

get ready *for camp 2010!*

are you ready for the best summer ever?

By Mountain Meadow Staff

many of you are wondering the status of camp and we are happy to report that enough RSVPs have come in to offer camp for at least one week this summer from August 15 - 22, and we hope to be able to have another two-week experience, starting August 8.

BUT WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU in order to solidify a two-week contract with the Girl Scouts, who have been very generous in giving us a one week contract with an option for two-weeks if we need the two weeks.

And so far, we haven't heard from enough returning campers to make two weeks official - yet. 43% of the people who have already RSVP'd for camp this year are
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new campers, so we really have to emphasize the importance of RSVPing this year, to “lock in” that second week for camp.

Perhaps an incentive is a special offering at camp this year - a baseball workshop offered by none other than Joe Valentine, a former professional baseball player and pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds. The workshop is for anyone who thinks that baseball is fun, and Joe will help campers who need assistance with pitching, catching and more! Joe will also stick around and share a meal with campers, talking about his life experience as a pro-baseball player AND a boy (and now a man) who grew up in a two-Mom household.

Another cool thing we're arranging for camp is a presentation by Amy Ignatow, author of a new book

called *The Popularity Papers, Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang*. This book is really cool, and one of its main characters, Julie, has two Dads. Please read pg. 6 for information on Amy's book signing in early April in Mt. Airy, and please come to this event to meet Amy and say hi, and tell her how cool camp is!

For those of you who have RSVPd, we'll be in touch about our streamlined camp application process. Campers and Parents will be asked to complete two other surveys via survey monkey – faster and more fun than the old application, and deposits will be due by the end of the month.

So we hope you're ready for the best summer of your life!

mountain meadow summer camp 2009



Basic Baseball 101

*A MM Summer Camp
2010 Workshop*

In this workshop, you will have the chance to work with me, Joseph Valentine, a former Major League Baseball player, and learn the basic fundamentals of baseball. *Basic Baseball 101* will teach the kids everything from the grip of the ball to the swing of bat. The workshop will include a lesson on the proper fielding, throwing, catching and hitting positions. Each position will be broken down to help campers understand the best placement for their arms, legs, feet and, most importantly, head. Not only will this be a learning experience, but I'm also hoping to have a lot of fun with the children in this baseball workshop. Hope to see you at camp!



ALLIES: The Key to Safer School for LGBTQ-parented Youth

Mountain Meadow’s 75-minute Equality Forum workshop focuses on improving the school experience for youth of LGBTQ parents.

From Mountain Meadow Staff

Ask any student with LGBTQ parents what would improve their school experience and you will almost always get the same response – having at least one ally. Just like LGBTQ people, LGBTQ-parented youth are constantly on the lookout for allies – for people who understand and support their unique experiences. Facilitated by Mountain Meadow, the “ALLIES: The Key to Safer School for LGBTQ-parented Youth” workshop will provide the background and tools to enable participants to become better allies in making education safe and successful for the growing number LGBTQ-parented youth

in our schools.

Target Audience

Teachers, school administrators, youth service providers, GSAs, LGBTQ- and straight-allied parents, students and other interested individuals.

Goals

- To educate participants about the need for allies in schools
- To help participants see themselves as potential allies to LGBTQ-parented youth

- To build allies’ knowledge and skills

Outline

The workshop will feature a panel made up of youth from LGBTQ families, an LGBTQ parent, an allied teacher or GSA leader, and an allied administrator. After hearing from this diverse set of speakers, participants will learn how to become an ally to youth from LGBTQ families through a fun and interactive process.

DATE & TIME

Saturday, May 1, 2010
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm

COST

Free

LOCATION

Temple University
(Center City)
1515 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107



Equality Forum’s SundayOUT!
at The Piazza and Liberties Walk
Sunday, May 2, 2010
Noon - 7 pm, Old City Philadelphia

Equality Forum is the national and international GLBT global summit and features 34 panels, 14 parties and 15 special events from April 26 - May 2, 2010.

Please come find Mountain Meadow at **Equality Forum’s SundayOUT!** It’s the last day of the forum and Mountain Meadow will table at the event (shared with Philadelphia Family Pride), so please come visit us!



