



The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
Founded in 1841

August 2017

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August's Social Justice Offerings Benefit

THE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC (FMC)

Now in its 45th year of service, the FMC continues to provide quality, comprehensive medical care for the uninsured and underinsured in Johnson County and surrounding areas. Last year the Clinic served as a medical home for hundreds of people, including 415 with hypertension and/or diabetes. 77% of patients with hypertension maintained their goal blood pressure and 47% with diabetes improved their glucose control. Our UU contributions are greatly appreciated and well used. Cash or checks (FMC on memo line) may be given during Sunday offerings, online, or sent to the office. Thank you.

Upcoming Sunday Services

at Sanctuary Church (2205 E. Grantview Dr #200, Coralville, 52241)

We gather each week at 1:30 pm for an Ingathering preceding our Sunday Service, which is followed by a social hour.

Religious Education & Childcare: Our nursery is open from 1:30 to 2:45 pm for children under three. While Religious Education classes are on break during the summer, we do provide a "Children's Chapel" from 1:45 to 2:45 pm. Kids should attend the first part of the service with their parents before being released to their activities.

Summer Theme: "Love is a Muscle—How Do We Work It?"

August 6th: "Limitless Love," Kendra Malone

How do you love? Specifically, how do you love yourself? In this service, we will explore what self-love looks like and how to improve our relationship with ourselves. Caring for ourselves spiritually, emotionally, and physically is an act of kindness and resistance to larger social structures that would have many of us be not well. As Audre Lorde implores, "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."

August 13th: "Deep Listening, Compassionate Presence, Soulful Inquiry: The One Spirit Journey,"

Andy Douglas

"Deep Listening," "Compassionate Presence," and "Soulful Inquiry" are three phrases Andy uses to introduce his work as a spiritual director. He recently finished a two-year course of study in "Interspiritual Counseling" through One Spirit Learning Alliance in NYC. The focus was on developing skills to help facilitate or accompany people's spiritual growth, from those who have been religiously wounded to those simply seeking a deeper relationship with the sacred. The Interspiritual approach emphasizes honoring whatever way an individual chooses (or perhaps eschews) to embrace a spiritual life. Andy will share some of the things he learned in this training, reflecting on his "individual and responsible search for meaning."

August 20th: "The Struggle for Worker Justice," Sally Hartman

How do workers fight for justice? A panel of experts, workers themselves from the Center for Worker Justice, share their stories and successes as they strive toward a better future for immigrants, refugees and all workers. They invite us to join them in this struggle for equity.

August 27th: "We Dream a World," Rev. Steven Protzman

The dream and promise of Unitarian Universalism and the mission of our congregation to touch hearts, change lives, and transform the world calls us to be ready at any moment to answer love's call to service and action. Are we ready to say yes to making ours the world we hope for and dream about through the sometimes unexpected ways in which life presents us opportunities to do love's work?

Sunday Attendance for July 2nd through 23rd

July 2nd: 74 total: 65 adults, 9 children
July 9th: 123 total: 111 adults, 12 children

July 16th: 113 total: 108 adults, 5 children
July 23rd: 89 total: 83 adults, 6 children

From Your Minister



The 2017-2018 Liturgical Year

Every year in July as the staff and I plan the coming liturgical year (liturgy comes from a Greek word that means “work of the people”), which begins in September with our annual Water Communion celebration, there are a number of decisions to make. Along with selecting dates for major services

and picking monthly themes from Soul Matters (a theme-based ministry program we use for worship and our covenant groups), a theme for the year is chosen. This past year, as we began the celebration of the 175th anniversary of our congregation’s founding and continued to reflect on our vision and mission, our theme was “Stories of Our Past, Dreams of Our Future.” This upcoming year, inspired by the beloved hymn *Spirit of Life* (#123 in the gray hymnal), which includes these words—“roots hold us close, wings set us free”—our theme is “Tending Our Roots, Spreading Our Wings.” We will open our doors to the community and, as we tend our roots (literally as well as figuratively!), caring for the spiritual needs of our members, we will also spread our wings as we continue to discover new and exciting ways we are called out into the world to serve others. We will welcome an interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education, who will challenge us to weave together our cherished ways of doing Religious Education and discover some new ways to do things. We will experiment with our Sunday morning schedule and continue to expand our programs as we seek to offer a variety of ways for people to be engaged with the congregation at many different levels, from the first-time visitor to the long-term member.

As I reflected on this theme, I remembered a poem by Rainer Maria Rilke I’d read during my sabbatical. Along with reading books on UU theology, worship theory, and leadership, I read a lot of poetry. My reading included the books *Selected Poems of Rainer Maria Rilke* and *Letters to a Young Poet* (which was a sabbatical gift). One of my favorite poems by Rilke is *Sunset*, which includes this passage:

*Slowly the west reaches for clothes of new colors
which it passes to a row of ancient trees.
You look, and soon these two worlds both leave you
one part climbs toward heaven, one sinks to earth.
leaving you (it is impossible to untangle the threads)
your own life, timid and standing high and growing,
so that, sometimes blocked in, sometimes reaching out,
one moment your life is a stone in you, and the next, a star.*

Rilke’s poem seemed especially fitting during my travels out west, where I experienced some stunningly beautiful sunsets in the mountains and the deserts. What is it about sunsets that has inspired so many poets, artists, photographers, and filmmakers? The sunset is magical, a liminal (transition or threshold) time in between day and night. The intense colors, along with the shadows forming, not only change how the world looks, but also trigger emotional responses in us. We recognize in the day ending that it’s time to set one part of our lives aside and begin a different part. Jenny Bhatt in her blog about this poem says: “Many ancient cultures not only worshiped the sun



Sunset at the Grand Canyon

but created entire mythologies around it. These have endured and, in turn, have given a mystical aspect to the in-between times when the sun rises or sets—between day and night, between light and dark, between being awake and being asleep.”

