



The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
Founded in 1841

July 2017

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July's Social Justice Offerings Benefit UNITED ACTION FOR YOUTH (UAY)

UAY is a Johnson County community organization whose mission is to nurture the potential of all youth to create, grow, and lead. Founded in 1970, its vision is youth and adults working together in partnership to create a safe and healthy community. The downtown youth center includes recording and art studios, performance space, and offices for street outreach. Offered elsewhere are counseling and programs for pregnant and parent teens. Cash or checks to UUS (UAY on memo line) may be given on Sundays 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?"

July 2nd: "I Don't Know How You Do It!" Renee Spoh

"How do you take care of yourself?" is a question frequently asked of social workers, advocates, and caregivers. The real answers usually go well beyond "CHOCOLATE!" Explore replenishing energy and spiritual practice with UUS member Renee Spoh during this service focused on nourishing and protecting our love muscles from overextension.

The offering for this "Fifth Sunday" service will go to UNICEF. See more information on page 7.

July 9th: "Beyond Iowa Nice," Rev. Steven Protzman

"Iowa Nice" is useful for everyday conversations, but if we truly seek to build the beloved community, we need to move into what writer Michael Meade speaks of as the third layer of human interaction, a place of deeply shared humanity. As we welcome new members we'll explore how Unitarian Universalism and covenant challenge us to grow spiritually by moving beyond "Iowa Nice" to create a truly diverse, loving, and just community where we have deep, meaningful relationships.

July 16th: "A Family in Transition," Russ Lenth and Jane DeWitt

Having a son become a daughter is a big transition—not just for her, but for the whole family. UUS members Russ Lenth and Jane DeWitt will talk about their story and how it relates to our religious principles, love, relationships, and growth.

July 23rd: "Throw Your Heart At It And See If It Sticks: Surviving the Fray," Garry Klein

How do you know when you are doing your true heart's work for social justice? Join UUS member Garry Klein on an adventure in working toward social justice while understanding balance and limits. Understanding how you can best serve, how to know your limits and how to best use your strengths are keys to being engaged in the fight for good. Garry shares stories and tools that helped him get off the bench and back into the fray at a more comfortable pace and level. Working toward social justice can be heartbreaking, or at least heartbending. Learn to bend your heart toward the arc of social justice without burning yourself out.

July 30th: "The Harvest of Love," Worship Associates

Lammas, a Pagan festival of the first harvest, is a celebration of the fruits of our labor during the growing season. As we work our love muscles, we gain sustenance in stepping back and honoring what our acts of love have produced. Join us in celebrating the harvest of love.

Sunday Attendance for June 4th through 25th

June 4th: 89 total: 81 adults, 8 children
June 11th: 109 total: 101 adults, 8 children

June 18th: 89 total: 82 adults, 7 children
June 25th: 76 total: 71 adults, 5 children

Staff Reports



From Your Minister

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first
time.*

—T.S. Eliot, from *Little Gidding*

This is one of my favorite quotes. It seems especially fitting in the summer time as many of us go off on vacations and adventures, eager to explore new places or perhaps experience familiar places in different ways. T.S. Eliot's words also seem an apt summary of my sabbatical. After three months of exploration, rest, renewal, reflection, and spiritual growth, I have returned, back to where I started this journey, but yet knowing myself in a new way. Thank you to each of you for the gift of my sabbatical. I am especially grateful to the Worship Associates, the Pastoral Care Associates, the staff (Emma, Saunia, Peggy, Nik, Bailey, Gloria and Peng), the Board, the Staff Relations Committee, CCLAM, and Winnie Ganshaw and my colleague, Rebecca Hinds in Cedar Rapids who were on call for emergency pastoral care. Thank you to each of you for your presence, leadership and care of the congregation in my absence.

No doubt you're wondering what I did during my sabbatical. Wayne Muller speaks of Sabbath as "time consecrated with our attention, our mindfulness, honoring those quiet forces of grace or spirit that sustain and heal us." My sabbatical was time I consecrated with attention, with mindfulness; time I spent honoring the forces that sustain and heal. Much of my time was spent caring for myself spiritually and physically. I did a lot of gardening and hiking and got plenty of rest. My studies included innovative and creative ideas for worship, spiritual practices, community organizing, leadership, and spirituality. I went on two retreats so that I could reflect on my first six years as your minister and do some discernment about what's next. There were no major revelations—often a minister comes back from sabbatical realizing it's time for a change of venue or career (that didn't happen for me) but I did discover that a retreat and a smart phone are not a good combination. I googled "holy boredom" at one point and the response was spirituality! I took that revelation to heart, made some notes for a future sermon, and put the device away for the rest of my retreat time. My retreats helped me clarify how I will continue to take care of myself as I return to serving this congregation and my ministerial priorities in the coming year.

