

Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuvc.org)
Treasurer: Kim Townsan (treasurer@uuvc.org)



Jerry Offerman '16

AUGUST 2018 THEME: UU HERITAGE

Mark's Trail



Rev. Mark Walz

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” — [Marcel Proust](#)

August 1st begins our second year together. This past year seems to have gone so fast. My life feels as though it is accelerating through the days, weeks, and months. When I think back to what I was doing last summer, it is difficult to remember the craziness of selling a home and moving to the Village. The real estate search is a blur, the toil of packing fades, and the “agony” of losing my Texas citizenship is long gone.

What remains are highlights—the Prayer Vigil we held in the wake of the Charlottesville ugliness, Jim Scott’s concert later that evening, honoring the music and activism of UU icon Pete Seeger. The Jazz Service and Oktoberfest! The Illumination Service in December. 5th Sunday “Music on Barcelona.” The blending of our Worship styles. How you let me introduce Communion Services, beginning with our 2-cookie communion in January. Letting me insert a Dramatic Moment into Worship, letting me do “Movies with Mark & Myra,” TED talks, and my very own Insight Service.

We marched together on the capitol in Little Rock in the wake of the high school shooting in Florida. We said goodbye to Barb Robbins, Tom Henderson, and Bill Mulcahy; and said Welcome to 24 new Members.

~Continued on Page 2

President's Message

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

*Lao-tzu, The Way of Lao-tzu
Chinese philosopher (604 BC -
531 BC)*



Dave Welch

Our new UUVC Board had our first meeting and, my goodness, we hit the ground running. Our first step was followed by the second and third and we are moving into the new year with optimism. It promises, already, to be an eventful year. We have a working motto this year . . . “Honor the Past and Build for the Future.” Our two first steps this year were focused on honoring the past. First, the Board created a new, ongoing committee we named the Council of Past Presidents. The purpose of the group is to bring together the past presidents two or three times a year to have a conversation about the good things happening in the church and provide feedback for the Board (with maybe a grumble included from time to time, if needed). Then, we formed the committee to move forward with the Meg Koziar Awards for this year which will be presented in November. In planning for the future, we have a full agenda including both maintenance and improvements on our building – some simply in the nature of needed repairs but some others directed at appearance and even beautification.

As we begin to develop a new Long Range Plan our committees such as building, social justice,

~Continued on Page 2

To commit to creating a prophetic congregation today is to grapple with what it means to take responsibility for cocreating the holy right here.

Meg Riley

It has been a rich, complex, and gratifying year.

Most of what I reflect on is how wonderful it is to be in community with loving, generous, and curious folks. How kind you've been to Vivian and me. You've made it so easy to join with you, to glide into the rhythm and grace of your Spiritual journey.

We love not being reminded constantly of what the 20-somethings or 30-somethings are doing, needing, or competing for, and we love your willingness to chuckle or look away when we forget a word that we think we should remember. There is an ease here and a genuine concern for each other as we grow older together. And we get to experience these new chapters of our life with like-hearted people whose love of life burns so bright.

And there is the Village itself. Flora, fauna, landscapes, lakes, mountains, and the forest air that fills our lungs. It has made a huge difference in our lives.

But, mostly, we are grateful for you. You have made us very happy, and you are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. Mahalo.

See you in church—

Avoid simple desultory philippics, except in song titles

~President's Column, Continued from Page 1

finance, membership, program will all be asked to open discussion of our Mission, how we spend our money and the impact we want to make as a community on our community. The ministry of our church has changed with the arrival of our new pastor, the creation of a Director of Music and the opening discussion of a more focused and central role for religious education and spirituality.

We are an open church committed to the use of the democratic process and our future depends on the full involvement of our members and friends. I'm so glad to be a part of it and anticipating a growing and eventful year. We continue becoming a church open-minded, open-hearted, and looking to the future.

And so it is...

Amen.

~Dave Welch

Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsan



The books are closed for fiscal year 2018...and how fortunate UUVC is to have had a year with so many positives:

- Our member count exceeded 100
- Our actual pledge income exceeded budget by 10%
- Our non-pledge income was more than double what was budgeted
- Our expenses, expertly managed by our Committee Chairs, were under budget by 7%
- We experienced growth in our cash position for both our operating and building funds

All that goodness enabled us to end this year with \$29k of net income for Operations!