Rilke’s poem uses the sunset as an image to express truth about life and about being human. We are both rooted in the earth and reaching toward the stars. Bhatt goes on to say: “We live in both worlds by existing in an intermediate one that sometimes blocks us in and sometimes lets us reach out. So that the experience of life can be, in the same moment, like a stone inside us, weighing us down to earth, or like a star, raising us to the heavens. With the last two lines, we finally get to what the poet wants to convey: what it is to be truly human. How it is not about being one thing versus another but about being both light and dark, heaven and earth, strength and weakness, reaching and being held back—all at the same time.” We’ve all experienced times in life when there was something, a restlessness inside, pulling us toward something new, and yet something else inside pulled us back toward the familiar, the known. Or when we recognize that it’s time to set one part of life aside (a relationship, a job, a habit, or a belief system), grieve the loss, and begin a new or different part or way of living. As the summer comes to its end and fall beckons, we feel both the yearnings of the freedom summer offers and the coming routines of the fall. This poem also seems so fitting as we journey through the last days of our transition. We are preparing to finish our two years of being ‘homeless’ and begin an exciting new time together, with all its promise and possibility, and yes, its challenges, as we adapt to new routines and new ways of being together and new ways of serving others we haven’t yet discovered. I hope you will continue to join us as fully as you are able as the adventure and the exploration continues, as we tend our roots and spread our wings!

Grateful to be here with you as we journey together as a community of memory and hope,

Steven

Rev. Steven’s Summer Office Hours

I will not have regular office hours during August, but I will be available by appointment. Please call the office or send me an email if you need to talk with me or have an issue you’d like to bring to my attention. In the event of a pastoral care emergency, please use my cell phone to contact me at any time 319-621-4074. (This is a new number, the old 651 number no longer works.)

Congregational News and Events

Summer Worship Theme:

Love is a Muscle—How Do We Work It?

In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, we proclaim, "Love is the doctrine of this church." As a "Deeds, not Creeds" faith community, our conceptualization of love is as an act of labor, a muscle to be worked. We must build and nourish our muscles daily in order to be strong and healthy. Our muscles develop strength only when faced with resistance. So, if love is a muscle, how do we work it? How is love part of our regular "exercise routine?" How do we encounter resistance to practice love and work through it toward growth? What do we do when we experience fatigue or find the weight of the resistance hard to bear? How do we demonstrate the strength and power of love in our daily efforts? This summer, we invite our UUS members and friends to share reflections and topics that highlight the effort, the resistance, and the nourishment of love.



Monthly Board Meeting, August 10th

The UUS Board of Trustees holds a meeting, open to all members, each month at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday at the Oakdale House. Look for an agenda in the weekly email or on the website before the meeting.

New Time and Location for Sunday Services Beginning in September!

August 27th will be our last Sunday with afternoon services, and our last Sunday at Sanctuary Church. We are grateful for having such a beautiful space to rent for these last couple of years but felt it was important to start the fall with a Sunday morning schedule.

On Sunday, September 3rd, we will have our annual Labor Day Picnic that will be held at Shelter #6, in Lower City Park (off of Dubuque Street, in Iowa City) at 11:00 am.

For the remaining Sundays in September (the 10th, 17th, and 24th), and until our new building is ready, we will have our Sunday Services, social hour, and Sunday Religious Education programs at the Kirkwood Community College Regional Center, located at 2301 Oakdale Blvd. in Coralville.

Sunday services will begin at 9:30 am in the lobby area of the Kirkwood building, followed by social hour at 10:30. Religious Education activities for children and a nursery will be available in side rooms on the same floor during the service. There may also be other classes or programs after the service.

The Kirkwood Regional Center is just north, and just west, of our new building at 2355 Oakdale Road. Oakdale Road runs into Oakdale Blvd. on the south. Being so close to our new building, it will be easy to drive or walk by to see how the new building is progressing on your way to or from Sunday services. According to Google, it is a 1-minute drive or a 9-minute walk between the Kirkwood Regional Center and our new building. (See map on right.)

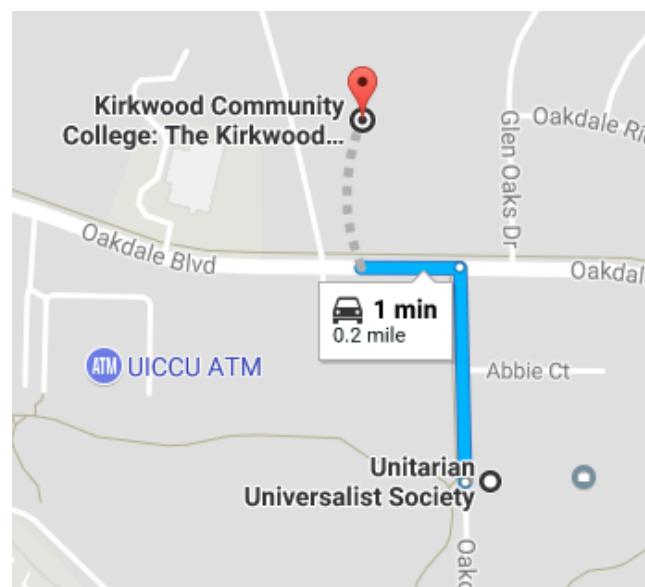
Welcome Our Interim DLRE

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Jessica Zimmerman-Saltzman as our Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE). Jessica previously served as our DLRE before moving to Minnesota in 2016, but has recently returned with her family to the Iowa City area. She will begin her year as our Interim DLRE on August 1st, and a Search will commence over the coming year to fill the permanent DLRE position. Please (re)introduce yourself if you see her at a UUS function!

We thank outgoing DLRE Saunia Powell for her service and wish her luck in her future endeavors. Saunia's last day will be August 6th.