For the adventure part of my sabbatical, my mother came up from south Texas for her annual visit and together we went on a road trip west to visit as many National Parks as we could. In two weeks we drove over 5700 miles! Highlights from our trip included Devil's Tower (one of the most spiritual places I've ever visited), Yellowstone National Park (another incredibly spiritual experience), the Grand Canyon (be sure



Newport Bay, California

to read my blog about that), crossing the Continental Divide five times, and seeing a lot of beautiful country. Like many of you, my spirituality is centered in experiencing nature, and there were many, many moments of awe and wonder as Mom and I explored and hiked the mountains and deserts and national forests of the American West. The trip had its spiritual lessons as well—it challenged me to be flexible (we didn't visit Glacier National Park due to a snowstorm) and to live in the moment, enjoying unplanned opportunities as they appeared. We visited a brother of mine in Idaho, a sister in Southern California (where we went on a boat tour of the bay and I took the picture of the "Sabbatical"), and met up with my other sister in Arizona. I will long cherish my memories of this trip and the time with my mother and my siblings.

I also chose Eliot's quote for this month's column because it is a good expression of Unitarian Universalism and our individual spiritual journeys. Our Fourth Principle, a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, is about exploring life's greatest questions. One writer interprets Eliot's words this way: "We begin with a question; we explore and search for the answer. When we have the answer in hand, we return to the original question, and we 'arrive where we began,' and all the world is new in that moment."

This ongoing process of discovery is the heart of our spiritual journey as Unitarian Universalists. This is true for our journey together as a congregation too. This fall we'll move into our new building. This is a huge achievement and is the culmination of many years of dreaming, planning, working, of answering the call of our mission to serve one another and the world. But it is also only a beginning. We will arrive as a community that knows one another and knows who we are called to be. We will also be new as we explore how our building and the land we have chosen to care for will shape and challenge us and invite us to live our mission and vision ever more fully—including ways we can't yet imagine; new ways waiting to be discovered. I hope you will continue to join us as fully as you are able as the adventure and the exploration continues!

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

Steven

From Your Director of Congregational Life

Come join us to make our presence known in Coralville by marching in the parade at the Coralville 4thFest! 75 UUs marched in the Iowa City Pride parade on June 17th, many of us in our yellow “Standing on the Side of Love” t-shirts, which was wonderful! I know many folks will be with family or out of town on the 4th of July, but if you are here, please consider getting out your yellow t-shirt again and I’ll get my little yellow car ready again! We will meet in the parking lot by McGregor’s and GEICO on 22nd Ave, between 9:15 and 9:45 am, to be ready to march at 10 am on July 4th.

On July 9th, we will have four new members joining—Alan and Liz Swanson, Kris Canfield, and Kerry Finley. We will introduce them more fully in the August newsletter.

Winnie Ganshaw and I attended the UUA General Assembly

in New Orleans from June 21st to 25th, along with over 3,000 UUs from across the continent and the world. We will have to report on that at a later date, since this newsletter goes to print before we arrive. But there is an amazing line-up of workshops, worship, service projects and public witness opportunities. For the public witness event, imagine a couple thousand people marching behind a brass band through the streets of New Orleans, wearing our yellow “Standing on the Side of Love” t-shirts!

As we get closer and closer to the opening of our new building, event planning, new publicity campaigns, reaching out to our new neighbors in the Coralville community, a fresh design for our website, and new partnerships with community organizations are all underway. Please let me know if your UU group wants to plan some special events for the fall. The Publicity Committee is also available to help get the word out! —Peggy Garrigues

From Your Music Director

175th UUSIC Anniversary Hymn Commission



Rev. Jason Shelton and the Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons have been engaged to compose a hymn for the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City in 1841. The hymn is due to arrive August 1st. Rev. Shelton and Rev. Dr. Gibbons have sent a draft of the text; however, it cannot be released, as they are continuing to work on the marriage of lyrics and music. When inquiring if a commission would be possible for the anniversary event and in celebration of the new church, Rev. Steven sent the composition team the text of his 175th anniversary sermon delivered on November 6th, 2016. The invitation was accepted, and the new hymn will call forth boldness, healing, good/bad times, honor, and making the journey as one.

