



# The Communitarian

Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation  
**A WELCOMING CONGREGATION**

Toms River, NJ

A MULTI-MEDIA NEWSLETTER

January 2012

**!!NOTE WINTER WEATHER LIES AHEAD 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.*



**2011 Holiday Message  
from UUA President,  
The Reverend Peter Morales**



The Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President

[Click-the-Pic for English](#)  
[Chasquido \[AQUÍ\] para español](#)

**HINT! .....**

Watch for our mouse symbol. →  
It means that "the following  
has clickable content."



## Worship Schedule

Sunday      **January 1**      10:30 am

**"Finding My Place"**

by our

**Bonney Parker**

The theme of the 2011 European Unitarian Universalist Fall Retreat in Oberwesel, Germany

was “A Sense of Place.” Bonney Parker, who attended the retreat, will talk about what it means to find one’s “place,” wherever that is, and how our sense of place affects our spirituality.



Sunday      **January 8**      10:30 am

**“At the Threshold”**

*by our*

**Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

In Roman mythology, the threshold is significant enough to have its own god: Janus, with his two faces, one looking back, one looking ahead. Let's pause and consider the significance of the threshold. What are our fears and our hopes for the year ahead?



Sunday      **January 15**      10:30 am

**“The Sermon on the Mount - Jesus’ Political and Moral Discourse”**

*by returning guest speaker*

**Richard Grzywinski**

In the era of Roman domination and Jewish religious elitism, Jesus Christ reached out to the commoners with his message of love and hope. Do the Beatitudes contained within his “Sermon on the Mount” as described in the Gospels still have relevance 2,000 years later? The Hindu leader Mohandas Gandhi reportedly said to the British Viceroy “When your country and mine shall get together on the teachings laid down by Christ in this Sermon on the Mount, we shall have solved the problems not only of our countries but those of the whole world.” Focusing on the Beatitudes, we’ll look at what is considered by many to be the most important religious message of all time.

###

*Richard Grzywinski has been a very active member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore (UUCSJS) for about seven years, and he speaks frequently before that congregation. Richard has spoken before the UUOCC on three previous occasions on the topics of “Love,” “Truth,” and “Patriotism.”*

*Richard attended Meadville-Lombard Theological School for one year, and he also holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering and an MBA in Marketing/Finance. He is married to Cynthia who is a member of the UUCSJS choir, and is their occasional flutist and pianist. They have four children, six grandchildren, and one more baby is due this summer.*



Sunday      **January 22**      10:30 am

**“We Begin Again In Love”**

*by our*

**Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

In the aftermath of the July 29, 2008 shootings at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, TN, UUs began a public advocacy campaign called "Standing on the Side of Love."

What might we do to make this not just a slogan, but a way of life?



[Click the Pich](#)



Sunday      **January 29**      10:30 am

**“What’s in a Name?”**

*by returning guest UU minister*

**Rev. Julie Newhall**

Theology through biography is often a compelling way to understand our values and biggest questions. This service explores the connections between various historical figures who share the name, Martin.

###

*The Reverend Julie Newhall has served as minister for five different congregations in New Jersey, most recently at the Unitarian Universalist*



**Rev. Newhall**

Congregation of Somerset Hills, in Somerville, which recently purchased and moved into its first church building after several years meeting at a local community college. Reverend Newhall is now a minister at large and is looking forward to taking some time off and writing her memoirs.

*~ ~ The-Wayside-Pulpit ~ ~*

The real measure of your wealth is how much you'd be worth is you lost all your money.  
—Anonymous



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.



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



*~ UUOCC Fundraiser ~*



**Bake Sale**

**Sunday Jan. 8**

**Contact Lexie Stewart before bringing your goodies.**

**Note: Homemade goodies ONLY, please.**



**2011 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**OUT WITH THE OLD,**

**IN WITH THE NEW**

**Our Handsome New Chairs Are HERE!**

**\$50 Each\***

UUOCC asks you, our congregation, for donations to properly and comfortably furnish our sanctuary.