Stewardship Committee

We know that we will move into a brand new building sometime this fall. Regardless of the actual date, we will still need to have an operating budget for the 2018 calendar year. We will be operating in a new and exciting environment! Our plan is to send out pledge materials in late September and have our pledge campaign during October, with follow-up in early November. There will be lots of activities going on in our new building during the fall months. With that in mind, we hope to have some kind of fellowship event on the evening of Saturday, October 28th, to celebrate our generosity. Dates for everything are very fluid as of right now so stay tuned for more information.



175th Committee

Rosella Andrews, Woman Pioneer of UUSIC

To mark our 175th anniversary, UUS is looking forward to church historian Cynthia Grant Tucker's pulpit message on October 15th, featuring the prominent role of UU women. Professor Tucker's message will be followed by an afternoon workshop highlighting the past, present, and future prospects for women in UU leadership roles. To prepare for Cynthia Tucker's visit, a prior read-in of her well-received work, entitled Prophetic Sisterhood, is encouraged.

To provide some additional context, the following narrative features one of our own UUS church pioneers. Rosella Andrews was the first to formally join Iowa City's controversial Universalist church in 1841. Unlike most Christian groups, the Universalists rejected the doctrine of original sin, dismissed the belief in eternal damnation for the unruly, and embraced a compassionate deity that promised universal salvation for all. This departure from conventional Christian teachings placed the Universalists at the forefront of a liberal movement in American religion, and Rosella became a part of that movement.

Born in Vermont in 1812, Rosella Allen migrated with her father, Asaph Allen, to the then new state capital of Ohio at Columbus. In Ohio, she met and married New York native George T. Andrews at age 19 in 1831. The couple, along with Rosella's father, moved to Iowa City in 1839. There, Rosella is sometimes described as the first adult female from an older Eastern state to migrate to the brand new settlement in Iowa City.

Little is known about Rosella's role in the new Iowa City Universalist church except that her decision to join with the unconventional Universalists meant she too was of independent mind and spirit; and her independence was demonstrated not only because of unorthodox beliefs, but also because she chose to chart a separate path from that of the male members of her family. Neither her husband, George Andrews, nor her father, Asaph Allen, are to be found on the Universalist church membership lists. Rosella, it seems, had a mind of her own.

She was also unconventional in other ways, even by the standards of her time. Somehow she managed to give birth to 12 children, 6 in Ohio and another 6 in Iowa, in a span of 21 years. Sadly, Rosella's productive life came to an end in 1853 when she died at age 41—a little more than a month after her 12th child was born. She found rest in Iowa City's Oakdale cemetery (Lot 91) where her grave marker (photo on right) is a distinctive monument to the spirit of UU forebears in Iowa City.

—Submitted by Rob Dietrich

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee (EC) oversees the endowment funds of UUS. The committee has five members, each elected for a five-year term, with a new member elected each year by the congregation. The investments in the endowment fund are diversified into several low-cost index funds. We have an outside financial advisor who handles these investments for us, doing so in accordance with the policies of UUS.

The EC considers the endowment as being in two parts: (1) the corpus, and (2) the interest, dividends, and capital gains. Going back to the 1990's when the endowment began its present growth, the corpus consists of the monies contributed to the endowment, and each year the corpus increases in accordance with the growth in inflation in the USA. The interest, dividends, and capital gains are what remain as growth in the total fund after the corpus is removed. Roughly 60% of the present endowment is corpus, and that corpus can be spent only with a vote of approval from the general congregation of the society.

For a detailed discussion of the rules governing the Endowment Committee, see the Policies and Procedures Manual which can be accessed from our UUS website.

Transition Task Force 2.0 (TTF2)

The old shed at the Oakdale Rd. property was sold in late June, with the new owner taking possession on July 15th. In early July, thanks to 22 volunteers who were able to come on short notice, we were able to move all UUS possessions out of the shed. In addition, our volunteer signup during social hour in June and July was very successful. We are grateful to the 68 individuals who signed up to help with the work that members of UUS will need to do as we transition to our new building. Peg, Kris, and Susan Salterberg are continuing to fine-tune the system of communicating with volunteers, to keep them informed of changes that can happen without much notice. Also, TTF2, with the help of Carol Adamson, has been working with members of the New Facilities Committee and the Aesthetics Committee to do an inventory of items and to make decisions about where they will go in the new building. We eagerly await news from the builder that will help us pinpoint a move-in date, sometime in early fall.



A Letter From the UUS Naming/Branding Task Force

Dear fellow UUS members:

At its June monthly meeting, our Board of Trustees voted to suspend efforts related to choosing a new name for our congregation for a period of at least one year. It further decided that the shortened term “Unitarian Universalist Society” (UUS) will be used on our website, in outreach, and in other instances where our formal name is not required.

The Board’s actions reflect the fact that more time is needed to reach a level of consensus akin to that which marked previous key congregational decisions (e.g., to move from our former home at 10 S. Gilbert St., Iowa City and to purchase our new property).

It is important to stress that our efforts to select a new congregational name have been suspended rather than cancelled. Future efforts will renew the process we’ve pursued recently, not begin from scratch.

As a congregation we have learned that selecting a new name in the twenty-first century is a complicated and involved process. Extensive self-reflection, education, and discussion are required before a consensus can be established. While we didn’t complete the process by June, we were well down the road that had to be traveled.

When we re-engage we will begin with following already established:

A strong majority of our congregation is committed to selecting a new name. In the March online survey 70% of participants indicated that they favored a name change. 13% preferred retaining the name “Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City.”

We are keenly interested and engaged in the process. Eighty-one percent of voting members completed the March survey, an extraordinarily high level of participation. A majority or near majority of members participated in each of the four weekly May polls that furthered our efforts. Nearly sixty attended our weeknight discussion session at the Iowa City Public Library in May.

