



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offermann '16

## November 2017: Theme — Resilience

### Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz

#### A Prayer for Peace



When I, a religious humanist, consider the possibilities of God, the consistent image that comes to me is that of the perfect parent. Wouldn't that be wonderful? A perfect parent who loves and cherishes all its children with a passionate constancy; the perfect parent who wishes the very best for us. One who laughs with us as we celebrate the joys and successes in our lives, and who weeps with us when life is tormented or destroyed. It can be comforting to believe in a perfect parent, one who would never hold one of us above another or sanction the hubris and arrogance with which we demean and ignore each other here on earth. This would be a God that I, as a parent and grandparent, could try to emulate.

Today there is a scourge in our human village that far exceeds even racism or religious intolerance. It is the scourge of nativism. It fills us with a profound misconception that we own the land beneath our feet; that we are something other than temporary tenants in this Garden of Eden. It is a scourge that allows us to mistakenly believe that we are entitled to *play* at God and deny other children their equal and rightful place at the table. In our self-righteous attempts to justify the great havoc we visit upon each other, we often point to arbitrary and convenient beginnings to our conflicts. We let these excuses inspire our hateful and despicable retaliations.

Not much is available for humans to know with certainty. But this we know: vengeance and hatred will never create the peace we seek.

It is my fervent hope and constant prayer that we will, someday soon, find the courage and maturity to walk in the sandals of Mother Teresa and Mohammed; of Jesus and the Buddha; of Gandhi, Sojourner Truth or Martin Luther King, Jr. Hoping to walk like all our great prophets, with our arms out-stretched in radical hospitality, with love in our hearts and peace on our lips.

We are our brother's keeper; we are our sister's keeper; and together we must be both parent and friend to all the children of the world; that they, too, may laugh and dance and sing the sheer joy of being alive, all over this planet, and in this moment of a magnificent universe.

It is my constant prayer that we—UU, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Pagan, Christian, Jew, agnostic...all—find grace in our unique and individual spiritual journeys and hold each other sacred. This is the peace we must seek.

So let us pray for a love that calms our fears and hatreds, and startles and inspires our neighbors. Let us pray that we will always be the instruments of that lasting peace our souls cry out for. Then and only then will true peace be possible.

Shalom, Aloha, Namaste, Blessed be.

See you Sunday.

## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan



We continue to run better than budgeted in terms of income and expenses through September.

CATEGORY	ACTUALS July - Sept	BUDGET July - Sept	VARIANCE
Income	\$36,268	\$34,160	\$2,108
Expenses	\$25,005	\$30,998	-\$5,993
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$11,263</b>	<b>\$3,162</b>	<b>\$8,101</b>

For our new members/friends, our most recent financials can be found on the UUVC website. See the **Members & Friends** area...**Financial Documents**. Each month we post a one-page summary that provides details on the Operating Fund, Building Fund, Liabilities, and Cash Balances in operating and building funds for the previous completed month.

Some information on our Building Fund: The UUVC Building Fund is supported by pledges, non-pledge contributions and any earnings from our investments. Our Building Fund monies finance our monthly mortgage principal payments along with building improvements and purchases. Examples of recent significant expenditures since July 2015 include our parking lot repaving, the replacement of two heat pumps and our new lighting.

Our last building fund pledge drive was in November 2014 during which time we received 26 pledges totaling almost \$68,000. The Finance Committee anticipates another Building Fund Pledge Drive to be held in 2018.

Another reminder -- as you start your holiday shopping, remember that you can send a smile UUVC way...by way of a donation by the Amazon Smile Foundation of .5% of your purchases. By using and bookmarking this link [Http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1688369](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-1688369) all of your eligible shopping will benefit UUVC!

*Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before.*

Elizabeth Edwards

## November Sundays at UUVC

**September Attendance: All Souls webcast: 50,  
UUVC: 363**

September Share the Plate: \$1,570.  
November Share the Plate:  
Christmas Baskets

November 5, Worship, Rev. Mark Walz

November 12, Insight, Beverly Salisbury

November 19, Worship, Rev. Mark Walz

November 26, Insight

## In Case of Emergency - How Can We Help?

UUVC Memorial Committee  
Jay Williams, Anne Hagen, Meg Koziar

Among the things we find easy to put off is relaying important information that would be needed by others in case something happens to us. Please don't put it off any longer,

We are asking you again to fill out the UUVC Personal Planning Worksheet. This is important information for the use of the church, and for your family. Since we updated the form and put it on the website a year ago, a few - a very few - of you have given them to us. We request that each of our members fill out the form, print it, and bring it to the church office. (Our Friends are invited to do so as well). Personal Planning Worksheets are kept in a locked file, and used only in an emergency.