Research Participants Needed for Study on Gay Adoptive Families

From Mohan Krishna

Growing up in a family headed by gay men can present many opportunities and challenges.

Are you a young adult between the ages of 18 and 22 who was adopted by one or more gay men? If so, I am interested in speaking with you about your experiences in your family and in your community. I am conducting this study for my doctoral dissertation in Social Welfare at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

You will be asked to participate in a series of interviews with you individually and with your adoptive parent(s). Each interview will last 1 ½ to 2 hours. Participants will receive \$25 for each completed interview.

If you are interested in obtaining more information, please email me at mkrishna@hunter.cuny.edu. Please leave a phone number where I may contact you to tell you more about the study and answer any questions you might have about your possible participation.

This study has been approved by the Institutional Re-

view Board at Hunter College of the City University of New York (Protocol # HC 090913631).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mohan Krishna

In the Theatre...

SHRINK RAP: A dramatic play*

Featuring
Trisha Graybill as *Jules Roe*
Ginger Lee Agnew as *Sylvia Jones*

Written & directed by Kati 'Jazzy' Gray-Sadler

"SHRINK RAP tells a powerful and compelling story about relationship indiscretions and possible affects of HIV/AIDS in daily lives. This play features touching performances by five extraordinary actors who have left audiences spellbound. The story focuses on individuals from different walks who inevitably connect through their relationship with a therapist. The story line is unpredictable, witty candid, provocative and promises to draw on every emotion of your being..."

Performance:
Sunday - April 25, 2010
6 pm

Location
ibrahim theatre
International House Philadelphia
3701 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Advance Tickets: \$25 each

*** FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY**

Contact: Gray-Sadler Enterprises, Inc. 267-975-8799 or e-mail Jazzyone32@netzero.com for more information.

Sarah's Big Secret

Posted originally on *Love (Queerly)*, 1/29/10
www.lovequeerly.com

About mid-way through my interview with Sarah (not her real name), she makes an admission that makes me feel really sad.

"I haven't ever had any of my friends at my house—past the front door," she says. "It's kind of weird having people talk about their moms..."

Sarah is 14 and the kids at her school don't know she has two dads.

But don't her friends get curious?

"People don't ask stuff," Sarah says. "And they assume one of my dads is my mom."

Talk about learning to grow up fast.

When Sarah was three, her folks split up, and when she was six her mom transitioned. "It wasn't hard for me. I didn't have to deal with anybody who wasn't close to me and didn't know," she remembers. "It was just, 'Oh, you're a 'he' now. Cool'. It didn't hit me until I started going to school."

There's no doubt that she's dealing with some issues as she tries to reconcile her home life with her school life, but there's no self-pity. Sarah is a well-adjusted, confident teenager.

I connected with her through a new friend, Carolyn, who's a consultant with a very cool assignment: designing and implementing "Keeping It Real," the young speaker's project of Mountain Meadow, a Philadelphia-based program for kids from LGBT families.

Mountain Meadow started in 1981 as a summer camp for girls with lesbian mothers. The camp now includes kids from LGBT families of all stripes and the program provides year-round networking, advocacy, empowerment, and leadership building. (Check them out at www.mountainmeadow.org.)

"I'd love to talk to you about what you do and Mountain Meadow," I said when I met Carolyn a few weeks ago. Just getting more details about the program sounded like a great subject for a blog.

"Well..." Carolyn said hesitantly. "That would be fine, but I think the kids from Mountain Meadow would be even more interesting to talk to."

She got that right. Sarah is my first interviewee, and I'm

floored by her maturity and insight.

Sarah went to her first Mountain Meadow camp in New Jersey when she was 10. She was a little nervous because she'd never been away to camp before, but she settled in quickly.

"Everyone was so nice," she recalls. "There's always drama, but the drama is different. Everybody has experienced life a little more and had to deal with more issues...they're more mature."

The camp, she says, is great for reaffirming that families can be different. In addition to the usual camp activities, there are daily talks about issues specific to kids from "nonconforming" families.

"It's a normal camp," Sarah says, "just a lot of talking about feelings. You can be who you are and it's refreshing."