Our new name will include the phrase “Unitarian Universalist” or “Unitarian Universalists.” Almost ninety percent of March survey participants indicated that it was very important to incorporate our denominational affiliation in our new name. It is thus a given that our next name, whether traditional or aspirational in form, will include “Unitarian Universalist” or “Unitarian Universalists.”

Our new name should not likely include a location. Over the past year most congregation members have come to agree that the “Iowa City” portion of our existing name is no longer suitable due to our Coralville move and our anticipated broader geographic reach. Efforts to choose a suitable replacement, however, have been unsuccessful. None of the alternative terms such as “Iowa Corridor,” “Johnson County,” and “Greater Iowa City” had strong majority support and each had considerable opposition.

Many members prefer a shorter name. One constant refrain has been the desire to select a new name that is easier to pronounce than our current twenty-syllable “Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City” and that has a shortened version that is more intelligible to outsiders than “UUSIC.”

“Unitarian Universalists,” “Community,” “Society,” or “Congregation” have the strongest support as group names. In the March survey, 189 of 209 (over 90%) were extremely or very comfortable with the term “Unitarian Universalists,” 102 showed the same level of support for “Congregation,” 90 for “Society,” and 89 for “Community,” and much less for “Fellowship” or “Church.” In later surveys and the May workshop, “Unitarian Universalists,” “Community,” and “Congregation” received support, while “Church” and “Society” generated more negative responses.

Congregational names are used more dynamically than in the past. Outreach to prospective new members now takes place increasingly through websites and social media. Our visitors typically find us through the web. In this new realm, congregational names are typically enriched with graphic design elements and the use of ancillary tag lines.

Aspirational names have moved into the religious mainstream. Shorter, aspirational church names were once largely the province of non-denominational, often evangelical Christian churches. Increasingly, however, new Unitarian Universalist and mainstream Protestant congregations are opting for aspirational names. This trend reflects an attempt to attract millennials and others with an aversion to the language and trappings of traditional religious culture. The two aspirational elements of names that had garnered the most support in our process to date were “Prairie Sky” and “One World,” but neither had a strong majority of support.

At bottom, a name is just a name. Our identity is shaped largely by our beliefs and involvement in the world surrounding us. The choice of a name is important but not all important. A few people looking for a new community may be either more attracted to or have a negative reaction to any particular name we select, but in the end, it is our actions and programs that will determine whether they choose to get involved. It is important that we proceed together with common purpose and shared commitment to the use of the democratic process within our congregation (5th Principle).

As members of the Naming Task Force, we would once again like to extend our thanks to the entire congregation for the strong support it has given to us and to this process, through your careful consideration and your participation in focus groups, surveys, offering suggestions, and the May workshop. We feel very fortunate to have been at the center of this very challenging yet extremely rewarding discussion of our identity and shared journey.

The Naming/Branding Task Force:

Steve Vincent, chair; Peggy Garrigues, Sally Hartman, Bailey Kelley, Chris Rode, Emily Uhl, and Jeff Walberg

Highlights from the July Board Meeting

Minutes from all regular Board meetings are reviewed by the Board members and made available to members and friends on the website and in the UUS Board of Trustees notebook. Minutes may also be requested via mail or email from the UUS administrator.

Present: Jim Laughlin (President), Jane DeWitt (Vice-President), Adam Ingersoll (Treasurer), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Steve Locher (Trustee), Kris Barrash (Trustee), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio), and Saunia Powell (DLRE).

Absent: Kelly O'Berry (Past-President), Peggy Garrigues (DCL), and Chris Rode (Treasurer elect).

Guests: Marsha Cheyney (representing CCLAM).

President Laughlin called the Board meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Rev. Steven provided opening words, followed by the lighting of the Chalice.

Consent Agenda: Consent agenda items and other documents are uploaded to Dropbox for review by Board members prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved by the Board.

Consent Agenda items: *Board Agenda; June Board Highlights & Minutes; July Executive Committee Minutes; Treasurer Financial Statements & Report; Treasurer's May Finance Review; DLRE Report; DCL Report; Office Administrator Report; TTF2 Update (Voelker/Barrash); and the NFC Report (Deb Schoelman) were received for review prior to the meeting. Other items included: Board Facility Use Policy (Locher); UUS Facilities Use Manual (Emma Barnum); Proposed Guidelines for UUS Affiliated Groups (Garrigues); Bowdoin College Alternative Spring Break Proposal (Garrigues); Proposed Schedule Fall 2017 New Building (Rev. Steven).*

Sunday AM Structure & Timing: Rev. Steven explained that while at Kirkwood, we will send children to Religious Education (RE) as we do currently. However, when we move into our new facility (NF), we will use a new structure and timeline on Sundays. The children will remain in the service longer, staying through the offering. Rev. Steven provided an overview of two options for Sunday mornings. Central to both is the addition of a Sunday RE session that would start after the adult social time. During this session, programming would be offered for adults and for children—though periodically it would be intergenerational.

Board discussion focused on the overall start time, length of the adult social time, the longer total time commitment proposed, and the order of youth RE versus youth activity sessions. Concern was raised that if the social time was very long, people would not stay for the additional session. The point was made that, those who wish to extend their social time could do so, if they do not want to participate in or no adult RE is planned that day. All acknowledged that while the proposed formats ask members to potentially spend 2.5+ hours at UUS on Sundays, they also introduce exciting possibilities. Board members also agreed that the first one-hour youth session should consist of the traditional RE curriculum, with an "activity" during the second session.

The Board unanimously approved the following Sunday Structure and timing to be implemented in our new facility:

Worship Service: 9:30 to 10:30 am

Children's RE: 10 to 11 am

Adult Social Time: 10:30 to 10:45 am

Adult RE: 10:45 to 11:45 am

Children's Activity: 11:00 to 11:45 am

Board Facilities Use POLICY, 2nd Reading: Locher summarized the Board Facilities Use Policy and described the minimal revisions since its "first read." The Board approved the Board Facilities Use Policy.