The Reverend Jason Shelton is a composer, arranger, conductor, singer, multi-instrumentalist, workshop and retreat leader and Associate Minister for Music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, where he has served since 1998. His compositions have been performed in churches and concert halls throughout North America, and his workshops for choirs, musicians, and ministers are helping to redefine music ministry in the liberal religious tradition for the 21st century.

In his ministry, Jason starts with the premise that “what we sing is who we are.” He is fluent in a wide variety of styles, a quality he feels is important as a musical and spiritual discipline. He believes that we live in a world where our diversity can be celebrated, where the musics of many peoples intertwine and offer new possibilities.

Rev. Steven introduced the UUS congregants to one of Rev. Shelton’s powerful hymns, “Standing on the Side of Love.” The hymn’s first verse addresses faith, hope, and love, then we are reminded of barriers we build. Verse three introduces a bright new day and concludes with the intense chorus “Standing on the Side of Love.”

The Rev. Dr. Gibbons is the 15th senior minister at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Kansas City. She is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, a recognized leader in our continental Association, and past president of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Rev. Gibbons has a long-standing commitment to theological education and the future of ministry. She has been an adjunct faculty member of the United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities and former Co-Dean and Mentor for the Humanist Institute. She currently teaches in the areas of worship and liturgy, the dynamics of professional leadership and serves as adjunct faculty at her alma mater, Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

Rev. Gibbons has been widely published in UU journals and publications and has received the John Burton Wolf Prize for Excellence in Preaching and the Meadville Lombard Alumni/ae Association Excellence in Ministry Award. She is also the author of two hymns included in the 1991 UU hymn book, “Singing The Living Tradition,” as well as “Sources: a Unitarian Universalist Cantata.”

The commission fee of \$1,500 for the hymn was pledged and supported by Fireside Choir members and UUS congregants. A list of the generous donors will be published. The contract calls for the right to the first performance for a full year as well as the right of the first commercial recording (up to 3 years). Planning for the introduction of the new hymn to the UUS congregation and the Fireside Choir is underway. Additional funds will be needed to extend an invitation to Rev. Shelton and Rev. Gibbons to work with the choir and be present for a celebration worship service. Should you be interested in helping with this effort, please mark your donation “hymn commission.”

As the time that we will be in the new church draws close, the creative ideas to celebrate the building and enhance the UUS abound. Please share your thoughts/ideas regarding programming. I can be reached at cgcobrin@mchsi.com.

—Gloria Corbin

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.

Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee builds awareness of environmental issues among congregants and seeks to motivate people to integrate sustainable living practices into their everyday lives. We work with other churches and/or groups on environmental injustices beyond the scope of our church.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is re-evaluating our meeting schedule. We will not meet on July 5th, as was previously listed on the website calendar. Watch for updates as we schedule our next meeting, and as we set a new regular time for meetings. Questions? Contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com or at 594-2373.

Eco Survey Results

The Green Sanctuary Committee’s Eco-survey results for Spring have been compiled, and results show great participation in making our earth a greener place to live! Today’s children thank you! The environmental actions we undertake most readily include:

- Using cloth or reusable shopping bags
- Recycling paper, cardboard, plastic, and tin cans
- Recycling glass
- Driving a fuel-efficient car
- Buying locally grown food

Some other environmental actions we may need to increase include:

- Avoiding the use of plastic water bottles
- Composting kitchen scraps
- Carpooling to Sunday service
- Driving slower and more efficiently (with smooth starts and stops)

Suggestions to increase good eco-habits include: reading about climate change, sending an e-mail (now) to someone asking if they want to carpool next Sunday, and buying a refillable water bottle. This last one is especially important because plastic disposable water bottles encourage privatization of water, cause pollution in manufacturing and recycling, and cost more than gasoline! Go green!

Monthly Board Meeting, July 13th

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.

Fall Sunday Planning:

Sunday Services Will Be in the Morning!

It is exciting to see the progress on our new building as the weeks go by, and exciting to imagine being in that space for Sunday services, programs, classes, and special events.

Even though we won’t be in our new building by the beginning of the fall as we had initially hoped, we still want to re-engage the many folks who found attending Sunday afternoon services and RE a challenge. So we plan to begin Sunday services and programming in the morning, beginning Sunday, September 10th, after our Labor Day Picnic on September 3rd.