"I knew there were other people like me but I'd never met them, and suddenly it was like, 'Whoa! LOTS of other people,'" Sarah adds. "Now there were real, living people I could relate to."

Even in that setting, though, Sarah has felt a bit isolated.

"Most of the campers have two moms or two dads, but there's not much talk about having a trans dad," she says. "Even in that environment, some things are not as thought about."

Still, Sarah says the camp has made a big difference in her life. "It's made it easier to deal. A lot of us keep in touch throughout the year," she says. "There's one other kid in my school, so I know I'm not alone even in my school. That's reassuring—even if none of my friends know."

I can hardly wait 'til Carolyn sets up the next interview. Stay tuned.

At first when I was asked to be interviewed for an article, I was apprehensive. What would it mean? Would it out me and my family?

*But then I realized that doing the interview would not only be kind of fun, but it would open up people's eyes to situations like mine. Many kids talk about having two moms or two dads, but very few talk about having trans or gender-variant parents. It's hard to deal with, and there is little real support. If doing this interview could make just one person feel less alone, I thought I should. - Sarah**



From the Board

Letter from the President

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Laurie Fish
Joanne Parra
Tom Robbins
Annamarya Scaccia
Pat Trusdell
Laura de Waal

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For more information, visit
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Newsletter designed by
Annamarya Scaccia

The primary strength of many non-profits is their Board of Directors – a group of volunteers who help guide and support the organization and its staff. For Mountain Meadow, Board Development is a key issue, and one of our top priorities for 2010. As the new President, I have to take time to thank Sheri Reed, our President,

and Susan Shachter, Vice President, from 2008/2009. Their dedication and service to Mountain Meadow is greatly appreciated and made a difference in the last few transitional years for Mountain Meadow and through these troubling economic times.

Moving forward, Mountain Meadow has engaged and installed two new officers of the Board– Vice President Kaali Cohen and Secretary Carol O'Neil. Eric Fox remains Treasurer of the Board. She was senior program director at the Center for Family Services in Camden, New Jersey and was former Executive Director of Big Brothers/ Big Sisters in Moorsetown, NJ. She and her partner are raising children and we welcome them to the Mountain Meadow community. Carol is from Holmes, PA in Delaware County, and is a risk management professional at Firstrust Bank, at a branch in northeast Philly. She was recommended to the Board by a friend of Steve's – Bob Diegel – who came out to camp last year and cooked for campers and staff with his two daughters and a few friends. We thank you Bob for the great recommendation, and welcome Carol as well!

We are thrilled to also report that we are in the process of bringing on two additional members as well – Jim Gaffney and Joe Valentine. Jim works

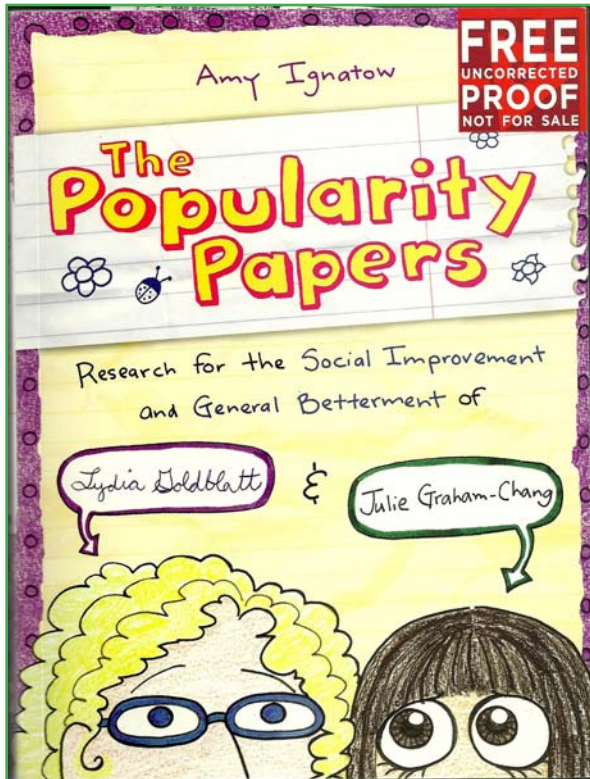
at a residential camp in Bucks County, and brings some serious camp experience to the Board of Mountain Meadow and Joe was a professional baseball player for the Cincinnati Reds, raised by two Moms, and was inspired by a fundraiser he participated in for Mountain Meadow back in 2005. Joe and his lovely wife have an adorable 21-month-old girl and live on Long Island, NY. He has offered to host a baseball workshop at camp this summer! So thanks in advance for that!