Facilities Use Manual Review: Emma Barnum shared the UUS Facilities Use Manual that she has been developing. This is an operational/procedural document distinct from the Board Facilities Use Policy. The Board moved to accept and acknowledge with gratitude the appropriateness of the Facilities Use Manual and its compatibility with the Board Facilities Use Policy.

Affiliated Group Policy & Procedures: Garrigues shared a draft Guidelines for UUS Affiliated Groups. Board members were unsure of the intended meaning of the term "affiliated groups." Therefore, discussion was tabled until Garrigues is present.

Fall Opening Event/Building Dedication: The first meeting of the "Fall Opening Event Coordination/Building Dedication Committee" was Tuesday, July 11th. Board members discussed the distinction between these two events and their respective guest lists, volunteer needs, date and time options, and potential financial needs. The Board approved that the Building Dedication be scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, November 5th.

Bowdoin College Spring Break Proposal: Garrigues shared an Alternative Spring Break proposal from students at Bowdoin College, Maine. They plan to visit Iowa, March 10th to 17th, 2018, and are looking for a host facility for 8-12 students. Garrigues is requesting Board approval for them to stay in our new facility at a fee rate of \$300-\$400. Ingersoll suggested that it might be better for them to stay in his home. He will talk with Garrigues about this and the Board will revisit the proposal in August.

Board Retreat Plans: The Board Retreat is scheduled for July 26th from 4 to 8 pm at the East Side Recycling Center. Laughlin asked Board members to come prepared to speak for five minutes about "who they are and how they got here."

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm to a Closed Session. The next Board meeting is Thursday, August 10th, at Oakdale House.

—Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

Reflections from UU General Assembly 2017 in New Orleans

General Assembly takes place every year in late June, in different places around the US, to gather together UUs from all over the US, some from Canada, and some from around the world. General Assembly (GA) this year was a powerful experience! There were over 4,000 UUs gathered in New Orleans from June 21st through 25th! Our theme for the gathering was "Resist and Rejoice."

Peggy Garrigues attended but was not a delegate, Winnie Ganshaw attended as a voting delegate, and five other UUS members were elected as delegates and voted online.

It was inspiring to be part of worship with that many others. Everyone cheered and waved as Peggy and many others proudly carried the banners from our many congregations around the continent in the opening ceremony. Winnie especially enjoyed singing with that many people—not just singing, but singing favorite songs such as "Down by the Riverside," "Wade in the Water," "Standing on the Side of Love," and more. There was lots of jazzy musical accompaniment to the singing! Then, at the Service of the Living Tradition, it was awe-inspiring to see so many people lined up at the front who are just beginning as UU ministers and religious educators, and also the not-quite-so-long rows of those retiring after many years of service.

On Friday, a hot, muggy day, about a thousand of us marched through the streets behind a New Orleans style brass band, wearing our "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts, and carrying a variety of posters and banners.

Many items were discussed and voted on in the morning plenary sessions, and a new President of the UUA was elected: Susan Frederick-Gray from Arizona. A statement of conscience was approved regarding income inequality. You can read more about decisions that were made, and GA overall here: www.uuworld.org/articles/2017-ga-summary-coverage

Winnie says, "Most noticeable was the emphasis on (1) language, race, and gender, (2) how we, as individuals and as a UUA movement, are going to transform (will we?), and (3) the risks involved in aspiring to become more open and transparent about our individual and collective assumptions and worldviews."

She also remembered several quotes in particular: Tom Andrews, President and CEO of the UU Service Committee, said, "Never before in history have our UU values been under such attack."

Christina Rivera, Financial Secretary, UUA Board of Trustees, said, "The core of UU is what draws new people. The core is not at risk; however, the expression of that core is The UUA Board received more mail than ever in last few months (after the controversial hiring of a white male in a regional leadership position, and then several resignations at the national level, including the former President of the UUA) revealing there is a hunger for learning and growing into a radical change—and asking 'how do we do it?' This mail is reflective of the current cultural changes."

Dr. Robin DiAngelo on the topic of "What It Means to Be White": "White people never need to know the reality of people of color. But people of color must know fully the reality of white people.

"Children by age 3 or 4 have already gotten the message that it is better to be white. Without intervention kids will learn 'white is better.' They simply absorb it. They are not color blind. They are not power blind. Everybody is NOT equal and it is dishonest to say so."

Peggy's partner, Sarah, came along to New Orleans, and Winnie had a friend attending GA as well, so we also did some sightseeing. Peggy and Sarah learned some of the history of Free People of Color in Louisiana, tasted lots of Cajun and southern dishes (gumbo, shrimp and grits, or bean pie anyone?), visited the historic and artsy French Quarter, and learned about public transportation by bus and trolley amidst lots of racial diversity in the city. But there were also two UUA staff people from Boston who were attacked and robbed a block away from where they were on Saturday night.

Winnie and Peggy both attended a wide variety of workshops. Peggy attended ones on young adult ministry, climate change, partner church relationships, undoing racism for white folks, new kinds of ministries, as well as getting together with other membership professionals.

Next year, General Assembly will be a lot more accessible to Midwesterners, as it will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, only four and a half hours from here! We encourage you to consider holding a space open in your calendar for June 20th through 24th, 2018, to be inspired and energized as UUs. You don't even have to attend the whole time—tickets are available for just a day or two, as well!