In order to do this, we have reserved several rooms and the main lobby area at the Kirkwood Community College Regional Center (2301 Oakdale Blvd., Coralville). The main lobby at Kirkwood is nice and sunny and open for our Sunday services, and it will also have room to serve refreshments afterwards. We are reserving three smaller rooms for RE classes. The Kirkwood Regional Center is just slightly north and west of our new building, and on the north side of Oakdale Blvd, so it will be easy to take a short drive or walk over to see the final progress on our new building before or after the service. We expect to be at Kirkwood for three or four Sundays.

We haven’t finalized the times for the service and religious education classes, but we are considering starting the service somewhere in the 9:30 to 10 am range, and we plan to finalize the overall schedule shortly after Rev. Steven returns from his sabbatical and can be more fully included in the conversation.

We encourage groups and group leaders to be thinking about whether you want to have any Sunday morning programming or meetings in the fall. We can still accommodate those at Kirkwood as long as we coordinate the rooms and times. Go ahead and schedule regular events for Sunday mornings or early afternoons in September as usual with Emma. We currently have the rooms scheduled for our use from 9 am until 1 pm.

175th Committee: Common Read

In anticipation of a workshop with Cynthia Grant Tucker, entitled “Prophetic Sisterhood Now More Than Ever,” which will be held on October 15th, the 175th Committee has acquired copies of her book, *Prophetic Sisterhood, Liberal Women Ministers of the Frontier, 1880-1930* for a Common Read before the workshop. Several Iowa City ministers are discussed in the book. The cost of the book will be \$15. If you would like a copy, please contact Jeanette Carter at montehigh55@gmail.com or 338-5922.

The Transition: The Move Before The Move!

Even though our temporary occupancy permit is not expected until late September, July will be a very busy month. Transition Task Force 2.0 (TTF2) volunteers will be working on clearing out the shed at the Oakdale property and finding new places to store those items that are to be kept. Judy Tokuhisa has been working hard to find a buyer who will dismantle and move the shed. If not sold by mid-July, our contractor will take it down and the ground will be prepared for the solar panels.

We will begin scheduling work sessions soon: projects will include sorting and reboxing RE and kitchen materials and moving items around within or out of the shed and house. So please sign-up as a volunteer after Sunday service or contact us by email, Peg Voelker at peg.voelker@gmail.com or Kris Barrash at kris.barrash@mchsi.com. Watch for announcements and instructions on how to sign up for specific jobs and work times.

Also, many items that will not be needed will be sold. Please let us know if you can volunteer to sell them online. Items for sale include the washer and dryer, freezer, water softener, kitchen appliances, folding chairs, and more. Look in upcoming Wednesday emails for more details.

Lastly, in the last two years, many people brought items to use during UUS events at the Oakdale property, such as tables, lawn chairs, etc. Some of these items are being stored in the shed and house. If any of these items belong to you, we need you to pick them up in the next week or two to make room in the storage areas. We thank you for allowing the congregation to use them.

Spirituality & Religious Education

Singing Bowl Meditations, July 11th & 30th

Judi Clinton will host 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.

Buddhist Sangha, July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st

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.

New Facilities Committee (NFC)

Construction update:

The latest estimate for the building completion is September 20th. This is later than we had anticipated, but the work is progressing in a timely manner now. As Damon, the foreman, said last week: "We are as close behind the roofers as we can be." Once the building is complete, the architects from Neumann-Monson need to do their walk through. After the safety inspection, the City of Coralville can give us a temporary occupancy permit.

The office furniture, seating for the reception area, and the chairs for the sanctuary and fellowship hall have been ordered and will arrive in time for installation after September 20th. We are hopeful that we can have services in the new building in early October. Plans have been made to rent rooms for services in the Kirkwood building on Sunday mornings in September.

Most of the concrete has been poured for the parking areas and driveways. Plans are underway to empty the contents of the shed and dismantle it by the middle of July so that grading can continue. The items in the shed will be moved to the house or to our new storage shed. The items that we do not need will be sold or donated to ReStore, Crowded Closet, or other similar organizations in town.

The footings and foundation for the new storage shed and dumpster enclosure have been poured. Damon expects the shed to be done in 2 or 3 weeks. We can then start to move our grounds equipment and garden tools into the shed. The stonewall at the end of the sanctuary has been installed and looks great. Framing for the kitchen, storage room, and mechanical room is proceeding. Most of the outside siding and windows have been installed. Now that the trees by the driveway have been removed, our new building is more easily seen from Oakdale Road. It is an impressive-looking building.