Click anywhere in this box to download a donation form. Or, see Pat Robison or Shirl Giles. Phone 732-244-3455 for more information

**IF WE DON'T DO IT, NOBODY ELSE WILL!**

\* \$50 is below actual cost

**A Note from the Finance Committee –**

If you haven't yet donated one, or possibly two, please consider it. Cost is just \$50 dollars per seat. And you can designate a person you would like to honor or to celebrate the person's memory. You will also help UUOCC retain our savings for the expenses ahead.

**Please HELP UUOCC pay for these seats!**

Please buy one or two if you are able, and thanks in advance for your generosity.

Nancy Lang  
**Social Action**



After 3½ years of chairing this committee, my term of office has concluded, and so this is the final report I'll be submitting. A significant change which took place at the end of 2011 was amending our name from Social Action to Social Justice Committee, which better describes our intent. It's through this

intention to promote justice that we UU's take action in concrete ways.

Our committee has sponsored several drives urging our legislators to support bills which stress equality and justice for all. We have offered Sunday services to raise awareness on local concerns, such as housing for those currently homeless, as well as larger issues urging rights for immigrants of all ages and assistance for disadvantaged people here and in other countries.



This "Share the Plate" logo is by Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church, Portland, ME

The policy known as "Share the Plate" is another responsibility of our committee. At the recent annual Congregational Meeting members voted to adopt this policy for one year, to be revisited at the 2012 meeting. It states that each month one half of undesignated funds collected at Sunday services will be given to a specific charity, both local ones which we have been supporting and our parent organizations, Unitarian Universalist Association and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Since Social Justice Committee established eight groups as recipients of this collection, several will receive donations for two months, and others for one month each. *Redeem-Her*, the Toms River residence for women recently released from the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility, will be the first 2012 recipient, for the months of January and February. In March and April, donations will be designated for Interfaith Hospitality's program providing shelter to homeless families.

Our committee's final project for 2011 was sponsoring the U. U. Service Committee's annual "Guest At Your Table" fund, which provides assistance to human rights partners from many countries. The final tally of contributions received via Share the Plate plus separate individual donations has not been completed, but I thank all those who opened their hearts and wallets.

At the time of this writing, there is no designated person to head our committee for the new year. Bette Chosak was chosen to become the new chairperson, but an urgent need to assist her family has now necessitated her withdrawal from this position. I am certain that we Social Justice members will continue as a committee, and I sincerely thank all current members - Pam Quatse, Ryan, McGrath, Bette Chosak, Audrey Maxymuk and James Deikun for their level of commitment this past year. I appreciate all that you've contributed toward our goal to

promote a just, compassionate and equitable way of life for all.



More from Rev. Betsy

## New Adult Programs

### Rev. Betsy is Organizing a New Women's Spirituality Group



A new Women's Spirituality Group would be a great addition to our ongoing programs!

Contact Rev. Betsy at:

[heavens2betsy@gmail.com](mailto:heavens2betsy@gmail.com)

[908-377-8727](tel:908-377-8727)

### ~ UUOCC Fundraiser News ~



Nancy Lang was the winner of the Bose raffle! She's very excited to have won, and the board and Finance Committee greatly appreciate everyone's participation.

### ~~ FACTOID ~~

Rev. Betsy's permanent home is in NYC, and she maintains a 2nd apartment in Spring Lake, NJ just so that she can reduce her weekly travel time for UUOCC.