The Finance Committee and Board have agreed to a new policy with respect to our operating income to provide additional funding for building maintenance. We will now be allocating 50% of net income from operations to go into our building fund. With a building that, like us, is getting on in years, we are planning for the additional TLC that 403 Barcelona will be needing in the near future. Building, Finance and Board have been involved with fine-tuning a plan for building needs over the next several fiscal years. Stay tuned for that in late fall.

I end the fiscal year with a big thank you to everyone for making it possible for this Treasurer to put her head on the pillow knowing UUVC has the financial stability many churches can only wish for!

June Sundays at UUVC
August 5, Rev. Walz
August 12, Insight, Anne Orsi, Humanism
August 19, Rev. Walz
August 26, Insight, Dave Welch, "Five Smooth Stones"
Attendance and Generosity
June Attendance: All Souls Tulsa webcasts: 58—UUVC: 372
August Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood July Share the Plate: UU Love Resists Family Separation June Share the Plate: The Caring Place, \$1337

The Meg Koziar Award

by Suzette Watson

On July 1, outgoing President Penny Beed and incoming President David Welch presented The Meg Koziar Award for distinguished service to Meg Koziar in recognition of her dedication of so many years to UUVC. Penny noted that Meg exemplified the qualities of outstanding service, leadership, and commitment that further the mission and purpose of our church, of people who have given significantly of time, talent, and treasure. David called her a “founding mother” of the Village Church.

Meg Koziar helped found the Village Unitarian Church, served in numerous offices as President, Treasurer, Secretary, as Chair of many committees and served the church in countless other ways. She has mentored many new members and encouraged them to take an active role in the church. She is a fitting role model for new and old members to emulate.

The Board felt it highly appropriate that the award be created by fellow members: Gerald Wheeler’s exquisite stained glass rendition of the unique UUVC chalice and Alex Perez’ wooden plaque on which will be engraved the names of future recipients of the Meg Koziar Award.

The Meg Koziar Award will be presented on a recurring basis, though not necessarily every year at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner.



Meg Says “Thank You!”



I am still overwhelmed by the great honor of having an award for distinguished service to UUVC named for me. I thought such things were only done posthumously, but I'm happy it was done

now. I have worked hard for UUVC, but so have many others - it's just that I have been doing it longer. I hope that I may live to see many of these hardworking volunteers receiving the Meg Koziar award.



The Heretofore Unacknowledged Proofreader

If this little article has any typos, please don't blame Janine Bethscheider. She didn't see it before it went to press. If you've noticed that typos are rather rare in past issues (and this issue) of this newsletter, give her the credit. I can't tell you how many errors she finds and corrects, in red ink, in every issue before I send it to the office for distribution. If not for her attention to detail, I'm afraid this newsletter would be an embarrassment.

Breaking Bread

According to the *Urban Dictionary*, to “break bread” is to “affirm trust, confidence, and comfort with an individual or group of people.” Breaking bread carries with it a suggestion of informality and friendliness, to paraphrase the dictionary's expanded explanation. Breaking bread does not suggest a need to prepare elaborate feasts but, rather, to share in the simple, day-to-day experience of enjoying the fruits of the Earth. When was the last time you invited a neighbor or a fellow UU over, last minute to “break bread,” with no agenda?

Adult Religious Education

Warren Searls



Sunday Conversations @ 11:15

Most Sundays at 11:15 a.m. members, friends and anyone curious about discussing a wide range of topics meet in the Community Hall. The topics relate to the principles of Unitarian Universalism, particularly in the search for truth. The topic of each week's conversation is printed in prior Sunday's service program and in the weekly e-blast. Come join us to express your opinion or just to listen.

Wednesday Discussions @ 3:00

These group discussions on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month are designed to help us learn how to have civil discussions about controversial and sensitive issues. The discussions are not about changing someone's mind (unless it is your own) or winning an argument. The discussions are about framing the discussion so that we can learn where the other person's facts and opinions are coming from. We want to learn where there are areas of agreement on an issue. During the discussions we will be demonstrably applying the seven UU principles.

August 5 Sunday Conversation @ 11:15—Discussion of Doug Muder's articles "*Even acknowledging my own racism is controversial*" UU World 2-5-2018 and "*Of course I'm racist*" UU World Fall 2017.

