perceived to be Mexican.

"Safe zones" are being created in different businesses and neighborhoods. Social service organizations will get special training on dealing with bias crimes and how to help people who have been victims. College will offer diversity and tolerance training. Public parks and recreation centers will be assessed for safety.

Where Do We Fit In?

What does all this have to do with "We're Building a New Way?" The fact is that this congregation has always been deeply committed to Staten Island and helping make this borough a more open and respectful community. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn called clergy together recently at our to discuss the crisis and next month's meeting will be held here as well. Members of various clergy groups united to work together across racial ethnic and religious lines.

This summer was the busiest ever for me - clergy, lay leaders, civil rights and human rights groups like the local chapter of the NAACP, Peace Action, El Centro del Immigrante, Make the Road New York, The LGBT Center, Community Health Action SI, SI Clergy Leadership, Building Bridges, Ministerial Alliance, the Immigration Council, Buddhists, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Protestants, Communities United for Respect and Trust and many more all united to make plans, to support the victims, and to rally for civility in the controversy about the Muslim American Society buying the mosque.

I can say absolutely now that I am proud to be a Staten Islander after seeing how we all come together as a rainbow coalition.

I believe that this church has a huge role to play in making plans, serving on committees, creating safe places for those living in fear, and working together with youth to find solutions to counter the hatred and violence.

This is not a problem "out there" - it's a problem across the whole Island. And I welcome your feedback about what kind of part we can play in this community.

You will see this theme reflected in our September worship services. I hope you will talk to me about your thoughts on "Building a New Way" and what it means to you.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again soon as we begin our year together!

Here's hoping the end of your summer is fun and restorative.

Susan



WORK AND FELLOWSHIP



Small Group Ministry

September 19th

On September 19th we will begin the registration process for small groups. The Small Group Ministry [SMG] movement has established ways of creating and deepening spiritual and personal connections within the membership. Each circle of 8-10 people meets with a trained facilitator on a special schedule. Each group shares members lives and talks about what matters, but also contributes to the church and the community through service projects.

At UCSI small groups have redecorated the vestry, worked in a Saturday food bank program and initiated the Fair Trade Coffee - and chocolate an nuts - program here at the UCSI. This is a wonderful way of getting to know one another on a whole new level and working together to make our world better place.

Social Justice Committee

A newly revitalized Social Justice Committee created, together with Peace Action of Staten Island, a beautiful morning Summer Forum commemorating the August, 1945 , bombings of Hiroshima and

Nagasaki with peace banners, dances, and a solemn march to Snug Harbor where Co-Chair William Taylor Suderman provided learned commentary at the Chinese Scholar's Garden.



UCSI Church Council

Important meeting August 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Library.

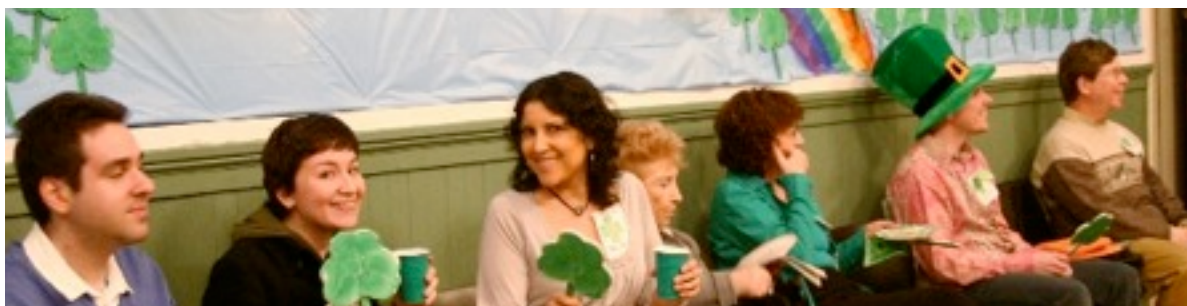
Board Meeting

All UCSI members are welcome to attend Board meetings. September Meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 15th at 8:00 p.m. in the church library.

DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEE

NEWS: September 20th!

RONA'S REFLECTIONS



New Beginnings

After more than two decades of school, September always feels to me like a new beginning - a blank page or a freshly primed canvas. It is possible to accomplish anything! This is an exciting time at UCSI for the same reason - anything is possible. We can each do anything - take on new roles, solve problems, build fellowship - it's up to each of us and all of us to create the new year.

The theme for this church year is "building a new way" and we have a whole lot of "new" going on - a new leaner board of trustees, three new officers, new bylaws to guide our operation, new

consultant to lead religious exploration, new full time music director, new sign-ups for small group ministry - and a brand new website.

This summer some of us had a chance to talk about UCSI's relationship with our community - about the question of UCSI as an introspective or outward facing church. As we build our new way I will keep in mind Hillel's questions and ask myself and you all, what can each of us do to make UCSI stronger and more vibrant? And what can we do to make a better world "build a new way"?

There are a few things we can do right now to make this a better year for UCSI. Keep putting

suggestions and questions in the suggestion box. It is not too late to pledge your financial support for this year. There is room for each of us on committees, including our new music committee. Sign up to be a greeter who welcomes

- Rabbi Hillel:
- If I am not for myself, who will be for me? When I am for myself alone, what am I?
- If not now, when?

worshippers on Sunday mornings or to host hospitality and enhance our fellowship. The more we put into our experience the more we receive. If not now, when?

Welcome, come join us, or welcome back!

UCSI Officers, 2010-2011:

Rona Solomon, President

John F. Adrian, Vice-Pres.

Joan Pipkins, Sec'y

Harry Hicks, Treas.

NEXT ISSUE A PICTURE!

MEMBERS' NEWS AND VIEWS

Editor's Note:

In future Issues this will be a private page, accessible only to members of the UCSI. All news here this month is published with the permission of the member referenced!

Send personal news - triumphs, moves, etc. to newzeditor.murphy931@gmail.com

September Deadline:
September 20th!

VERY
SPECIAL
CONCERT
SATURDAY, 9/25

VERY VERY
SPECIAL CONCERT

Saturday, Sept. 25th

We're Selling Our House!

**Ralph and Morna Martell
are selling their house on
Corson Street [walking
distance to the UCSI]!**

If you or someone you know would like info and photos, please call 718-815-8689 or email ralmarmusic@yahoo.com.nterested

SAVE THE DATE:
OCTOBER 23rd
ANNIVERSARY
DINNER!

Brad and Marylou Greene have moved. Their new address is:

Park Lane at Seaview
460 N. Brielle Ave. Apt. 323E
Staten Island, NY 10314

Lillian Orrok's new address is:

579 Jewett Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10302

“Citrine Moon” a new
comedy by Lawrence F.
Schwabacher will be

LAST WORD



An art installation of a large mandala composed of canned non-perishable food goods, 500 - 700 pieces created by member Mary Campbell will be displayed on Sept 25 from 1 - 4 pm in the parish hall. Mandalas are geometric patterns usually in four sections. This food mandala will be based on the impermanence that the buddhist sand mandalas have; when the display is over that day the food will be swept away by being delivered to four food banks throughout Staten Island. Bring donations of 4 identical cans [for balance] to Services on 9/12 and/or 9/19!

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312 Fillmore Street
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