

# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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## JANUARY 2016 Newsletter

Suzette & Jim Watson, editors  
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### President's Column

UUVC President Kim Harrison



As we get out new calendars and put our Christmas decorations away, we are embarking on a new year. Many people use this time to reflect on the year that has passed, look to the year ahead and start to make plans for filling in the blank calendar.

For me it's a time when I get my "house" in order. I get out a new check register for the new year and file the old one with all the important documents I will need come tax time. I also try to clean up computer files and emails, keeping the ones that may be needed in the future. And I also do this mentally. I review what has happened in my life over the past year and decide which lessons learned or new experiences are the important "documents" to file away for future reference, and which ones I can acknowledge, but not necessarily keep.

I'm never totally successful in any of these tasks, but they help me start the year in a somewhat organized manner. The mental ordering is probably the most important, and usually the most difficult. Often it involves practicing a lot of forgiveness – mostly of myself, but of others as well.

I generally do not make resolutions, knowing they won't be kept. But I do make mental notes on what I need to work on, do better, etc. I try to keep these things in the front of my mind as I go through each day of the next year. It's good to look at the year ahead with a clean check register and a fresh, clean attitude.

Before closing out 2015, I would like to thank everyone for getting the church decorated so beautifully for the holidays and our now traditional soup supper. All of the soups I tried were wonderful – as were the breads and desserts. The building committee, social committee, program committee, choir, Harvey and Anne, and all of our readers made both the illumination and the Christmas Eve services very special. That includes Loren and Dane for all of the a/v work – good job! And everyone else involved in keeping our church humming along – Thank You.

Thank you, congregation, for working at and participating in all the things we at UUVC do! The new year should be an interesting one for us. I can't wait to see what is in store for us in 2016!

Happy New Year all!

### January Sundays at UUVC

November Attendance: All Souls podcast, 87

UUVC, 414

January 3, Worship, Rev. Bud Hearn, "A New Year: A Defining Moment in a Journey."

**Share the Plate**—Bridges Out of Poverty

January 10, Insight, Poetry Group

January 17, Worship, Burning Bowl Ceremony

January 24, Insight, Steve Rittenmeyer, "Of Honey Boo Boo, Karen Davis and Rendering unto Caesar"

January 31, Worship, Rev. Jan Nielsen

**Overarching Goal – Increase and deepen membership**

**Objective—Explore UU ministerial presence**

Focus Groups of 8-10 members will be scheduled to begin in January to identify the goals, benefits, and expectations of having a part time developmental minister. Friends are welcome if they wish to participate. The information will be compiled and presented to the Board and to the Congregation. A vote will then be taken as to whether or not to proceed with the search for a minister for a specific length of time with specific duties to be negotiated.

The ministerial task force will be facilitating the focus groups. The task force consists of Bob McCleskey and Jerriann Nielsen co-chairs, Court Mathey, Kay Croshaw, Myra Rustin, Robin Young, and Tom Tirrell. The focus groups present each member with the opportunity to participate in the process of exploring the options of working with a developmental minister.

**Objective – Increase faith development opportunities**

The webinar with All Souls Church was held on Dec 6. The presentation included the topic of Core Theology --- Articulating who we are, who we are becoming and what we will be known for. We had thirty-two participants. A discussion period followed the webinar focused on what we want to “become” and what we want to be “known for”. The discussion centered on points of interest involving:

- Continue to grow in social *justice* efforts in addition to our many social *action* efforts.
- Increase our small group ministry by developing more small group activities and increasing our covenant groups.
- Increase our efforts to help members evolve in deepening their faith.
- Similar to Maslow’s Hierarchy --- Recognize that new UUs must have their individual basic needs met before moving up the pyramid and reaching out to be involved with social justice efforts.
- Identify a project that we want to be known for -- perhaps increase our involvement with school children, with a specific school or specific grade level.
- Form coalitions with other churches in the Village in serving our community.

**Overarching Goal – Increase Visibility and Identify**

The Program Committee is selecting inspirational UU quotes that correlate with the monthly program themes. The quotes will be included in our newspaper articles, on our website homepage, in the slide presentations on Sunday mornings, and displayed in the community hall. This will lend an additional perspective of our beliefs as UUs.