August 8 Wednesday Discussion @ 3:00—Topic to be determined by group consensus.

August 12 Sunday Conversation @ 11:15—The Modern Theology of Unitarianism- Universalism: Since our merger in 1961, how has U-U Theology evolved. This one-hour presentation/discussion will focus on the evolving tenets of current U-U theology and beliefs. It will be presented by Dr. David Welch.

August 19 Sunday Conversation @ 11:15—Mark and TED's Marvelous Adventure - a TED Talk and discussion presented and led by Rev. Mark Walz.

August 22 Wednesday Discussion @ 3:00 - Topic to be determined by group consensus.

August 26 Sunday Discussion @ 11:15—"*Whose (Health Care) Conscience Is It Anyway?*"

News from the Rev. Bud Hearn Library

The Library Committee: Kim Traw, Martha Graham, Bette Clark

This August is a time for our congregation to consider our Unitarian-Universalist history, and in it there is much to be celebrated. Did you know that Susan B. Anthony, Louisa-May Alcott, Julia Ward Howe, and other 19th century women well known even today were Unitarian-Universalists or members of kindred free churches?

Early in the days of westward expansion in our country, and particularly after the Civil War, it's perhaps not surprising to discover that women of liberal religious persuasion occupied the pulpits of Unitarian churches in small rural villages as well as in cities rising on that western frontier. The book *Prophetic Sisterhood* by Cynthia Grant Tucker describes the work of these women, 1880-1930.

Because the work was hard and not very rewarding financially, graduates of the eastern schools of theology, primarily men, were reluctant to accept such posts. The women who did so set about creating

with their sermons an understanding that a church ought to be a home radiating caring, nurturing, love for its "flock," that this homelike work should be its primary purpose in being. In a frontier setting, where life was often bleak and harsh, this idea was well-received and the churches were growing in size and number. At the turn of the century, however, the trend was shifting.

As the country edged ever nearer to involvement in the war brewing in Europe, opinion was divided among these women ministers as to whether war in any cause was justifiable. However, they all saw the terrible suffering on the home-front of these poorest dwellers living in the squalor of the slums of the

~Continued on Page 6

We are not human because we think. We are human because we care. All true meaning is shared meaning.
Forrest Church

Committee Updates and Other News of Interest

Social Committee

Cloe Bayer, Social Committee Chair



After a very successful Luau party in July, our next social event will be the annual Ice Cream Social during Labor Day weekend. As we did last year, the date will be the Saturday afternoon of the weekend., September 1 at 2 PM. Our reasoning was a lot of visiting family are headed back home on Labor Day itself; also, having an afternoon event on the same day as our Sunday service might not be practical or well attended, so Saturday was chosen. We hope you agree with our reasoning, and will join us on Saturday, September 1. Indoor games will be played, with the addition of indoor horseshoes to keep the fun going. With Ice cream and all the fixings to cool you off, a good time will be had by all.

Social Justice Committee

Meg Koziar, Social Justice Committee Chair



The Social Justice Committee responded to a request from the Jessieville PTO to help with a school supply drive. Instead of taking up a special collection, we sent a donation from our budget to buy the 70 4-subject notebooks they asked us to fund. We do have two special collections this summer - sample-sized toiletries and jeans - in addition to our ongoing collection of food for Jackson House and household and other supplies for Clarion Call. Your donations are much appreciated by those in need.

"Love Resists Family Separation," which we told you about in July, is an ongoing campaign of the UUA and the UUSC asking us to speak up. We hope you will go to uusc.org and read the article "A Cautionary Tale" about the far-reaching consequences of current governmental action to dismantle asylum, and take some action. Go to the uua.org/lovesresists/blog/ and read "We Must Be Bold in Our Resistance." You will see there some actions you can take, and a link to "Families Belong Together," the organization to which the funds collected as the July Share the Plate will be sent. Our Share-the-Plate collection for August will be for Planned Parenthood.

UUVU Social Justice Committee Back to School Blue Jean Project 2018 For Jackson House Thrift Shop

This year the Social Justice Committee (formerly Social Action) will once again appeal to the caring congregation of UUVU to provide blue jeans for the back to school blue jean project. Through your generosity, so far UUVU SJC has collected 31 pairs of blue jeans for needy children.