To find the form, go to our website, [www.uuvc.org](http://www.uuvc.org), click on the Member and Friend tab, and select Miscellaneous Documents. Put in the password. (If you don't remember the PW, contact the office.) Scroll down to Personal Planning Worksheet and click on the black bar to open a .pdf form, then you can type right into the form.

You don't have to answer every question right now, but, please, at least give us contact information for anyone to be called in case of an emergency - you can complete or revise at any time. The form is written so that it will be useful to your family as well as the church, so print copies for as many people as need them. Sign and date a copy, and give your completed form to the office or any of us. Thank you.

# New Members Spotlight

## Tracey Arnaud



My name is Tracey Arnaud. I was born in Burlington, Vermont and spent the first twelve years of my life moving around the U.S. I've spent the last forty-eight years in New Orleans, Louisiana. I have a Master's degree in Special Education, and spent twenty-nine years in the classroom teaching English, Special Education classes, and English as a Second Language. I am a divorced mother of two; a son Alexander (New Orleans), and my daughter Jourdan (Los Angeles). I am also the mother of Lyle, Coco (dogs) and Russell (cat). In my spare time, I volunteer with the AWL in the Village as a dog-walker, and I hike, kayak, swim, and generally enjoy everything in this gorgeous environment. I am hopelessly addicted to Netflix (especially documentaries, and English detective shows). I am a voracious reader, I love to travel, and care about the environment. I have lived in the Village for four wonderful months.

## Mike Holt

I grew up in Houston. I went to Blinn Junior College and the University of Houston on baseball scholarships and then spent my career coaching football and baseball in Texas. I think it's obvious that I love sports! These days I enjoy playing golf and it has been a great way to get to know people in the UU group.



I have a son and a daughter and 4 grandchildren in Texas. Janet and I enjoy the life in our beautiful village and are thankful for the many activities and programs that are offered in our community. I feel at home in our new church and I'm looking forward to getting more involved.

## Janet Holt



I grew up in Waco, Texas before it was infamous. After college I helped slake my wanderlust with 7 years in the travel industry, then did a stint in my family business. My mother, noticing the steady stream of employees entering my office to talk about personal problems said, "If you're going to keep doing this you should get paid for it." I took her words to heart and became a licensed professional counselor. Mother was right, as usual, and I know that being a counselor is not just what I do—it's who I am.

I love animals and nature so the village is paradise for me. I also love adventure and Mike and I have had some great times. We spent 4 months sailing the Gulf Coast and 6 months in Mexico where we taught ESL. Most recently we visited 30 states in a motorhome. I love meeting new people and trying new things. I'll keep doing it until I can't and then I'll spend the rest of my life remembering.



Susan "Ducky" Berkley and Becky Hamilton became new members on Oct. 16, 2017.

New Members Ceremony, Oct. 1, 2017. Pictured are left to right: Mike Holt, Tracey Arnaud, Janet Holt, Debbie Bostick, Kat Wheeler, and Rev. Mark Walz.

*Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected. Sustainability is about survival. The goal of resilience is to thrive.*

Jamais Cascio

# UUVC Celebrations



New Member Ceremony  
October 1, 2017



UUVC Membership Luncheon



Meg Koziar is presented with a certificate, recognizing 25 years of membership by Penny Beed, President (r) and Pam Harrison, Membership Chair (c).



UUVC bids a fond farewell to Robin and Madelyn Young, and Robin receives a certificate of appreciation for the many years of service to the church.

## JAZZ SUNDAY, OCT. 22



# What's Happening?

## JACKSON HOUSE SAYS "THANK YOU" TO SLEEPING MAT GROUP

Cloe Bayer



Suzanne Babbie, Volunteer and Administrative Coordinator for Jackson House, Hot Springs, visited the October 7 meeting of the Sleeping Mat Group, to give her personal thanks to UUVC, for our ongoing donations of sleeping mats for the homeless. She gave a presentation on the many different services Jackson House offers to those in need; most of us are familiar with Suzanne and the work of Jackson House, but since the majority of the sleeping mat group is made up of ladies from other Village churches, this information was enlightening. Of our roster of 28 women in the sleeping mat group, 21 were able to attend this thank-you brunch meeting.