## GETTING TO KNOW UU (AND UUOCC, TOO)

<b>WHEN:</b>	Sunday, January 15, 12:30-2:30 pm
<b>WHERE:</b>	in our space! 734 Rt. 37 W, Toms River, NJ 08755
<b>WHO:</b>	Seekers & Explorers, Friends & Visitors, New Members, and Folks Who've Been Here Years & Years

### COME ...

IF ...YOU'VE BEEN ATTENDING SERVICES HERE AND YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM AND THIS CONGREGATION—

IF ...YOU AREN'T SURE WHETHER ANY CHURCH IS FOR YOU, BUT ARE WONDERING WHETHER UUOCC MIGHT BE THE ONE—

IF ...UUOCC IS ALREADY YOUR RELIGIOUS HOME, BUT YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE—

IF ...YOU'D LOVE TO GET TO KNOW SOME NEW FOLKS, OR YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER, OR YOU'VE RECENTLY SIGNED THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK,—

IF ...THE SPIRIT MOVES YOU, OR WELL, JUST BECAUSE—

#### REGISTER...

CONTACT REV. BETSY BY PHONE (908-377-8727) OR BY EMAIL [HEAVENS2BETSY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:heavens2betsy@gmail.com). OR, SIGNUP AT CHURCH. PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING; WE WILL BE SERVING A LIGHT LUNCH, AND WE NEED A HEAD COUNT.

QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT REV. BETSY

Will Reisman

## Finance Committee

For UUOCC, the new year brings with it some leadership changes. One of these areas is with the **Finance Committee**. Effective January 1, Pat Robison is stepping down from this volunteer position after (3/4) years as this committee's lead, and I will chair this committee. Pat and I have been working closely since last Spring to turn over our accounting and bookkeeping, and more.

UUOCC owes a gift of gratitude to Pat for all her years as this committee's lead, and for all the hard work she has done in that role.



More from Rev. Betsy

## New Adult Programs

### 'Wellspring'

Interested in Deepening  
Your Faith?



**W**ellspring is an intensive 10-month spiritual deepening program for Unitarian Universalists developed at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. Wellspring offers a spiritual journey dedicated to claiming, re-imagining, and practicing the ever-evolving living tradition of our faith. It consists of five core components that each contribute to holding a strong center:

1. *Spiritual practice – Commitment to regular, intentional practice;*
2. *Spiritual direction – Self-reflection with a guide;*
3. *Unitarian Universalist history and theology – Reading, listening, reflecting;*
4. *Small group – Participation in a community of seekers;*
5. *Faith in action – What we are called to do in the world.*

For more info about Wellspring, google 'UU Wellspring,' and go to their website. If we have enough interest, I will organize and facilitate a group. Meeting time to be determined later on.

Contact me at:

[heavens2betsy@gmail.com](mailto:heavens2betsy@gmail.com)

[908-377-8727](tel:908-377-8727)





Bonney Parker  
UULMNJ



## “YUUR” Voice In Trenton

- ✓ UULMNJ has been taking initiatives this month against fracking, jobs bills that produce no jobs, a proposed Medicaid waiver for New Jersey, immigration detention and potentially damaging environmental legislation. To find out more detail about these issues and how you might help, see your congregation liaison or check our website [www.uulmnj.org](http://www.uulmnj.org).
- ✓ **Great News!** *The UU Legislative Ministry received a \$15,000 grant from the UU Funding Program for Social Responsibility. The program grant is designed to build the infrastructure of our growing organization through administrative assistance, liaison and intern support and enhanced visibility. More details will follow in the months to come.*
- ✓ **UULMNJ supports the Occupy Wall Street Movement** as part of our Economic Justice Initiative. In just two months, the Occupy Wall Street movement has spread across the country and across the globe, a public outcry of frustration and anger. Thousands have taken to the streets to protest an economic system that has cast most people aside – from the weakest and most vulnerable to the ever-shrinking middle class – while showering exorbitant profits on an elite few.