**Anaïs Marotte Troadec**



Anaïs has been visiting the Village since 1973, when her parents moved here as “pioneers”. Before “retiring” to her “little house on the lake”, she worked for over 40 years in community development.

She started her career as an activist in the US Latino community while raising two children in Connecticut, (Michèle now in Paris, France and Jean-Marc now in New York City). Then as assistant professor of French and Spanish, she organized model university student volunteer programs that won a “Point of Light” under George H.W. Bush.

She has spent 20 years in the former Soviet Union and Africa working for UN and USAID programs in the development of civil society, democracy and good governance.

Trilingual, with a Master’s degree in Organizational and Industrial Psychology, and diplomas from the University of Madrid, Spain and the University of Geneva, Switzerland, Anaïs continues serving community as a Winrock International Development volunteer, specializing in leadership and gender issues. She looks forward, enthusiastically, to serving the UUVC as a member.

**Alicia Feters**

I moved to the Village 11 years ago from Des Moines, IA where I lived in Ames and Des Moines for 35 years. Born in Phoenix, grew up in Missouri and spent 10 years in Wisconsin where my two children were born. After graduating from IA State with a Bachelors, and Masters in Business, I spent 15 years with a subsidiary of Monsanto and traveled the country- and the world- in corporate training. The last ten years of my career was teaching business and management at Des Moines Area Community College. During most of my working career, I was employed by the Iowa Public Employee Relations Board as an ad hoc mediator in public sector bargaining.



I was raised by my mother in a very strong faith-based home in a non-denominational church which hovered between Baptist and Evangelical.

I am excited to be part of the UUVC family.

## Committee Reports

Court Mathey



### Building Committee, TerryLynne Marx, Chair

The hydraulic closer on the Memorial Garden glass door has been replaced. The light fixture above the pulpit has been repaired, and LED lights have been installed in all three fixtures above the pulpit.

### Long Range Planning Committee, Jerriann Nielsen, Chair (see article

Social Committee, Cindy Nance and Bari Searls, Co-Chairs, (see article)

### Social Action Committee, Alana Clegg, Chair, (see article)

### Program Committee, Dennis Abraham, Temporary Chair

At the monthly meeting Jerriann reported on long-range objective to increase our identity in the community. A wayside pulpit was suggested with the sign to change weekly. This suggestion was **not cost-effective**. Instead, UUVC will publish a quote in the service bulletin, newsletter, *Voice* article, Community Hall poster, and on-screen during service.

Mary Ann Rittenmeyer agreed to select and send the quotes to Penny, Dennis, Loren, UUVC office, and UUVC website. These quotes will be done on a month-by-month schedule. Jerriann agreed to inform each recipient of the purpose of the quotes. Jerriann will send Mary Ann the website and other relevant information.

Lee agreed to look at Compassion and Caring as an Insight topic.

Salvation, our April theme, will look at saving our planet's air, water and other resources. Speakers to be located. Peter Trabant was suggested as a good possibility.

### Schedule of Services

20th of December / Worship: Illumination Service

27th of December / Faith Journeys: Judy Johnson, Barb Austin

3rd of January / Worship: Bud Hearn

10th of January / Insight: Poetry Group

17th of January / Worship: Burning Bowl Service

24th of January / Insight: Steve Rittenmeyer

31st of January / Worship: Rev. Jan Nielsen

### Finance Committee, Meg Koziar, Chair

No Report

### Pastoral Care Report, Court Mathey, Chair

No Report

## Jackrabbits Are Good Half Milers

Note: The Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) has launched an effort to acquaint the congregation with the members of the committee and the mediation processes they use to assist congregants in resolving conflicts that affect their UUVC lives. Each month for next year or so a committee member will write a blurb about some aspect of mediation. Or a member will be the subject of a "Mediator of the Month" profile.

Rev. Dr. Bud Hearn:

With their speed, jackrabbits are good half milers. However, they can only sustain their blinding pace for 4.5 seconds. Then be overtaken by a predator not having as much speed, but more endurance.