UUS Members & Friends With August Birthdays

Tim Adamson
Amara Ballantyne
Aubrey Ballantyne
Barbara Beaumont
Lucy Bodling
Peg Bouska
Jacelyn Cheyney
Peggy Dietrich
Isabel George
Al Hood

Katrina Ingersoll
Susan Kaliszewski
Margaret Kinsman
Garry Klein
Brian Lehan Mackin
Cari Malone
Cameron Miller
Tony Miller
Jim Norris
Julian Oliver-Shaw

Kim Palmer
Abigail Patterson
Ron Pile
Teagan Roeder
Deb Schoelman
Nicole Sheldon
Ada Turner
Dana van der Heide
Zebby Wahls
Mira Wilmot-DiCarlo

Reflections from UU MidWest Leadership School

Chris Rode and Sandy Keller both participated in the UU MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) program that was held July 9th through 15th at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. UUS expressed our support for them by covering part of their costs to attend, especially since they are both taking on new leadership positions here: Chris as treasurer, and Sandy on the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry. Peggy Garrigues asked them about their experience:

Chris wrote, "To be honest, when I signed up for MidWest Leadership School, I did so somewhat half-heartedly. I'd done graduate work in business, which covered leadership, and had also been exposed to a lot of leadership material throughout my career. But I thought it would be good to take a look at leadership from the church's perspective, since that was where I was about to spread my wings. As the date approached, alumni in the congregation expressed their excitement for me, and told me how it was such a transformative experience for them. Still, my expectations remained somewhat low. But I went into it with an open mind. Having gone through the week now, all I can say is WOW. Was I ever wrong ... it WAS an amazing experience, and I'm so glad to have had the opportunity, and the support of the congregation, to be able to attend.

"The curriculum for the week is broad enough that there is something there to appeal to everyone. When asked on the final day to reflect on the week and on what we learned, I wrote: "Everyone will walk away from this week having learned whatever it is they needed to learn at this point in their lives. For me, this was more about spiritual and personal growth than it was about the mechanics of leadership. Some of the things I want to remember: Be present. Even if I don't know exactly what to say or how to act, show up. Live into, and as, my authentic self. Approach difficult situations with wonder. Criticism is by and large NOT PERSONAL. Assume good intentions."

"What really surprised me though (as an introvert who doesn't love to socialize during coffee hour), is the connections I made and the relationships I formed. I've come away with a network of people all over the region with whom I've shared this experience, and who are all going to be facing similar challenges as they step forward to be leaders in their congregations, too. That is something that transcends all the academic learning and growth I experienced over the week, and it's something that you can't put a price on. To anyone that may be considering MWLS, I can only say "DO NOT HESITATE." No matter what your background, length of time with Unitarian Universalism, or personal experiences, you will surely walk away from the school a much richer person."

Sandy Keller went to MWLS expecting to learn how to take charge in committee work, and she did learn quite a bit about that. But she learned much more as well. There was a lot of group interaction in both theory and practice, as they learned about planning and leading a worship service, and making decisions as a small leadership group on sample tasks. Sandy also learned more details of UU history, including the different understandings of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Transcendentalism, and how these streams combined together into Unitarian Universalism.

Sandy was excited to develop friendships there, and feels she is gaining confidence and coming out of her shell more in expressing ideas because of this experience.

She also found resources: "I bought a readings supplement to the teal hymnal that I will give to the congregation. I also learned about online resources that I will compile."

She found it valuable that the campus provided several areas suitable for relaxing or meditating in a natural setting, and appreciated the overall sense of sharing personal thoughts, feelings, and camaraderie. She even felt inspired enough to write a poem:

At Leadership School

Strength in brick

Soft grass in curving paths.

In beds of drooping hydrangea balls

Flame-headed ditch lilies

Drifting coneflowers

And scarlet bee balm.

Strength also in the shelter of swooping maples

Their tent-roofs buttressed by wave-shaped branches.

Growing support of new companions

Fellow workers in scattered soul farms

Individual yet linking

Through deep thought and laughter.

Magic happens here—

Will some of its power

Return with me

To the familiar sanctuary?

—Sandy Keller, July 2017

Meet Our Newest Members!

Please take a moment to get to know our four newest members, who joined UUS in a Covenant Ceremony on Sunday, July 9th.



Kris Canfield

Kris came to Iowa City in 1973 as a single parent. She and her husband, Larry, were married by Rev. Tom Mikelson in 1977 when UUSIC was at 10 S. Gilbert St. in Iowa City. They were not members of the congregation, but Rev. Mikelson provided a lovely service and sweet memories that planted the seed for Kris to know that she would eventually end up being part of this congregation. Kris retired 6 years ago after 37

years in Human Resources at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She and Larry have one daughter, a son-in-law, and two granddaughters, as well as two Dobermanns. Kris currently serves as treasurer for the University of Iowa Retirees Association. She loves books, dogs, and music.

Kris values each of the seven principles and is looking for a nurturing community that will help her be a better person, who can in turn help others. She cares deeply about social justice and equality and is willing to lend a hand wherever she can.

Kerry Finley

Kerry lives in Iowa City and has two children in college: Beckett at University of Vermont, and Deckard, who is attending Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. Kerry formerly practiced law in New York City and Des Moines, Iowa, and is now with the appellate law group of Shuttleworth & Ingersoll in Cedar Rapids. She enjoys all of the arts—visual, performance, dance, musical, cinematic, literary and, especially, culinary. Kerry is looking forward to becoming an active member of the UUSIC community. She is especially interested in expanding and strengthening our bond with our partner church in Janosfalva and helping to make the 25th anniversary celebration of our partnership in 2018 a cultural and spiritual success.



Alan and Elizabeth (Liz) Swanson

Alan grew up on a farm in Lone Tree, Iowa. He came to Iowa City to attend the University of Iowa and earned a BA in English and an MA in Journalism. He has lived in Iowa City since 1962. Alan worked at the UI Foundation for 30 years, leaving as Senior Vice President for Administration and Communications. Now in his second career, Alan is the co-owner of BLANK & McCUNE The Real Estate Company. He has served on boards and campaigns for many arts and other nonprofit organizations in the area and has won awards for communications and volunteerism.