Some have tried to portray Occupy Wall Street as a rag-tag group of hippie wannabes and the homeless, but over time these protesters have come to represent the overwhelming majority of Americans, and of citizens in many lands. As Unitarian Universalists, we see Occupy Wall Street as an important messenger to the world, waking us up to the fact that these economic inequities are not only unethical, but that they place all of us in great peril if they continue unchecked. *To see the entire text of the UULMNJ statement, click [\[HERE\]](#).*

As the new year approaches, may we express our gratitude to our loyal UULMNJ supporters and volunteers whose continued work enables us to do what we do.  
May your New Year be bright and your path be just.

Our Bonney Parker is our congregations ambassador to the UULMNJ, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry for New Jersey. UULMNJ is one of the organizations which UUOCC supports, and to which we have membership.



## UUA Statements on Occupy Wall Street and a Faithful Budget

- ✎ **UUA President**, the Rev. Peter Morales, issued a statement on Occupy Wall Street and accompanying protests around the country. The statement says, in part: "Unitarian Universalism embodies a long tradition of working for economic justice and workers' rights. Today is another opportunity for us to live our faith, and the Occupy protests are a first step on the road to repairing our country. "I reach out to Unitarian Universalists everywhere to consider how you might be of service to any among us who are struggling to provide for their families, those who have been cheated and abused by financial institutions, and all those whose backs ache under a burden of debt, unemployment, and fading hope. Let the world see the power of our faith in action." Full text is [\[HERE\]](#).
- ✎ **UUA Witness Ministries** Director the Rev. Craig Roshaven also issued a statement on Occupy Wall Street announcing his participation in a national prayer vigil - a Super Vigil - urging the Congressional Super Committee to develop a proposal for a "faithful budget."
- ✎ Read a sermon by the Rev. Charles Ortman, of the **Unitarian Universalist Church at Monclair, (NJ)**: "[Occupy Main Street.](#)"
- ✎ Read the [statement recently issued](#) by **UULMNJ's Economic Justice Task Force**.

**Hank Douma**  
**The Searchers**



**O**ur group has not yet zoned in on a topic for our January meeting, however I expect we will be meeting on Thursday, January 26, at 2:00 pm. I suggest we meet at UUOCC this time, weather permitting. This affords us the opportunity to use our big screen and new super duper sound system for DVDs or streaming video.

Perhaps it's just as well that we have not yet advanced a specific topic. It has occurred to me that among a diverse group of "searcher" types of people, there more than likely will be great variation in their individual topic choices. What some may find very interesting, others may have no interest in at all. Many groups that meet on a regular basis focus on a very specific topic or activity. Those who participate do so because of a strong interest in that topic or activity. There are several examples among UUs and their friends, such as: dream circle, meditation, paganism, book discussion, potluck lunch, food, and movies, just to name a few.

The point I'm making is that we may all be searching for very different things. This suggests that it could be helpful and interesting to talk about that very question – make that the topic. Ask yourself this; what are the most vital or most consuming issues or questions in your life? How close or far apart are we on this? Each person could identify their big three and share with the group as they see fit.

###

*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. Topics, information, and supporting materials are usually provided beforehand. If you have never attended please feel free to join us.*

**All are welcome.**



**Frank Kowalczyk**  
**This Month in**  
**UU History**



**J**anuary is the month for new resolutions, directions and starts. In order to grow our congregation, we need to express what our chosen religion is all about when asked. Can we summarize what Unitarian-Universalism means to us in a few, simple but comprehensive statements? One way to do this is to create an "elevator speech". This is a compact expression of our beliefs, something that can be uttered in the time it takes us to complete a short elevator ride.



Here is a selection of elevator speeches from Unitarian-Universalists that was printed in past issues of UUWorld.

*Unitarian*

*Universalism is a*

*democratic, pluralistic religious community which encourages each individual to develop a personal religious philosophy and which emphasizes social and environmental concerns.* - **Richard Hewitt**, Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vancouver, Washington

Unitarian-Universalists believe that all life is sacred, all existence is interconnected, and that justice and compassion must be the foundation of our thoughts and deeds. - **Ann Creech**, Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta N.