In a human conflict situation it is not a matter of speed that determines the outcome. It is when two parties acknowledge a problem and mutually agree to seek resolution with the assistance of a neutral third party serving as a mediator. The UUVC Conflict Resolution Committee offers such a process via UUVC members trained to be impartial, patient and non-judgmental; with no power to force a decision on anyone or to unilaterally declare a resolution to a particular conflict. These mediators work directly with the involved parties to craft a mutually acceptable resolution to their disagreement.

The measure of the process is not speed. But rather a commitment to engage a means by which conflicts are resolved.

For more information, contact Committee Chairman, Steve Rittenmeyer.

# What's Happening?



I WANT YOU...to give me a call (922-0057 -home or 501-463-7890-cell) if you know someone who has a need that relates to Care and Concern. That is what I am here for. As Care and Concern Coordinator, this is how I can help. Care and Concern Liaisons are ready to provide members and friends in need with transportation for appointments, food, checking on members and friends with illnesses or hospital stays or whatever the need. The main thing is: We need to know. Any individual may call at anytime. We want to hear from you. You may also email: [tom\\_brenda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tom_brenda@sbcglobal.net).

## **Deconstructing the Myth That Religion Begets Violence**

Rev. Bud Hearn, facilitator

Religion & Violence are in the spotlight like a deer caught in a car's headlights. In this Seminar there will be heard the "voices" of two religious progressives. Former nun noted for her progressive thinking, Karen Armstrong. Challenges the premise that religion alone is the cause of violence. When religion goes wrong it is off due to politics. Rahell Raza, a practicing Muslim dismisses the thinking that violence is at the heart of Islam. Basically the Qur'an offers moral and ethical insights often making cross references to Hebrew & Christian scriptures. Both women observe that religion does not poison everything, it is the reverse. The thinking of these two women will be the focal point of five classes. Format: lecture/discussion. Q & A to follow. No text required.

Classes held at: UUV. Tuesday's Jan 26; Feb 2; 9; 16; 23. 1:30-3:30 pm. Advance registration desired.. Call/ email 204-7919. [budhearn1929@gmail.com](mailto:budhearn1929@gmail.com) for further information.

## **AARP Drivers Safety Class**

UUV will host an AARP Drivers Safety class in the Community Hall on Saturday, January 9, starting at ( AM. This is a four-hour course and prices are \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Everyone should be able to get a reasonable discount on their vehicle insurance for three years with successful completion. Call or email Court Mathey to make a reservation at 226-5100 or [courtmathey@outlook.com](mailto:courtmathey@outlook.com).

## **ART WALL CHANGEOVER**

Darryl Wedwick

Friday, January 15th, is the date for the quarterly changing of the art work in the Community Room. Please bring your new works of art to the Community Room between 10 a.m. and noon that day and/or reclaim those already on exhibit. Should you be unable to deliver your paintings at that time you may leave them in the Office or in the Art Room during Office Hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday or Thursday earlier that week. We have eight hanging lines so we have space for sixteen new paintings (or prints or photos or drawings or quilts or . . .)

Each work of art must have a wire hanger, i.e., no sawtooth hangers. The following information must be on a card attached to the rear of the work: 1.) Name of artist; 2.) Title of work; 3.) Medium; and 4.) Price/value for insurance purposes. Please mark NFS if it is Not For Sale.

Of course, volunteers to hang the show will be appreciated, especially tall ones!