If you would like to donate jeans, boys or girls, sizes 6-12, new or gently used, your gift will be much appreciated.

Blue Jean collection bin is in the hallway next to the Office.

Contact: Pam Harrison 915-8382 or email me at cliffh2000@hotmail.com for more information.

Pastoral Care Ministry

Liz Miller, Member

The **Grief Support Group** recently was switched from Interest Groups and incorporated into the Pastoral Care Ministry. Grief Support meets the 4th Tuesday morning from 9:30 - 11:00. We welcome all who are experiencing grief of any type. If you have questions, call Liz Miller at 922-5457 or email at edlizmiller@gmail.com.



Movies with Mark & Myra

Myra Rustin

Movies with Mark and Myra is taking August off. We will be meeting again in September and plan to show *Gentlemen's Agreement*, starring Gregory Peck plus a great cast of fine actors you might know and love already, or be happy to be happy to be introduced to them through this groundbreaking film. Look for the sign-up sheets in September.



We are often called to do the difficult, if not the seemingly impossible, and it is vital to our spiritual growth that we not ignore these challenges.

Janice Marie Johnson

rapidly growing cities throughout the Midwest. Many left their pulpit ministries and went to work in the settlement houses, such as Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago. Additionally, when the crusade for women's suffrage became a political issue, these former pastors of congregations were at the forefront of the crusade to win the vote for women.

However, author Taylor lays the largest reason for the decline—and essentially disappearance—of women from the pulpits of the Midwest, and most history books, at the feet of one Bostonian Samuel Eliot, who became the first Secretary then President of the American Unitarian Association in the mid-1890s and brought to new heights the sense of being second-class among the women pastors in western churches, as he increasingly replaced the poorly-paid women in western churches with young men coming out of seminaries in the east.

Taylor's book is a well-developed picture of a period in church history that provides food for thought in our own time. She first describes the differences that existed between the eastern state UU churches and Midwestern UU, architectural and experiential.

The eastern churches were close to the seat of UU government and its purse strings, Boston. Meanwhile, the western congregants and pastors were still primarily rural, self-employed in basic issues of food and shelter for themselves, and if salaried those salaries were meager if not supplemented by allocations coming from Boston.

Taylor's description of how these differences were handled by church governance is brought to some thoughtful conclusion in her chapter, *Keeping the Peace*.

Those struggles can be seen to parallel ours in the present. As the women of the prophetic sisterhood became divided over the need to value their love for all the creation's beings and the need to protect the country who espoused "in God we trust," and presented the right to choose that value, Taylor leads us to consider the resolution of these issues in our own time.

We invite you to "check out" *Prophetic Sisterhood* and other treasures of your Bud Hearn Library, either at the rack in Community Hall or in the library itself as you come to or leave the sanctuary, to tickle your thinking and raise you to broader levels of love.

**LOOKING AHEAD: Bud Hearn will offer a class in September at UUVC entitled:
THE EVOLUTIONARY JOURNEY OF WESTERN RELIGION.**

Details of the class and how to participate will appear in the September newsletter.

August Celebrations



- | | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|----------------|
| 8/1 | Lavern Selph | 8/18 | Lisa Clem |
| 8/2 | Tom Calhoun | 8/18 | Jeanne Sabino |
| 8/8 | Mary Ransom | 8/19 | Norm Elliott |
| 8/10 | Helen Stark | 8/19 | Laura Nick |
| 8/11 | Bill K. Baucom, Jr. | 8/21 | Ron Saldino |
| 8/11 | Bette Clark | 8/22 | Pamala Reeder |
| 8/14 | Larry Enders | 8/22 | Lee Zuege |
| 8/17 | Kay Croshaw | 8/23 | Becky Hamilton |
| 8/18 | Penny Beed | 8/25 | Mike Gold |

- | | |
|------|------------------------|
| 8/1 | Brenda & Tom Tirrell |
| 8/2 | Jeanie & Tom Calhoun |
| 8/3 | Marjorie & Paul Lakey |
| 8/4 | Kim & Ricky Traw |
| 8/9 | Craig & Leslie Johnson |
| 8/13 | Cloe & Ed Bayer |
| 8/21 | Dave & Marie Welch |
| 8/24 | Jack & Lee Iafrate |
| 8/29 | Heidi & Tony Nikodem |

Interest Groups (IGs)



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 at 501-922-3878 or email vzuege@gmail.com to inquire about starting a new group. Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator

Game Night



Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (August 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, 262-8231)

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group has become an element of the Pastoral Care Ministry. Please see Pastoral Care on Page 5 for more details.