*UU is an organized religion that permits me to change my belief system without having to change my friends.* - **Rob Wilkes**

Most religions work to get people into heaven. Unitarian Universalists work to get heaven into people. - **Roger Bergere**, Church of the Larger Fellowship, Babson Park, Florida

*Being a Unitarian Universalist means belonging to a community that accepts and understands doubts of the divine and the search for truth without imposing an unrealistic doctrine with a promise of unnecessary salvation.* - **Tom Bindrian**, Unitarian Universalist Church, Asheville, North Carolina

Preparing such a short, concise description of our individual beliefs is not necessarily an easy thing to accomplish. But it is comparable to an anecdote concerning the learned rabbi Hillel. When asked to

summarize the Torah while standing on one foot, Hillel responded. "What is hateful to you," he said, "do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary. Go and learn it." Is this not also similar to what Jesus said "Love one another"?

As a religion, too often we make statements about what we are not. We do not have dogma; we do not have a creed. While that is always true, it offers others nothing about who we are and what we do. Our seven principles and the religious sources from which our religion evolved are a positive



description. How we interpret those principles as individuals comprises our elevator speech.


Here is mine.

"Unitarian-Universalism is a liberal, evolving religion that allows each member to develop his/her individual spirituality while worshipping within a caring community. Unitarian-Universalism stresses the dignity and interdependence of each person, a reasoned search for one's place in the world, justice in human relations and democracy within our congregations." This is what my elevator speech is for the present. I am sure it will evolve with time, as my spirituality changes.

So, the next time someone asks you about your religion, respond quickly and confidently with the reasons you joined Unitarian-Universalism. Tell them your elevator speech!!!




**Hank Douma**  
**More from Hank**




It started with our purchase of Comcast internet service, and we added a wireless access router. We then purchased a laptop computer, a video projector, and a big ten foot pull-down viewing screen. A bit later we added a DVD player. Our sound system was then enhanced with a powerful 300 watt stereo system which includes a subwoofer and two satellite speakers.

We are now also expanding the use of our four channel sound mixer to service two satellite wireless mikes and stereo inputs for Linda's electric organ and CD player. Audio output from our laptop or DVD player will be picked with a separate jack at the front of the stereo unit. We expect that the speaker's podium will use a separate wired mike with our amplifier-speaker mounted in front of the podium. All of this greatly expands our ability to enhance our Sunday morning services as well as all the other programs we offer at UUOCC.



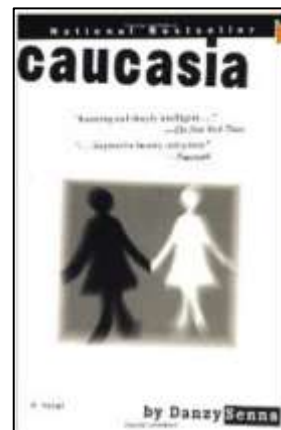


**Hazel Burke**  
**Book Club & Potluck**



Our meeting will be on Saturday, January 21 at 12:00 noon. 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 novel we will discuss is "Caucasia" by Danzy Senna.

This is Senna's remarkable first novel (Feb. 2001). It's written in the first person by Birdie, who takes after her mother's white, New England side of the family--light skin, straight hair. There's her big sister, Cole, who takes after her father, a radical black intellectual.



It's the early seventies, and black-power politics divide their parents, who divide the sisters; Cole disappears with their father, and Birdie goes underground with their mother.

Danzy Senna tells this coming-of-age tale with impressive beauty and power.