# What's Happening?

## Share the Plate in January: Bridges out of Poverty Rev. Pati Trippel

## Be a Pal, Be a Buddy Brenda Tirrell

Our Share the Plate offerings in January will go to the Bridges out of Poverty initiative in Hot Springs. Those of you who attended Rev. Pati Trippel's November 1<sup>st</sup> talk, "Grace, Gratitude and Ghosts" are familiar with the Bridges out of Poverty initiative. The CCMC (Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinic) kicked off a Bridges out of Poverty initiative last year to help people wishing to move out of poverty do so. This initiative is based on the book Bridges out of Poverty, by Payne, DeVol and Smith. The authors contend the primary reason people remain in poverty is because they are under-resourced and the primary way to get out of poverty is to build one's bank of resources. The resources identified by the authors include: Financial, Emotional, Coping Strategies, Education, Language skills, Spiritual connection, Integrity and Trust, Physical Health, Support Systems, Role Models, Motivation and Persistence, and understanding of the hidden rules of class- how to speak, how to behave, and what the expectations are in a middle class situation. DeVol and his associates created a 12-16 session program "Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting by World" designed to help the poor build their resources through self evaluation of resources they currently have and then targeting resources they need to build upon and create a plan to build those resources. Once people complete the program, they are assigned a mentor who acts as a resource as well as a role model. If you are interested in participating in or learning more about this program either as a mentor or class facilitator, contact Jill Johnson at the CCMC, 501-318-1153.



Dear Fellow UUVV Member/Friend,

The Care and Concern Committee of the UUVV is considering establishing a Phone Buddy Project. We would like to know if you would be interested in being a part of this project. This involves people who live alone. We do not want to invade your privacy, but we want to make certain that all is well for those in our community who are living alone. If this project appeals to you, (the idea of having a phone buddy, someone to check on you from time to time), please respond to this email with an email to me or with a phone call.

Sincerely,

Brenda Ball Tirrell, Chair of Care and Concern

[tom\\_brenda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tom_brenda@sbcglobal.net)

922-0057 -home

501-463-7890- cell



## Open Mic Back

## Meditation/ mindfulness group starting

Quay O'Hara



There will be an informational meeting tentatively on Friday, January 15 at 3pm in the Conference Room at the church to discuss possibilities for a meditation group meeting at the church. Please come with thoughts about what you would like from such a group and days and times most convenient to meet. Please contact Quay OHara – [quay.ohara@live.com](mailto:quay.ohara@live.com) or 922-1920 with any questions.

The community open mic will be held on Thursday, January 10th, 2016 at UUVV 403 Barcelona Road. The time is 7:00.

Featured performers will be "Folkin' Around". The group is from Little Rock. Their toe-tapping rhythm has been enjoyed at past performances.

Performers from many genres are invited to come. Bring your guitar, your comedy act, your poem or your songs. Admission is free, but a donation to cover travel expenses and refreshments is welcome.

Any questions call Lee or Jack lafrate 922-6764.

## Social Action Committee

Alana Clegg, Chair



From 8/27 to 12/17 thirteen volunteers for the Langston Magnet School Backpack program packed 656 grocery bags with food for the children to take home for the weekend. The Thursday before Thanksgiving break and Christmas break we packed twice as many bags so that each child could take home two before they left on Friday. An average of five volunteers worked approximately 1.5 hours each day. We've become a very efficient and smooth running team that knows how to get the job done, and we have lots of fun doing it.

On 12/17/15 our Christmas Basket team packed and delivered four white baskets and four red bins with lids for four families that included six children. There were food, clothing, presents and a gift card for each family.

At the request of the Langston School principal clothing and presents for two children from Langston School were also provided for. The total we spent was \$1434.22.

We will be sending Village Outreach shoe fund a check for \$174.50. They provide shoe vouchers for each child in the Christmas Basket program.

Martha Thomson

Edited by Alana Clegg



## Jackson House News Corner

As the year 2015 draws to a close, I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time, service, and love to Jackson House Kitchen and Jackson House Thrift shops. You are an awesome bunch of people!

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, we had 5 UUVCCongregants work in the kitchen. We prepared lunch and fed 144 people. The total number of lunches given out by UUVCCongregants for the whole year amounted to 1,293 (and that was for only eleven months, as Jackson House was closed on our day in February!). We work one day a month, the other days of the month are covered by other churches and groups. For some of the homeless and other people in need, this is the only daily meal they get.

Our Food Drive over the last two months has been very successful. We have taken 11 bins of food to Jackson House Pantry donated by our generous congregation. UUVCCongregants will continue the Food Drive on into 2016. Thank you, UUVCCongregants, for supporting our outreach programs so well.

Wishing you JOY, PEACE and LOVE.