We hope to engage even more Board members in 2010, and welcome recommendations or applications from neighboring states, including Delaware and Maryland. We believe that the future of Mountain Meadow lies in the development of a strong and dedicated Board of Directors, an hope that you, the reader, can think of someone and refer them to us to help us achieve our special mission. We welcome volunteers who may want to participate on Board committees before committing to being in the Board, as well, and will keep you apprised of our progress with Board development with each Board Corner throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Clelia Scaccia
Board President

Mountain Meadow's mission is to help youth from unconventional families and their allies succeed in school and daily life.



Book Signing: The Popularity Papers

From Amy Ignatow,
Author of *The Popularity Papers*

As some of you already know, *The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang* is going to be available in bookstores in a few weeks. In addition to the book release party in New York on April 11 at Books of Wonder, there is going to be a Philadelphia book release party on Saturday, April 3 from 1 pm -4 pm at Walk a Crooked Mile Books.

For those of you who have never been there, Walk a Crooked Mile Books is located in the Mt. Airy train station (that's on the R7 line) and it's just the most fantastic used bookstore

ever. There will be copies of *The Popularity Papers* for sale and I'll be signing books and drawing cartoons and there will be general merriment.

Working on this book has been such an amazing and rewarding experience, and I'm a little hyper with excitement that I finally get to share what I've been doing with all of you. I'd love to see you on April 3 to launch what I hope will be the first of many books.

Thanks,

Amy Ignatow
Author of *The Popularity Papers*

Early reviewers of *The Popularity Papers* write:

"Ignatow taps into the girls' preteen concerns and earnest, passionate personalities via the creative format, with its dueling narratives and illustrations that feel ripped from a spiral notebook (a fantasy sequence that has Lydia starring in the school play culminates in the arrival of a pink unicorn that "barf[s] up pirate treasure!"). Readers will quickly devour this hilarious, heartfelt debut." — Publisher's Weekly

"Their experiences may be typically tween (boys, cell phones, camping trips, and school musicals), but their reactions to them are laugh-out-loud funny and definitely on par with, though much more feminine than, Jeff Kinney's Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Ignatow offers a quick, fun, well-developed story that invites repeated readings." — Booklist

"Lydia and Julie are comedy gold together, and I laughed out loud over and over again. I have written before about how publishers and writers need to bring the

funny if they want to reach kids today, and THE POPULARITY PAPERS delivers hard-core." — Kidliterate

"The characterizations are spot-on, the graphic format appealing for the age group, and preteen girls will recognize themselves in Julie and Lydia, and laugh at, and with them." — LGBT Book Reviews for Children and Young Adults