Alan started attending our services because they align more with the nagging feelings he has about religion. He appreciates the openness and acceptance of all, people's warmth, and the objectives of fairness, equality, justice, and caring for others. He creates art cards, draws cartoons, improvises on the piano, and enjoys art, architecture, design, and world travel. Alan hopes to share some of these interests here, along with his skills in writing, editing, and fundraising.

Liz also attended the University of Iowa, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and then a PhD in Student Development and Personnel through the College of Education. (Her PhD advisor was Al Hood—a member here!) She met Alan here in Iowa City and has stayed. Liz is now an associate professor in the UI College of Nursing. For much of her career, she has worked in an advancement role for the college—cultivating strong relationships with alumni, corporations, and friends.

Liz values the openness and diversity of thought of Unitarian Universalism and also appreciates the acceptance of all individuals. She enjoys word games, Sudoku, knitting, and world travel. She has visited Russia, Spain, Brazil, Switzerland, and Korea. Liz is looking for a community of friendship here and is glad to help with fundraising and organizing social events.

Alan and Liz have a son and a daughter with wonderful spouses, and one granddaughter, who all live in the area. They also share their home with Annie the Yorkie.

Spirituality & Religious Education

Covenant Groups

In our July meetings, we talked about the importance of "Striking a Balance." Many if not most of us struggle to find the right balance between work and other activities, or between the various elements that make up our lives—family and friends, partner, health, environment, career, money, spirituality, recreation, etc. Julie Kay suggests that the key is "finding equilibrium between energy enhancing activities and energy draining activities." Does this formula make sense to you, and if so, how do you achieve it? How do you make enough time for the things that energize you and avoid being consumed by those that drain you?

Covenant groups will not meet in August, but we will come back together in September to recommit to our groups and begin another year of discussion, activities, and service. The Covenant Group program offers members the opportunity to express their views and deepen their understanding of a wide range of issues while fostering closer ties to other UUs. If you'd like to learn more about what we do, please contact Jan Locher (354-6260, locherj@mchsi.com).

Buddhist Sangha, August 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th

The UU Buddhist Sangha is a community of people that gathers weekly to explore contemporary Buddhist practice and teachings in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles and for meditation. The Sangha is currently reading Pema Chodron's best-selling book, *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*, a collection of talks filled with radical and compassionate advice for what to do when things fall apart and our lives go against the grain of our usual habits and expectations.

We meet weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm at Oaknoll. To find out more, please contact Brian Glidewell (brianandmark711@msn.com), Cindy Spading (mandcspading@southslope.net), or request to join through your Realm profile.

Social Justice News and Events

Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle, August 20th

The Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle is UUS's next step to visibly and responsibly answer the call from communities of color to stand and act in solidarity for racial justice. The Circle normally meets from 9:30 to 11 am at the Oakdale House on the first and third Sundays of each month.

In August we will **NOT** meet on August 6th, just on the 20th. We will discuss Chapter 3 of Daniel Hunter's *Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow*. All are welcome to participate. Books are available for self check-out by the mailboxes in the main room at the Oakdale House, and e-books are available for \$0.99 at newjimcroworganizing.org. We will also be discussing action items for this next year, including follow-up from the White Supremacy Teach-In and the UUA General Assembly.

Please join us as we collaboratively build our vision to effectively engage in racial justice efforts in our community. If you have any questions or would like to be involved but cannot participate on Sunday mornings, please contact Alison Oliver (alison-oliver@uiowa.edu) or Rev. Steven (minister@uusic.org).

Singing Bowl Meditations, August 8th & 27th

Judi Clinton hosts a Singing Bowl Meditation on the second Tuesday (6 pm) and last Sunday (12:30 pm) of each month at her home (945 Applewood Court, #4, Coralville). The harmonics of the bowls are used to amplify intention and focus as participants create a healing, relaxing field for all present. Plan to arrive 5 minutes before the start time to get settled and comfortable, and bring your water bottle. If you would like to participate, contact Judi (judiclinton@gmail.com or 541-6957) to reserve your space.

Fireside Choir Kickoff Dinner, August 10th

The Fireside Choir, along with any interested singers, are invited to kick off the year with a salad/sandwich supper at Gloria Corbin's home (2138 Terra Lane, Coralville—south of the Mercy Clinic on Oakdale Boulevard and 12th Avenue) at 6 pm on Thursday, August 10th. After we have eaten, we will be reading some of the new music for the church year.

Fireside Choir Practice, August 17th, 24th, & 31st

The Fireside Choir rehearses weekly on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Sanctuary Church. The choir is open to all singers (high school and beyond). No auditions or experience required. The choir sings in unison, two, three, and four parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). The Fireside Choir often contributes to the Sunday worship services. If you have considered joining us, don't think twice, just show up and we will go from there. If you have any questions, give Gloria Corbin a call at 338-5012 or email her at cgcocorbin@mchsi.com.

Interest & Activity Groups

UU Free Lunch Program, August 11th

Wow! On July 14th, the UUS Free Lunch team served 178 lunches. We also had a very high number of volunteers, thanks to the covenant groups who prepared Mexican Beef Casserole. Lunch also included mixed vegetables, green salad, fruit salad, and desserts. Our next Free Lunch is August 11th, and you can help in many ways:

- Donate cash to UUS Free Lunch for the purchasing of ingredients.
- Purchase a main dish for the large group.
- Make a main dish (30 servings), salad (20 servings), or dessert (20-30 servings) at home and bring it on Friday morning or arrange for a Free Lunch team member to pick it up.
- Purchase fruits or salad vegetables and bring them on Friday morning or arrange for a Free Lunch team member to pick them up.
- Volunteer for 1.5 to 3 hours on Friday (either come at 10:30 am to help set up and prepare food, at 11:45 to serve, or at 12:15 pm to help with the dishes and cleaning up).