*Pam Harrison, UUVCCongregants Jackson House Coordinator .*

## Social Committee

Cindy Nance & Bari Searls



We are planning a Chili Cook-Off, Saturday, January 23rd at noon. We'll ask for cornbread, crackers and cookies if you aren't bringing chili. Please check the sign-up sheet for more details. Sam and Marg, the excursion committee, came up with this fun idea!

Elaine is once again planning an afternoon of lunch and bowling in February or March...details to come.

The Social Committee has more in the planning stages .... don't hesitate to let us know of your ideas!

# What's Been Happening?

## A Note (and Contribution of \$1,000) to the UUVB Building Fund



This note and enclosed contribution is to wish everyone in the UU Village Church a Happy Holiday and to say thanks to all the nice folks I met while living in the Village from 1999 to 2005. 2005 was when my Mom put the ole guilt trip on me to move back to TX to "help my poor over-worked sister care for her". I gave in and moved to Wills Point, TX. Many folks would ask where I was from, and how did I like Wills Point? I lied for a few months and said "fine," then finally I told the truth and said, "Moving from HSV Arkansas to WP was like moving from Heaven to Hell."

I've been widowed since 1995, and now live in Plano, TX in an Active Senior Retirement Facility. It's much like living in an apartment complex, with lots of activities and everyone being age 55+. I reached my 78<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and made a decision to bitch about my old age one more year, but 3 days after I've reached my 79<sup>th</sup>, I plan to start bragging, saying "I'll be 80 years old my next birthday."

Why? My mom used to tell me if I ate one more dessert I would never live to be 80 years old. She made it to age 88 and I know she ate as many desserts as me. In 2007, Mom died and now days when I visit her grave, I can't decide if I should kiss the Headstone or kick it. (I know, that's not how a former Mortician and Nurse should think, but why not? If not for her "guilt-trip" I would still live in HSV.)

I am the proud Mom of two sons, ages 50 & 55, and both live nearby. I'm also the Grandma to a girl, age 11, and a boy, who will be age 16 on 1/5/16. His Godfather has a nice car waiting for him the day he gets his Driver's License. I have a hunch he might skip school a day to go take the driver's test, but I think I will wait a few months before I take a ride with him.

So here it is 10 years since I've lived in HSV, but thanks to Bob McCleskey for keeping me updated on the church and activities, plus emailing me jokes to pass on to my "old" friends. They look forward to getting a laugh and passing them to some of their families and friends. After all, "Laughter is one of our best medicines".

Shirley McGlothlin

*Footnote from Bob M. Those of you who did not have an opportunity to get to know Shirley have missed a real treat. She is one of the most engaging and well read people that I have ever known. Although she was never a member of UUVB, she was (and is) a very good and steady friend and her generous contribution speaks more eloquently than I can about her feelings for the church. Bob*

## Note from the Treasurer

Meg Koziar

A receipt for your donations to UUVB during the Calendar Year 2015 will be sent by email to all contributors in January. If you would prefer that I give you a paper copy instead, just let me know. Please check the report to make sure that it agrees with your records, and let me know right away if there is a discrepancy. One anomaly of our account system: check numbers are shown for pledge payments to the Operating Fund and Building Fund, but all other contributions have a transaction number, instead of a check number, however I can look up the check number if needed.



I will also include a note on the outstanding balance of your pledges to the Operating Fund and Ministerial Account, if applicable, both of which are to be paid by June 30 this year. Building Fund pledges were three-year pledges so can be paid anytime this year or next.