Upcoming Youth Religious Education Events

Summer is here, and it's a great time for rising Jr. & Sr. High youth to re-engage with your UU community!

Tuesday, July 4th: All Jr. and Sr. High youth are invited to come and bring friends to the July 4th Coralville Parade. We will be marching with our congregation, so wear comfortable shoes. The parade starts at 10 am. Contact Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com) to RSVP and if you need a "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirt. See you then!

Saturday, August 26th: We're going to start the year off right—with a camp-out and chance to reconnect. If possible, we will camp on the church property but, depending on the construction schedule, we may have to meet elsewhere (stay tuned!). We'll meet at 6 pm and dinner/breakfast will be

Covenant Groups in July

In our June meetings, we tackled the always relevant topic of "Facing Challenges." Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by the challenges in our lives. It's hard to accept that in some ways our lives would be less interesting, and our spirits poorer, without them. To put them in perspective, think about some of the challenges you've had and their meaning for your life. Are you a stronger, wiser, more resilient person because of them, and if so, how? Were there particular people or groups, ideas or beliefs that helped you cope with your challenges? What are you doing to meet the challenges you face today?

This month we will be discussing another crucial life skill, "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?

Recently, interest has been expressed in forming an all-woman Covenant Group. If you are interested, or have other questions about covenant groups, please contact Jan Locher (331-2723 or locherj@mchsi.com).

Interest & Activity Groups

Vegetarian Community Sunday Brunch, July 9th

The Vegetarian Community enjoys a 10:30 am brunch on the second Sunday of each month (this month it's July 9th) 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 Free Lunch Program

On Friday, June 9th, our UUSIC Free Lunch team prepared and served 143 meals to grateful Free Lunch patrons. The meal was pulled pork sandwiches (generously provided by David and Mary Jepsen), baked beans, cole slaw, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, cakes and bars. One of the things that the Free Lunch team loves to hear is that our meals are healthy and delicious. We heard a lot of that this month.

If you are interested in purchasing or preparing food for Free Lunch and/or volunteering your time and talents to feed Iowa City's hungry, please reach out to Diana Miller at dkmilleriowa@gmail.com. Our next Free Lunch will be on Friday, July 14th.

Kiirtan, July 17th

The Kiirtan will meet at 6 pm on Monday, July 17th, at Oakdale House. Kiirtan is a combination of music and spiritual practice—it is the chanting or singing of a certain phrase that is charged with meaning. It is a wonderful prelude for meditation and a good practice in its own right. It can be combined with a variety of instruments (we'll start out with guitar) and also with dance. For more information about this event, contact Andy Douglas at andy.c.douglas@gmail.com.

UU Scrabble Group, July 20th

The UU Scrabble Group will meet Thursday, July 20th, at 1:30 pm at a location to be announced (check the UUS website or weekly emails). 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.

Vegetarian Community Potluck, July 22nd

The Vegetarian Community will meet for a summer potluck at 4:30 pm at Terri O'Berry & Janet McKee's home. Please bring a whole-foods, plant-based dish to share. Contact Carol Throckmorton (337-3030, carolthrockmorton108@msn.com) to RSVP and get directions.

Girls' Night Out! July 24th

All UUS women are invited for conversation, lots of laughs, and refreshments from 5 to 7 pm for Girls' Night Out on Monday, July 24th, at Sushiya (745 Community Dr. #A, North Liberty). Contact Carol Throckmorton (337-3030 or carolthrockmorton108@msn.com) if you plan to attend.

UU Book Discussion Group

The UU Book Discussion group takes a break in the summer but will resume in September. 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 choose 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 will not be meeting 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!