My country is the world, and my religion is to do good.  
—Thomas Paine



 **The Communitarian**

~~ The Newsletter Of And By ~~



Unitarian Universalist  
Ocean County Congregation  
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Minister – The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman

Editor – Will Reisman

Consultant – Linda Kay

Production – Hank Douma

**CONTACT US ANYTIME; WE WELCOME  
YOUR INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS, OR  
ALL SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE REQUESTS.**



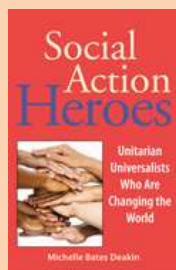
**UU Parenting**

with **Michelle Richards**

author of *Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting*



[Click-the-Pic](#)



New From  
Skinner House

[Click-the-Pic](#)



**At Murray Grove ...**

May 18 - 20, 2012

[Universalist Convocation](#)

Keynote speaker:  
**Rev. Richard Gilbert**  
"Love That Won't  
Let Us Go - Or Off"



Presentations by  
Christian Universalist  
**Rev. Kalen Fristad**



and

**Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt**  
of the Fourth Universalist Society  
in New York City.



Click [here](#) for a flyer.  
More information will be available soon.



From ...



## Two poems:

**I watch the trees / as seasons cycle.** By [Aytac Aydogan Edwards](#). UUWorld, Winter 2011



### How different we are from trees

With wistful eyes  
I watch the trees  
as seasons cycle  
from spring  
to summer  
to fall.  
Winter's slow death  
is a passageway  
to a recurring awakening  
every spring.

How different we are  
from trees!  
With one chance to live  
youth's brief spring  
and then,  
the joys and sorrows  
of the middle years,  
to sail  
into that oblivion

of no return  
as if it were  
from a short dream.

### Seeking God

We seek God  
as if  
the vast oceans  
and the starry skies,  
the soft cooing  
of the mourning dove,  
and the soothing fold  
of nurturing love  
are not enough.



Sunday Morning Worship: Faith in the Borderland



Video includes [Event 5003](#); Sunday Morning Worship begins at 26:30.

[Click-the-pic](#)



# DREAMS

**REGISTER NOW ..... SPACE IS LIMITED!**

**UUOCC presents a full-weekend dreams workshop...**

## Dreaming: Opening the Door to More Conscious Living

..... *What inspires us?* ..... *What stimulates our creative energies?* .....  
*Where do we really want to focus our energies as we search for wholeness?*

### AGENDA...

- Day #1 - Friday, March 30, 2012, 7pm-10pm
- Day #2 - Saturday, March 31, 2012 as 2 sessions:
  - Session a. 9:30am-5pm *plus*
  - Session b. 7pm-9pm (as an after-dinner session)
- Day #3 - Preaching on Sunday, April 1, 2012 10:30am



Click [HERE!](#) or on his pic to meet Jeremy Taylor.

With ...

**Rev. Jeremy  
Taylor, D.Min.  
Master Dream Worker**

- ✓ *Everyone dreams, whether remembered or not;*
- ✓ *All dreams come for our individual and collective health and wholeness;*
- ✓ *The symbolic and metaphoric language of dreams is universal.*

*Understanding the language of dreams can be learned, and in this workshop we'll explore a safe group process to do so. When we have access to our dreams we have the possibility of a new perspective on our confusing emotions, our relationships (in our family, workplace and society), and our spiritual lives.*

**Friday March 30 (7-10pm) - \$30.00 • Saturday March 31 (all day) \$200.00 (includes lunch)**

**PACKAGE PRICING: Fri + Sat: \$210.00 • Early Bird Price for Fri evening + Sat all day (by Feb 28, 2012): \$200.00**

Register: 732-244-3455 or email [info@uuocc.org](mailto:info@uuocc.org)

**No charge for all for Sunday 10:30am Service at UUOCC**



<http://www.uuocc.org>

Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation  
734 Route 37 West, Toms River, NJ 08755

732-244-3455

In the Holiday Mall/Aldi shopping plaza, only 1.7 miles West of GSP Exit 82/82A interchange. Ample parking, Handicapped Accessible.





**THE COMMUNITARIAN**

**UUOCC**

**PO Box 5184**

**Toms River, NJ**

**08754**

**TO:**