## Church Celebrations



## New Members

Anais Troadec & Cindy Strong



## Birthdays

- 1/1 Loren Loberg
- 1/4 Marie Welch
- 1/5 Jeanine Studer
- 1/7 Alec Perez
- 1/16 Pam Harrison
- 1/19 Terry Smith
- 1/20 Joseph Gaynor Burleigh
- 1/27 Anne Hasse
- 1/28 Carl Ford
- 1/28 Randy Flueckiger
- 1/28 Peggy Watts
- 1/29 Merrill Clark



## Anniversaries

- 1/18 Sam & Joe Stout
- 1/21 Nola & Dennis Abraham

## Resolve Your Conflicts

Steve Rittenmeyer

The Conflict Resolution Committee stands ready confidentially to assist members and friends in resolving disputes and misunderstandings with other congregants that affect their lives in church. For more information about the conflict resolution process, please contact:

Steve Rittenmeyer, 915-0575,  
SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu  
or  
Cloe Bayer, 922-3810,  
cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net



## Church Safety

TerryLynne Marx



As we continue to improve safety, three "Wet Floor" signs have been purchased and placed near the glass door entrances. If the floors are wet for any reason, take a sign and put it out to remind people of the danger.

Please plan on coming to our church on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 beginning at 9:00 am to help remove and pack away the Christmas decorations.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

John Bodensteiner, the Red Cross Blood Drive coordinator for many years, has moved back to Kansas and I have taken over as coordinator for the local blood drive. I would appreciate your sharing the attached flier and the following information with your members.

The next Red Cross Blood Drive supported by the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Village United Methodist Church, 200 Carmona Road, is scheduled for 8:00am – 2:00pm Tuesday, January 12, 2016. The church is located near the intersection of Carmona Road and DeSoto Blvd and there will be signs on both Carmona and DeSoto on the day of the drive.

Previous donors at this site with email addresses will be sent an email reminder. New donors can go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for detailed information and to schedule an appointment. Contact Scott Luchesi with questions or to be placed on an email reminder list (501-204-4101 or [scottluchesi@gmail.com](mailto:scottluchesi@gmail.com)). Thanks in advance for sharing your "gift of life."

I appreciate your assistance. Contact me if you have any questions.

Scott Luchesi  
Blood Drive Coordinator

## Try the UUVC Website:

[www.uuvc.org](http://www.uuvc.org)





## Interest Groups (IGs)

Barb Austin & Judy Johnson, IG Coordinators



Enjoy the company of people with a similar interest by participating in one of the Interest Groups (IG). There are now eight active groups to choose from, so stop by the IG table on Sunday mornings to check out the folders that provide information about each group. It's great to participate in more than one.

Also, if you have a special interest that is not currently represented, contact me (501-781-8489 or email: [austibe@gmail.com](mailto:austibe@gmail.com)) to inquire about starting a new group.

### Game Night

Come to play board games-cards games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (January 9th.) Game night will be held @ **5:00 PM**. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. It's always a surprise! (Kay Croshaw)



### Fourth Friday Film Fest

Our monthly film showings will resume in January, with the movie "SPY" with Melissa McCarthy on the schedule. This is the film we had to postpone because its release date to DVD was pushed back and the movie was not yet available at the time of our last showing. More details will follow via e-blast as the date nears. So mark January 22 on your calendars, we are back in business! (Cloe Bayer)



### Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group has been providing comfort and support to several people over the five and a half years we've been in existence. We will meet the second Monday, January 11 at 10:00am. (Cynthia Saalfield, 915-8577)



### Dinners for Eight (or Seven or Six)

We plan to restart the "Dinners for Eight (or Seven or Six)" again in September for all who choose to sign up. But this next round will have two monthly meetings in the fall (Sept. and Oct.). Then we will take a break over the holiday season and resume with the other two monthly dinners in Jan. and Feb. However, to date, we have few people who have signed up. Please contact me or sign up at church to let me know if you would like to participate.



### Poetry Group

The poetry group did not meet on the regular day in December. They will meet on December 29th at 10:00 to go over poems for the January 10th insight program. The next regular scheduled meeting is January 14th at 10:00 in the Church library. (Lee lafrate)



### Table Tennis

The group meets on Tuesdays from 4:30-6 pm. We will continue with the current schedule until further notice. All skill levels are welcome and a good workout is had by all. Please join us! (Jay Williams)



**Reminder:** members and friends from the last round of "Dinners" must **sign up again** if you wish to continue to participate as your names will not carry over without your permission. A sign up folder will be found at the Interest Group table on Sundays in the Community Hall. (Brenda Tirrell)

**Find us on Facebook:  
UUVC**