July Birthdays

Monique DiCarlo	Liz Noyes
Lee Eberly	Saunia Powell
Jessica Fiedler Johnson	Kay Prediger
Winnie Ganshaw	Shay Roeder
Mike Haverkamp	Cindy Spading
Emma Jo Holmes-Wanluss	Cory Stover
Emily Jones	Alan Swanson
Larry Kent	Anna Swanson
John Lanaghan	Adam Tatro
Trent Manning	Carol Throckmorton
Marianne Mason	Zach Wahls
Janet McKee	Norman Williams
Alex Miller	Elliot Young
Leigh Nida	Natalie Young

Social Justice & Community Outreach News and Events

Social Justice Coordinating Committee (SJCC)

“Fifth Sunday” Special Offering, July 2nd: On months with five Sundays, UUS selects a special social justice organization to receive the offerings collected during the service of the extra week. SJCC has selected UNICEF for July’s “fifth Sunday,” which will actually be collected on July 2nd. Our collective gift will go to Africa to help with drought or famine relief, to children in war-torn countries, or refugee families. Many places and people are in great need, and UNICEF does amazing work. If you can’t attend services, you can send a check to UUS (UNICEF on the memo line) to the office or drop it in the offering basket the following Sunday. Thanks for your generosity.

Shelter House Luncheon: On May 19th fifty UUs hosted another Shelter House Luncheon—now the 13th annual—and raised \$950! The salad- and dessert-makers put together their usual delicious contributions, and the worker bees were extraordinary! This is the last time we’ll be using Zion Lutheran’s facility, which has certainly worked well for us. Many thanks to everyone who helped (as well as those who paid) for a great lunch.

June Day of Service: What a day! Sixty-one UUs worked to create our community and to serve the greater community in five projects. We cleared our own trails, repackaged foods (Feed My Starving Children), knitted hats for premies (UIHC), pulled weeds and sorted and shelved books (Uptown Bill’s), and created a raised garden bed for the Center for Worker Justice.

Crisis Center Fan Fund: SJCC requested funds from the Social Justice Action Fund for fans to be distributed by the Crisis Center. This request was granted, and \$400 will go to help people suffering from the heat of the summer.

Next Meeting: SJCC coordinates our congregation’s community service and social action activities in Iowa City and beyond. Our meetings are informal and fun, and we welcome new faces and ideas. SJCC won’t meet in July, and the August meeting will be on Tuesday, August 15th (rather than the usual first Tuesday of the month). Please join us!

Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle, July 2nd & 16th

The Racial Justice study/ACTION Circle meets from 9:30 to 11 am at the Oakdale House on the first and third Sundays of each month. The 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 group’s work includes critical reflection and discussion in conjunction with the development, implementation, and evaluation of actions that emerge out of our discussions. 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).

Circle of Friends

Thank you to all who have supported Circle of Friends. Currently our congregation supports three immigrant families and one refugee family. This support includes providing rides, teaching English, hiring for small jobs, locating community resources, donating games, books, and necessities, and monetary donations during a crisis. This spring, using funds in part from the 5th Sunday collection in April, we were able to help with rent for one family and the winter utility bill for another. Here are some updates on the families:

Elbagir, his wife and three children are refugees from the Sudan, having arrived 8 months ago. This family has two immediate needs. The first is learning English. Irene Morgan has been providing weekly individual tutoring. The other immediate need is employment, which can’t happen until their facility with English improves. Should anyone want to visit the family or become involved in supporting them, please contact Sally Hartman (sallyahartman@hotmail.com).

Nagla and her children from Sudan (Tamir, age 9, and Leen, age 5) are doing quite well. She’s worked in the fabric area at Walmart for a couple of months, and both kids are in summer programs. She paid the deposit for a two-bedroom apartment across the street from Horn School where Tamir and Leen will be in fourth grade and kindergarten as well as the before- and after-school program.

Griselda, a Guatemalan weaver, continues to sell her work at the IC Farmer’s market every other Saturday (July 1st, 15th, 29th, etc.). Feel free to stop and visit with her. We were able to arrange a donation of two single beds from Slumberland (through the 40 Winks program), and now her children, Jeffery and Rey, each have their own bed. Both boys are in summer school, and we will be helping Griselda arrange swimming lessons for them.

Vidal and Maria, also from Guatemala, are doing a bit better since Maria has been hired at UIHC. Thank you to those who have hired Vidal to help with yard work and moving this spring and summer. This extra income has helped support the family until Maria found work. Nilsa, the second-oldest daughter, graduated from Regina and will attend Kirkwood in the fall. The other daughters will attend Regina and South East in the fall. For information on supporting either Guatemalan family, please contact Deb Schoelerman at dschoelerman@gmail.com.

These families struggle to pay utilities, come up with rent money, and buy necessities for their children. Your support has meant that their lives are a bit easier, but more importantly, they feel hope for the future because of our caring. Should you wish to support these families by volunteering, hiring, or visiting, please let Deb or Sally know.

The UU News

The Unitarian Universalist Society
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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.