Suzanne started her talk by saying Jackson House is 40 years old, and when they started out there were no other agencies offering services to the public. At present there are 450 volunteers, and their services include daily lunches, a thrift shop, a food pantry and referral services to other agencies. The lunch program serves about 145 lunches a day, and the food pantry gives out boxes of food when needed. Local restaurants support the lunch program, and grocery chains donate to the food pantry. In 2016, 55,000 lunches were served and 12,000 boxes of food were given out. They serve more than just the homeless, but also others who are having a bad time of it.

Statistics aside, Suzanne moved on to the human side of those in need. "Society thinks it's their own fault if people are homeless, but sometimes bad things happen to good people", she said. "People are willing to pick up stray animals off the street, but forget about people in the same boat", was another comment. Jackson House serves the working poor or food insecure population as well as the homeless. Sometimes people outlive their retirement funds, or they've been in bankruptcy, or had a fire in their home. When asked specifically about the distribution of our sleeping mats, she said each client receiving a mat is first interviewed and a case file opened for them. Some folks are sleeping on a sidewalk bench, others in doorways and some in the woods. Others may be indoors, but have nothing to sleep on. They really appreciate the gift of a mat, and cherish the warmth and cushioning it provides. They especially appreciate the carrying straps that go with the mats, so they can be rolled up and transported if needed. For some of these folks, it may be the nicest thing they have ever received, especially with all the different artistic designs our crocheters create. The gift of a mat helps to restore their personal dignity, and the beauty of the mat in their possession gives them a bit more self-esteem as well.

Suzanne concluded her talk by saying Hot Springs Village is the most loving, giving community with a goal of helping others, and Jackson House is so grateful for all we do for their organization. Her words made everyone present feel good about their contribution to the Sleeping Mat project, and encouraged them to continue their good work. At the conclusion of the meeting, brunch prepared by some of the members was enjoyed and appreciated.



## DOINGS AROUND THE CHURCH

### COVENANT GROUP NEWS

Myra Rustin  
Covenant Group Coordinator



Like many of you, I had never heard of Covenant Groups before my first visit to UUVV three years ago. I had been a UU for nearly thirty years, but my large, lively, minister-led congregation had not offered these small, very special groups. You may know them as Covenant Groups, small ministry groups, sometimes Chalice Groups, but how much do you know about them? Relatively few members and friends currently participate in these groups, but I am hoping that will change.

During the next few months, those of you who never heard of Covenant Groups will learn about them, and you who may be familiar with the term, and even those who have participated in one or more of these groups, will learn even more.

I have had the good fortune to be part of two such groups, allowing me to know more members and friends than I might have met over cookies and coffee on Sunday mornings. I have learned to share my own truths on a variety of subjects, within a small group setting where privacy and non-judgmental attitudes are honored and reinforced.

I encourage you to join me and explore yet another way our unique congregation learns more about the gifts available to us.



## Birthdays

11/2	Marlene Kloack
11/5	Tracey Arnaud
11/8	Elaine Neal
11/9	Myra Rustin
11/12	Barb Robbins
11/15	Dave Walsh
11/17	Paula Nix
11/19	Heidi Nikodem
11/20	Steve Rittenmeyer
11/21	Ed Bayer
11/21	Dane Nielsen
11/22	Jerry Offerman
11/23	Ben Wright
11/26	Mary Thames Bundy
11/29	Nell Brewer
11/29	Dottie Foehringer
11/30	Susan Atchley



## Anniversaries

11/8	Marion & Michael Sowka
11/11	Barb Austin & Judy Johnson
11/24	Stephanie & Frank Hubbard
11/28	Pat & Bud Hearn

*Resilience isn't a single skill. It's a variety of skills and coping mechanisms to bounce back from bumps in the road as well as failures. You should focus on emphasizing the positive.*

Jean Chatzky

## Social Committee

Cloe Bayer, Chair



Our next get-together is the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 19, following the worship service. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy are supplied by UUVVC, side dishes by the congregation. We are asking for green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, pecan and pumpkin pies, and salads, either fruit or greens. Sign-up sheets in the Community Hall. Also, some help will be needed in the kitchen to serve the turkey and dressing, and for cleaning up afterwards. Some strong gentlemen would be really nice. Hope to see you all there for this eagerly anticipated event.

## Social Action Committee

Meg Koziar

### Giving to Help Others

One of the functions of the Social Action Committee at UUVVC is to serve as the liaison with UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. This month we will kick off the annual Guest at Your Table event, and we are going to try something we haven't done here before, but is done at most UU Churches, including the one Rev. Walz previously served.



On the table at our Church Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 19 will be small boxes. We are asking each family to take one home to make a contribution to UUSC each day as though you had a guest at your table. For example, if the cost of your dinner is \$2 per person, then add \$2 to the box. Bring the box back in mid-December--either the 10th or 17th. We'll send the total to UUSC to use for all the people they help worldwide. (Pick up one from the office if you won't be here Nov. 19.)