**Book Signing with
Amy Ignatow, author of
*The Popularity Papers***

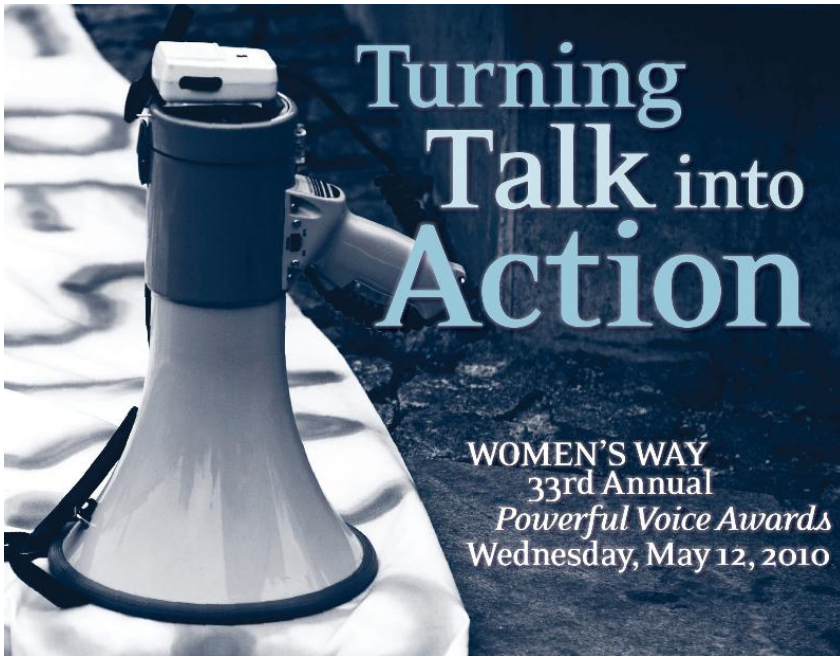
DATE & TIME
Saturday, April 3
1 pm - 4 pm

COST
Free

LOCATION
Walk a Crooked Mile Books
7423 Devon Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119

in the community

events around your neighborhood...



UPCOMING REGIONAL PRIDE EVENTS

Philly Black Gay Pride
April 18– 26, 2010

Sunday OUT!
May 2, 2010

New Hope Celebrates
May 15, 2010

Capital PRIDE DAY
June 4 – 13

Jersey Pride 2010
June 6, 2010

Philly PRIDE DAY
June 13, 2010

Lancaster PRIDE DAY
June 19, 2010

New York PRIDEFEST
June 27, 2010

UPCOMING PFP EVENTS

Gay Day at the Zoo
Saturday, April 17 • 11 am - 3 pm • Philadelphia Zoo

Parents Night Out at GAY BINGO (That 70's Sitcom)
Saturday, April 17 • 7 pm • The Gershman Y

Parenting Workshops at Equality Forum
May 1 2010

Babymaking in the 21st Century: Assisted Reproduction Options for LGBT parents
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm • Temple University Center City

Adoption Options: Not Under My Heart But In It
2 pm - 3:15 pm • Temple University Center City

Prospective Parent Happy Hour
4:00 pm • Q (formerly Bump) • Center City

Sapphire Fund Events*

Sapphire Fund's Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction
April 10, 2010

\$50/person in advance
\$60/person at door
Mark Segal Ballroom, William Way Center

Sapphire Fund Presents...

3rd Annual Black & White Party EMERGE

April 30, May 1 & 2, 2010

Pre-Event Fundraiser:
Sat. April, 24, 2010

Main Event:
Friday, April 30, 2010

Closing Party:
Sunday, May 2, 2010

LOCATIONS: Voyeur & PVT

Tony Sparacino Memorial Scholarship

Application Deadline:
June 25, 2010

Announcement/Presentation:
Sept. 2010

**Mountain Meadow is a beneficiary partner of the Sapphire Fund in 2010. Please tell everyone on your list to support Sapphire Fund events and to thank them for supporting us.*

Equality Forum 2010 **April 26 - May 2, 2010**

Various Locations
Philadelphia, PA

Equality Forum's SundayOUT!
Sunday, May 2 | Noon - 7 pm
Old City, Philadelphia, PA



Last Call for Recipes!

By Mountain Meadow Staff

We are getting closer to printing our Mountain Meadow Happy Camper Cookbook and we are in need of more recipes. We know you love to cook, so send one in soon!

We want to feature as many Mountain Meadow families in our *HAPPY CAMPER COOKBOOK* as we possibly can, but we're going to print early in the month, so please, if you want to have a recipe published in our book, send it as an attachment in Word format to steve@mountainmeadow.org, or call Steve with questions at 505-690-6915.

We have to thank all of our contributors for the 165

recipes we have received to date, and Pat Trusdell, for organizing them and getting them ready for publishing. The *HAPPY CAMPER COOKBOOK* will go on sale before camp this year!

We want our families to be a part of this publication, so please get involved!

Here is more information about the cookbook from our last newsletter:

With the help of our new volunteer, Pat Trusdell, we are compiling a cookbook, as a way to raise money for Mountain Meadow Summer Camp.