***“And we’re almost there, we’re almost there
People gonna come here from everywhere
And we’re almost there, we’re almost there”***

Yes, I have appropriated “Almost There” from Disney’s *The Princess and the Frog* to update you on the progress we have made on the Capital Campaign for our new church home. Just as the building is nearing completion, so is the Capital Campaign. WE ARE ALMOST THERE. Seventy-six percent of our pledges are in. That is \$1,589,566.21 in the bank and being used to pay for the roof, windows, walls, floors etc.

BUT we are also still \$490,484.79 dollars shy of paying off our pledges. We still need to pay for the heating and cooling, and the sound system, and the pulpit! The new facilities are fantastic and I believe people will come from everywhere to experience them. But we have some work to do in order to welcome them.

*“You gotta make ‘em happen, it all depends on you
So we work real hard each and everyday
Now things for sure are going our way”*

Each and every pledge is critical to the financial success of the project. Ninety-one percent of us have made a partial or complete payment on our pledge. We are almost there, but we really need to persevere. After all, what is a church building without a pulpit or a sound system, let alone no heating and cooling! I am confident we have made a great decision for the future of UUism in the area; if we work real hard each and everyday we can ensure a strong future for liberal theology in the community.

—Jeffery Ford for the Capital Campaign

UUSIC Calendar for July 2017

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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 AM Racial Justice study/ ACTION Circle (OH) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour (SC)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Coralville 4thFest</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10:30 AM Vegetarian Community Brunch (Trumpet Blossom Café) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour (SC)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6 PM Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 PM Board Meeting (OH)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11 AM Free Lunch Program (1105 Gilbert Ct.)</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 AM Racial Justice study/ ACTION Circle (OH) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour (SC)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6 PM Kiirtan (OH) 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12 PM July Newsletter Submission Deadline 1:30 PM UU Scrabble Group (TBD)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>4:30 PM Vegetarian Community Summer Potluck (Terri O'Berry & Janet McKee's home)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour SC</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5 PM Girls' Night Out (Sushiya, North Liberty) 7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>12:30 PM Singing Bowl Meditation (Judi Clinton's home) 1:30 PM Service (SC) 2:45 PM Social Hour SC</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 PM Buddhist Sangha (Oaknoll)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

Save the Date! 34th Annual Treats & Talents Auction, September 30th

For over 30 years, UUS members and friends have come together to participate in and enjoy the Annual Treats & Talents Auction: a fundraising event for the UUS operating budget and a fun event for members and friends of all ages. This year the Auction will be held at our new facilities on Saturday, September 30th (with a "rain date" of October 21st). Our theme is ***Stories of Our Past, Dreams of Our Future.***

The schedule of events is as follows:

- **10 to 4 pm:** Silent Auction
- **1 to 4 pm:** Family Fun, Including a Cake Walk for All Ages
- **6 to 8:30 pm:** Dinner and Live Auction

Tickets for the Dinner and Live Auction are \$20. The meal will be catered by Maribitos, with vegan and gluten-free options. Details on how to reserve your ticket will be announced soon.

The key to a successful auction is participation of all, both in donating items that can be auctioned, and bidding and purchasing items that have been donated. Last year's event raised over \$18,000, and 30% of that amount was designated for UUS's social justice endeavors. Auctioned items included Hawkeye football tickets, a theme for a minister's sermon, homemade jams, professional nature photographs, as well as a number of events, dinners, and parties held at members' homes.

Judy Tokuhisa, Brigitte Ingersoll, and Brenda Linley co-chair the Auction Committee this year.

Pre-Auction Event: Chihuly Venetians Exhibit Visit and Lunch

Virginia Melroy is offering a pre-auction event for two very lucky individuals. For \$30 each, Virginia is inviting two people to accompany her to the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library to view the Chihuly Venetians Exhibit which ends October 1st. Seventy glass works and drawings will be displayed. There is a piece of his work on the second floor of the Voxman Music Building. Lunch will be included. Please respond directly to Virginia (338-1778) if you are interested.

Highlights from the June 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: Kelly O'Berry (President), Jim Olson (Past-President), Jim Laughlin (Vice-President), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Adam Ingersoll (Treasurer—participated by phone), Steve Vincent (Trustee), Steve Locher (Trustee), Kris Barrash (Trustee), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio, temporarily returned from sabbatical) and Peggy Garrigues (DCL)

Absent: Saunia Powell (DLRE)

Guests: Jane DeWitt (Vice-President elect), Chris Rode (Treasurer elect) and Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee elect)

Current Board members and those recently elected gathered at 5:30 pm on June 8th for a pre-meeting potluck at Laughlin's home. O'Berry called the Board meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Laughlin provided opening words.