Mah Jongg



Currently, our mah jongg group is playing most Mondays at 1:00. If you would like to join us, or suggest another time to play, contact Ronnie Zuege at 922-3878.

Fourth Friday Film Fest



We've been waiting for this film (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*) to be available for quite some time. Both Francis McDormand and Sam Rockwell won Oscars for their performances in this movie. Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 92% positive rating. The plot: After months have passed without a culprit in her daughter's murder, her mother (McDormand) paints three signs leading into her town with a controversial message directed at the Chief of Police (Woody Harrelson). This sets off a series of events that turns the citizens and the cops against her. Some critics and audience reviews: "Takes the viewer on a dizzying ride through dark comedy, tragedy, shocking moments, karmic twists and redemption." "Three Billboards serves as a harsh commentary on prejudice in America, but the veins of compassion make it the most genuine movie I saw this year". "This movie was an absolute joy to watch. It was a great inspiring story that definitely



makes you think about some of the problems we have in our world. The writing was brilliantly done, you could absolutely feel the characters." Almost every review about this movie contained the description "dark comedy" or "dark humor." It is rated R for language and some violence, so good thing there is some humor for balance in this one. Hope to see you on August 24, 7 PM. Popcorn provided, as usual.

Meatless Meal Group



The Meatless Meal Group is on hiatus and will return when temperatures are cooler and summer travel has slowed the exodus of people who might, if not for travel plans, want to participate in a casual group that likes to experiment with meatless recipes. We may make it an evening event. Sue Loberg.

Dining-In and Dining-Out Groups



Our Spring "Dining In" and "Dining Out" groups should have had their final meals of the season by this time. We will be taking a dining break over the summer. Thanks to all who participated for making this a successful social activity. If enough interest is indicated, there could be a restart for the Fall season.



PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED!

Greetings to all potential UUVc photographers--we need you...and here's why!

The Communication Committee is forming a pool of members/friends of our congregation who would enjoy taking pictures at UUVc events. Photos taken will be archived in our 'pictures' database for posterity, and more importantly, used to share our faaaaaaahulous church events with the local media. If you feel the calling please contact Lorri Street, at either 916-728-2061, or streetbiken@att.net.

Thank you all for considering! ~Lorri Street~

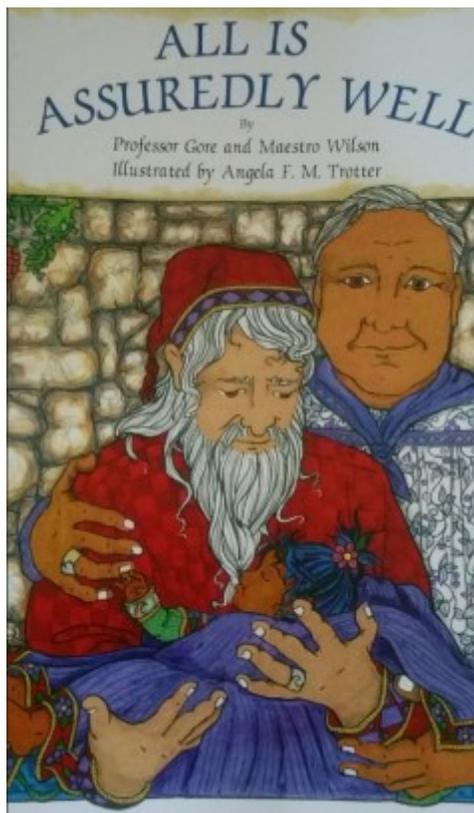
Some Thoughts on the Moral High Ground

John Swinburn



Recent UUVU conversations following both worship and insight services have addressed how to deal with opposition. Those conversations suggest that we—all of us—should not first attempt to persuade others to come around to our way of thinking but, rather, should attempt to understand their thinking and attempt to articulate ours in ways that might tone down the animus between us and our opponents. From my perspective, what's been missing in my own thought processes is the willingness to acknowledge that my perspective might be biased by morality as I define it. Moreover, I might not acknowledge the legitimacy of "morality" as defined by others. That's a problem. Morality is a human construct and, therefore, is subject to unique human interpretation and human failings. The context within which people view their world matters. So, for example, on the matter of abortion, my assertion that a woman's body is her own is a statement of morality as I define it. A person who asserts that sacred life begins at conception is making a statement of morality as that person defines it. The positions of those two people are