Everybody has their favorite macaroni and cheese or chile recipe? Can you please send yours into us? We're accepting recipes for all kinds of camp meals and snacks, like:

- *Pizza*
- *Meatloaf*
- *S'mores*
- *Trail Mix*
- *Five Bean Salad*
- *Potato, Macaroni Salad*
- *Cole Slaw*
- *Bug Juice*
- *Sloppy Joe's*
- *Pasta Dishes*
- *Breakfasts*
- *Wraps*
- *Fun sandwich ideas*

This is a fun project, and we're hoping to get the books printed in time to sell them at Spring and Summer Pride events, so Please email us your recipes IN WORD FORMAT (if possible) as soon as possible to steve@mountainmeadow.org.

Thanks for helping!

P.S. Chef Binta, we expect more than one recipe from you!

Mountain Meadow Table Training for Spring

Learn how to table on behalf of Mountain Meadow at different events over the spring and summer, and spread the word about the wonderful organization that Mountain Meadow is to potential members and families.

Saturday, April 17 • 2 pm - 4 pm
William Way Community Center
1315 Spruce Street • Philadelphia PA 19107

MM Grant Update

The Philadelphia Foundation's Fund For Children has awarded Mountain Meadow \$9,600 for Keeping It Real, our young speakers' bureau!

This generous grant will see to it that we provide training to youth and opportunities for them to speak at all kinds of events, including tabling at pride events, panel discussions and workshops at Equality Forum and Trans Health, and presentations to church and community groups throughout the region, including PFLAGs and the United Universalist church (see ad).

One recent presentation was to a chapter of COLAGE in Wilmington, Delaware, where Avery, Nia and Evan spoke about camp, alongside Steve (ED) and Al, a former teen counselor at camp. We got to show our video of camp, and were asked many questions about the organization and our programming. Thanks to Mary Tipping and COLAGE for inviting us and introducing us to some of the many LGBTQ families in Delaware!

And thanks again to the Philadelphia Foundation for their continued and generous support of our programs.

The Sapphire Fund is another foundation who once again is supporting Mountain Meadow in 2010. Attendance at their events, described on page 7 is critical to the support that they have pledged to our organization. We are waiting to hear from several other foundations and are hopeful for continuous funding of programs and support of our important mission!

GAP's Money for Time Program (they granted us \$1,000 for Randi McClain's volunteer internship with us). We have to thank Randi McClain as well.

Thanks also to Generocity, which gave us \$5 for each of 29 people who filled out their survey on our behalf – we have to of course acknowledge Generocity, but also the 29 people who filled out the survey mentioning Mountain Meadow.

Citywide GSA Meeting

Mountain Meadow will participate in a citywide Gay-Straight Alliance meeting in Center City Philadelphia.

Thursday, April 22 • 4 pm - 6 pm
William Way Community Center
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Mountain Meadow To Do Two Workshops at the Trans-Health Conference

Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference

June 3 -5, 2010

*Pennsylvania Convention Center
Center City Philadelphia*

Mountain Meadow will present two workshops at the Trans-Health Conference this year, in addition to helping with programs and activities of the Kid's Camp and Teen Space - for youth and teens to hang out in while their parents participate in the many workshops provided at the conference.

One proposed workshop will be presented in collaboration with COLAGE, and the other by a panel of students, educators and GSA leaders, organized through our young speakers bureau, on the experiences and issues that youth from trans/gender variant/gender queer families face in school, the work that GLSEN has done to research and quantify some groundbreaking findings, and the work that GSAs and the HRC have initiated toward promoting safe schools. This workshop is designed for students, parents, educators, GSA leaders and allies.

We would love help and participation from any of our families who are intending to attend the Trans-Health conference this year. For more information, feel free to contact the office at 215-772-1107 or e-mail inquiries@mountainmeadow.org.

Upcoming Speaker's Engagement

Mountain Meadow youth will during the UUOCC service. They will talk about their own religion and/or spirituality, their family story and other topics of choice.

Sunday, April 25 • 10:30 am
UUOCC (Unitarian Universalist
Ocean County Congregation)
Toms River, NJ