Welcome New Members & Announcements: O'Berry welcomed DeWitt, Rode, and Honey-Arcement to the Board and thanked them for their commitment to serve. Everyone briefly introduced themselves.

O'Berry shared that the Board's policy on guest comments at meetings was discussed by the Executive Committee. She wrote the following statement that will be included on each month's agenda and minutes: "Guests are asked to remain silent unless invited by the Board to comment." Laughlin added that we will ask guests whether they are attending for a particular agenda item so that the Board is aware of when they might wish to comment. O'Berry shared that DeWitt has agreed to help her with the policy review effort.

Consent Agenda: Board Agenda; May Board Minutes; May Congregational Meeting Minutes; June Executive Committee Minutes; Treasurer Financial Statements & Report; DLRE Report; DCL Report; Administrator Report; Music Director Report; Publicity Report; TTF2 Update (Voelker/Barrash); B&G Report (Laughlin); Branding/Naming Committee Report & Documents (Vincent); CCC Report (Vicki Siefers); and the NFC Report (Deb Schoelerman) were received for review prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved by the Board.

Outgoing Members: O'Berry recognized Olson and Vincent whose terms on the Board end June 30th, and thanked them for their service to the congregation. She conveyed her appreciation for the dedication and thoughtfulness that they apply to the activities they say "yes" to.

Name Change Decision: Vincent presented the most recent Naming Poll results. He noted that planned marketing and outreach require that we reach a decision on our name for the coming year within a few weeks. The committee concluded that, in the time remaining, it is unlikely that a new name would emerge that has strong support and acceptance across the entire congregation. Therefore, they recommended that a congregational meeting not be held on June 24th. They also proposed that the Board decide to either not change our legal name (but start using Unitarian Universalist Society (UUS) whenever possible), or hold a congregational vote to change our name to "Unitarian Universalist Congregation" (UUC).

The Board agreed to suspend work on a new congregational name, and that we not use our geographic identifier (i.e., Iowa City) except when needed for legal purposes. The Board also thanked the Naming Task Force (Vincent, Walberg, Uhl, Rode, Hartman, Garrigues, and Kelley) for their excellent work.

Council Reports & New Board Representative: Garrigues reported that an agenda was agreed upon for the May meetings of the councils. It included an activity to chart, through relationships and focus areas, how all the council groups come together. Locher shared the product of his council's work. He noted that a major contributor to this effort was a member with extensive organizational networking expertise. She has offered to do more work like this for UUS. The Board supported Locher's request to move forward with her on such projects. O'Berry was appointed as Board representative to the Council on Congregational Life.

Sunday AM Structure: The staff continues to work on defining the structure of Sunday mornings for this fall. Starting after Labor Day weekend, Sunday services will be held in the morning, regardless of the location. Garrigues shared that the staff have discussed several potential options for the timing and elements of a typical Sunday morning. Further details will be coming soon.

Grand Opening Event/Building Dedication Coordination: Garrigues provided a calendar with the potential or scheduled events this fall. She suggested that a committee be formed to plan the Building Dedication and a Grand Opening event. This committee would include a representative from pertinent groups (e.g., NFC, Land Ministry, 175th, WA, Green Sanctuary, RE, Board, Capital Campaign, and TTF2). She offered to pull the individuals together, schedule the first meeting, and be a member of the committee. Olson agreed to provide leadership. He said that the committee would bring a recommendation to the Board.

Select GA delegates to vote remotely: Winnie Ganshaw will attend the UUA General Assembly (GA) as a voting delegate. Five additional non-attending delegates can vote in the Presidential election. Laughlin presented a list of nominees, prioritizing five members who attended the MidAmerican Regional Assembly. The Board unanimously approved those five to serve as delegates.

Set Date for Board Retreat: There was discussion about whether to hold the Board Retreat on a Saturday in July even though one person could not attend. Alternatively, Garrigues agreed to run a Doodle poll of availability in the evening during the week. The Retreat has been set for July 26th from 4 to 8 pm.

Olson reported as process observer and Feldmann provided closing words. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm to enter closed session. The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, July 13th, at Oakdale House.

—Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary