

Minister's Annual Report 2006-2007

This has been a rich and connected year for us as a faith community. Our historic strengths keep getting stronger and we are developing new ones as time passes. I like to think in terms of the "culture" of a congregation. I see our culture becoming deeper, more organized and active.

I have continued to be your part-time minister, this year at 80% of full time.

There follows an overview of the 2006-2007 year at UUCSC from the minister's perspective.

The UUCSC Good News:

- In October, I used 4 days of "study leave" to attend a storytelling workshop in Massachusetts. I returned with a fresh enthusiasm for storytelling, and am especially enjoying Conversations with the Children on Sundays.
- Our Small Group Ministry program is thriving, with two new groups which began in the fall. We currently have about 40 small group participants.
- In December a UUCSC Meditation Group was organized by Sally Barney and me. The group meets weekly, at the Peace Dale Library. I have stepped down from any leadership role in this group, which is facilitated by congregants on a rotating basis.
- This year Charlie Donnelly launched a seven session Small Group Program exploring our Seven UU Principles. The Membership Committee hopes to offer this or a similar program yearly.
- The Program Council has been re-energized this year under the leadership of Kathy Swink. Committee chairs report fruitful and informative meetings.
- The Land and Building Committee continues its diligent search for a land to build a "Home of Our Own," and for a new temporary home. Please keep the buzz going everywhere!
- Fundraising activities have increased in number and productivity. See what we've done: The Book Fair returned, the *Ellen Craft* production was a hit throughout the community; the Art Portfolio (now in my proud possession) was a triumph. And there was the bulb sale, plant sale, social action coffee house. And the AUCTION, all I can say is it was *excellent* in every way.
- In preparation for our Annual Canvass, four UUCSC members attended a Stewardship Workshop led by Jerry King. The Canvass Committee did a very efficient and respectful job, resulting in a significant increase in pledge commitments. Bravo and Thank You.
- In November, a *Spiritual Parenting* group was organized by Debby Hedison and I. We co-facilitated six sessions. The purpose of this group is to explore ways to bring spirituality into our homes and family life. The group agreed to continue with lay leadership and occasional participation by the minister and DRE. I hope that a parent will step forward to coordinate this important spiritual exploration.
- On January 27, eleven UUCSC congregants traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the "United For Peace" rally.
- In collaboration with Rev. Susan Stiles of The Church of the Holy Spirit, UUCSC offered three End of Life Workshops to our two congregations. The workshops were well attended and beneficial to all.
- I am one of five founding members of the Faith Alliance of the Domestic Violence Resource Center, we meet monthly. Our mission is to educate clergy and the public about the realities of domestic violence. This year we received the *Circle of Peace Award*, presented by Sen. Jack Reed.

- The Faith Alliance received a \$24,000 Grant to educate clergy. We planned and coordinated a major regional Faith Leaders Conference which was held in Peace Dale on April 26. I offered the Invocation and Prayer, and was a member of the clergy panel leading the conference. It was well attended and very productive.
 - In September I welcomed Rev. Barbara Fast to Rhode Island. Barbara is the newly settled minister at Westminster. We have been intentional about being good and supportive colleagues. At her installation I was honored to offer her the "Right Hand of Fellowship."
 - We are establishing closer ties with Westminster, a congregation that most generously offers us use of their space for special services. Our Personnel Committee has consulted with their counterparts at Westminster.
 - Commitment to collegial ties through the BCD Unitarian Universalist Minister's Association is important to me. I attend most monthly meetings, and am on their Nominating Committee. These connections help to enrich my ministry at UUCSC
 - I was pleased to be featured in an article in *Rhode Island Monthly*, this gave UUCSC some good publicity. Publicity has been consistently first-rate this year.
 - The BCD Board voted to donate the collection from the Annual Conference to the UUCSC Land and Building Fund. Over \$1,500 was contributed from this endeavor.
 - I have continued using pastoral mediation/conflict resolution in working through (the rare) disagreements within the congregation. My background as a professional mediator leads me to believe these conversations are important and necessary. I invite anyone who is having relational difficulties within the congregation to come together, meet with me and seek a solution.
 - The Agape Fund was well funded at the Christmas Eve service. Several gifts averaging \$200 were made to members and friends of UUCSC who were in need of emergency assistance.
- Thank you.

Visions or a Short Wish List:

- I believe an organized Congregational Handbook would be a great asset in helping UUCSC run smoothly. This is especially true since we do not have an administrator. Such a Handbook compiles all official documents, policies, procedures, job descriptions and practices of the congregation. Everyone would have a copy and thus we would all have the same road map. I have asked all committees to review and revise their job descriptions.
- I miss our "Fun Goddess," Suzanne, who moved to Texas. Is there somebody out there who would enjoy coordinating fun excursions, pots lucks, parties of any kind? It is so great when we have fun together, it is an important part of our spiritual lives...I think we need more of it.
- We could use some volunteer office help.

Rites of Passage:

Memorial Celebrations:

Eugene Jackim - August 13, 2007

Eileen Molloy Star - April 26

Marguerite M. Cole – May 10, 2007

Child Dedications:

Macy Francis Metz Lafreniere

Amarie Terra Metz Lafreniere

Quinn Joseph Goodman

Suzelle Glickman

It been a blessing to serve you this year. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Betty Kornitzer