There are other ways to help, just let a Free Lunch team member know if you have an idea for a way you'd like to help: Leigh Nida, Carmen Griggs, and Diana Miller (dkmilleriowa@gmail.com).

Vegetarian Community Brunch, August 13th

The Vegetarian Community enjoys a 10:30 am brunch on the second Sunday of each month (this month it's August 13th) at the Trumpet Blossom Café (310 E. Prentiss Street, Iowa City). Please make your reservation with Carol Throckmorton at carolthrockmorton108@msn.com or 337-3030.

UU Scrabble Group, August 17th

The UU Scrabble Group will meet Thursday, August 17th, at 1:30 pm at Kim & Lula Palmer's (803 McCollister Ct.). Everyone is welcome to join in regardless of skill level! Beginners are welcome! Contact Gary Lawrenson at 936-1291 or glawrenson@mchsi.com for more information.

UUS Remembers Marjorie Cantor

We do not usually publish remembrances about deceased members, but since there will be no memorial service for Marjorie, we felt it important to remember her in this way and honor her memory.

Marjorie Cantor died at age 94 on July 4th, 2017. She possessed a doctorate in nursing and taught at the UI School of Nursing for many years. Marjorie's other major interests were travel, religion, and politics. Very specifically, Marjorie was a passionate Hawkeye fan and even more passionate about the US Constitution! I cannot think of a more appropriate day than Independence Day for Marjorie to leave us.

Marjorie was a long-time member of UUS (she joined in 1981), although poor health kept her from attending church in more recent years. For the past 2½ years, as a UUS Friendly Visitor, I visited Marjorie every 3-4 weeks. She was a lively and opinionated conversationalist!

She had a terrific memory of movies and musicals and became quite enlivened when recounting her travels far and wide,

Vegetarian Community Potluck, August 26th

The Vegetarian Community will meet for a summer potluck at 5 pm at Carol Throckmorton's home. Please bring a whole-foods, plant-based dish to share. Contact Carol (337-3030, carolthrockmorton108@msn.com) to RSVP and get directions.

Secular Humanists, August 29th

We start our 14th season of the UU Secular Humanists group with a Kick-off Party at 6 pm on Tuesday, August 29th, at Sue and Lee Eberly's home (1840 Friendship St., IC). We will be joined by our young cohorts, SecSI (Secular Students at Iowa). BBQ pulled pork sandwiches will be provided along with various beverages. SecSI members are our guests; UUs please bring side dishes, vegetarian/gluten free items, appetizers, or desserts.

After dinner and social time, we will gather together to discuss the new year and our future. We will start discussions on a new mission statement, hoping to finalize before this season ends. We will discuss who we are, why we are, where we're going, what as a group we hope to accomplish, how we fit into UUS, how we support our 7 principles, and if we wish to pursue UUA Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation.

So mark your calendars: All are welcome! For further information contact Mark Yuskis (resdoggie@aol.com) or Sue Eberly (susan17@gmail.com).

UU Book Discussion Group, September 11th

The UU Book Discussion group takes a break in the summer but will resume on Monday, September 11th, at 7:30 pm at the George Street Oaknoll Building. We have already selected our discussion books for September and October which are *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson and *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. We are compiling a book selection list for our September meeting when we will chose books for the rest of the year. The deadline to submit book ideas to the list is August 5th. If you have questions, want to submit book ideas, or want more information about our group, contact Mary Lou Welter at 354-1231 or welteremig@hotmail.com.

UU Grief Group

The UU Grief Group does not meet in June, July, or August. If you are experiencing grief and need someone to talk to, contact Gail Garwood (ggarwood42@gmail.com). We will resume meeting on the third Wednesday of each month in September, hopefully in our new building!

including attendance at the 1983 Gator Bowl. Yet her most vivacious and articulate self emerged when decrying the current state of politics in this country. She all but raged against the ignorance about the three branches of government ("so evident in the current Administration"), the legislative process, and the "general lack of a decent understanding about civics!" It was never boring with Marjorie.

Marjorie always said she did not want a memorial service. She found them "depressing" and did not even attend the one for Marilyn Jennewein, with whom she was very close. I, however, wanted Marjorie remembered. She was a delight, and I will miss her dearly.

—Submitted by Winnie Ganshaw

The UU News

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Mission: We are a diverse spiritual community that touches hearts, changes lives, and transforms the world.

Vision: Our vision is to be a loving, inclusive, and growing spiritual community. We celebrate life and a liberal tradition that leads social justice work, heals the earth, and nurtures the lifelong journey of mind and spirit.

UUSIC Calendar for August 2017

(SC) **Sanctuary Church**, 2205 E Grantview Dr #200, CV (OH) **Oakdale House**, 2355 Oakdale Rd, CV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 12:30 PM Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour SC 4 PM New Member Dinner (SC)	31 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	1	2	3	4	5
6 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour (SC)	7 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	8 6 PM Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home)	9	10 6 PM Choir Dinner (Gloria Corbin's home) 6:30 PM Board Meeting (OH)	11 11 AM Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct.)	12
13 10:30 AM Vegetarian Community Brunch (Trumpet Blossom Café) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour (SC)	14 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	15 7 PM Social Justice Coordinating Committee (OH)	16	17 1:30 PM UU Scrabble Group (Kim and Lula Palmer's home) 7 PM Choir Rehearsal (SC)	18 12 PM September Newsletter Submission Deadline	19
20 9:30 AM Racial Justice study/ ACTION Circle (OH) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour SC	21 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	22	23	24 7 PM Choir Rehearsal (SC)	25	26 5 PM Vegetarian Community Summer Potluck (Carol Throckmorton's home)
27 12:30 PM Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour SC	28 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)	29 6 PM Secular Humanists Kick-off Party (the Eberlys' home)	30	31 7 PM Choir Rehearsal (SC)	1	2

Look for updated event details through the month at uusic.org.