We also encourage you to join UUSC as an individual member--we just received a "Creating Justice Society 2017" certificate as more than 25% of our congregation are individual members. Please look at [UUSC.org](http://UUSC.org) to see all the things that we, together with other UUSC members, do to help marginalized people all over the world. You can contribute online, or pick up one of the envelopes from the sign-up table.

Share the Plate for November is our Christmas Basket project. We have signed up with Village Churches Outreach to prepare baskets of food and gifts for four families with a total of 8 children. Please give generously--and if you'd like to help with shopping for or delivering the baskets, let us know.



## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Cloe Bayer

Movie night is on holiday hiatus for the months of November and December. Join us again in January, when we will be showing a feel good movie called "Maudie". You're gonna love this one!

## Resolve Your Conflicts

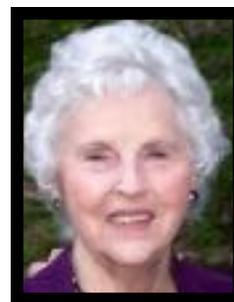
Steve Rittenmeyer

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



**Shirley Scheel**  
1928 — 2017

Shirley and her sister, Kay Croshaw joined UUVV in 1996, when the congregation moved from Hot Springs to the Village. A small choir was soon organized, and Shirley served as pianist, with rehearsals at her home. She played for every Sunday service for ten years. During this time she wrote words to what became the closing music for every service —“Peace be with you.”

Shirley moved to Montana in 2012 to be with her daughter, but remained a member of UUVV until her death.

## Benefits of Mediation

Janet Enders



Mediators have learned through their studies and experiences that good communication is vital to better understanding people, improving relationships, and reducing conflicts. The key to good communication is not talking, but listening to what the other person has to say without interrupting, advising, judging, etc. It is important to pay attention to what the person is saying verbally and nonverbally. Our physical behavior and psychological presence reveal if we are truly attending to the speaker or merely faking.

In all relationships, personal and professional, good listening and knowing when to be silent can be a very powerful communication. Allowing the other person to express him or herself without interruption shows interest and respect for the speaker's need to proceed at his or her own pace. In my personal experience, there have been instances when I have needed a pause to gather my thoughts and reassess what I would say before expressing myself verbally. Others may also need silence to explore their feelings and to feel more confident in their communication.

Everyone can benefit by practicing good listening and talking skills in communications with others. Whether it be at work, in a social gathering, in a public venue, or at home, good communication can enrich our lives by opening our hearts and minds to new experiences and better relationships.



**Find us on Facebook: UUVV**

**Try the UUVV Website:**  
[www.uuvv.org](http://www.uuvv.org)

# Interest Groups (IGs)

Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator



Enjoy the company of people with a similar interest by participating in one of the Interest Groups (IG). 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: [vzuege@gmail.com](mailto:vzuege@gmail.com)) to inquire about starting a new group.

## Game Night



Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (November 11). 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! (Marjorie

Lakey)

## Fourth Friday Film Fest

The Fourth Friday Film Fest will return in January, 2018 after the holidays. Watch for the film name in the January newsletter. (Cloe Bayer)



## Grief Support Group

The Grief Support group is taking a hiatus. However, if you would like to have a one-on-one conversation about some subject relating to grief/loss, you may contact Liz Miller at 922-5457.



## Meatless Lunch Group



The newly formed Meatless Lunch Group will meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month @ 12:00. Due to the holidays we will not meet in Nov. or Dec. but will meet January 23, 2018 @ Lee lafrate's house.

This group is open to UUVC and anyone else that would like to join us. Contact Sue Loberg with questions or to sign up.

## Mah Jongg



Ronnie Zuege is offering Mah Jongg lessons and play on Mondays at 1:00pm. Contact her at 922-3878 for further information.

## Table Tennis

Table Tennis will resume sometime in the fall. Look for the announcement on the calendar.

## New Editor!

John Swinburn will be taking over as editor of the UUVC newsletter as of the December issue. He is an experienced writer and editor and will bring a fresh look to the newsletter. His email address is [jsswinburn@gmail.com](mailto:jsswinburn@gmail.com). Jim and I are grateful for all the help and cooperation everyone has given us through our 3 years of working on the newsletter. It has been a rich experience.

*The moment we believe that success is determined by an ingrained level of ability as opposed to resilience and hard work, we will be brittle in the face of adversity, inevitable obstacles and inequalities of life.*

Albert Bandura