at odds with one another. In my eyes, restrictions placed on a woman's right to control her own body (e.g., have a fetus aborted) are immoral. Yet to the "right to life," my belief about a woman's rights amount to a belief in the right to murder an unborn child. Key to the discussion, again not likely to be resolved between us, is the point at which a fetus becomes both viable and can experience pain in a way that is more like pain as we experience it. Even a seemingly lesser difference, pre-conception birth control, puts us at war over morality as we define it. While I might view it as a wise and practical endeavor (moral, in that it avoids bringing a life that cannot be adequately cared for or sustained into this world), someone else may view it as the immoral prevention of a sacred life that was meant to be. Similarly irreconcilable differences exist on other fundamental issues: think of the death penalty and illegal border crossings. So, how do we bridge the gap between core differences on matters of morality? I wish I knew. Understanding the foundations upon which the morality of another's positions are based hasn't worked for me. What do you think?

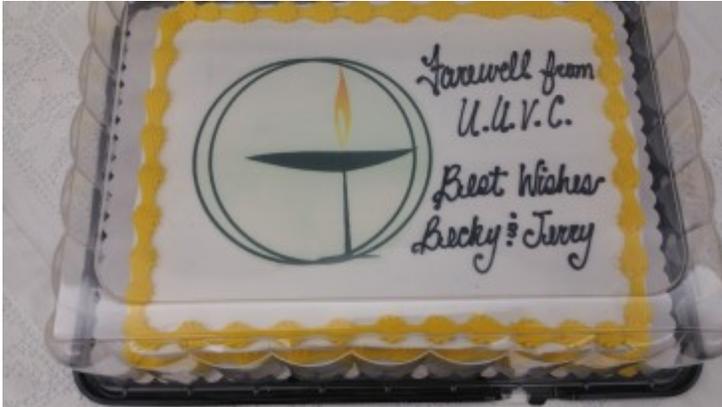


Children's Book for Same-Sex Parents Published

A children's book for same-sex parents, *All is Assuredly Well*, co-written by Hot Springs Village resident and author Dr. M.C. Gore, was published in July this year by Camille Lancaster Literary Children's Books. Dr. Gore, according to the book's website at <https://www.allisassuredlywell.com>, "...spent two hours on her 47th birthday on the witness stand in federal court testifying as an expert witness and a plaintiff against the City of Wichita Falls, Texas, when they passed and then enforced an ordinance designed to ban *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommate* from the public library. She was certified as an expert witness in federal court because she was a professor of human diversity and multicultural education with expertise in how the literary portrayal of persons from diverse groups affects children from those groups. She was a plaintiff out of conscience."

The book, available on Amazon, is richly illustrated and rife with symbolism. It was given the rare Kirkus star, one of the most prestigious designations in the book industry, an icon awarded to books of exceptional merit. Brenda Tirrell has donated a copy of the book to the UUVU library.

Wishing Jerry & Becky the Best!



On July 22, UUVC Members and Friends bid a fond farewell to Jerry and Becky Fay as they prepared to move to Springfield, MO



It's Your Time to Sing!

We are nearing the beginning of the fall season for the choir, and I want everyone to know that if you've any desire to sing with us, you are welcome. Members, Friends and musical wannabees. Please come to our first rehearsal, Friday August 24 at 1:30 in the church, or our second, Friday August 31 at 2:00. If you are not sure of your abilities (c'mon, everyone can sing!) you may sit and observe to see how you'd feel being a member. I will want to vocalize a little with new members just to confirm whether you are a soprano or a bass or something in between. It's going to be a great season with lots of work and lots of music making. And fun. Lots of fun. What could possibly go wrong? Join us!

~John Leisenring



A Few Scenes from Luau 2018!



Strengthen me by sympathy with my strength,
not my weakness. *Amos Bronson Alcott*

MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring



The first week of August will feature the UU Music Network Convention in Portland, OR, and I'll be there to represent you and to learn all I can about current UU Music. In the meantime, Anne Bowes will once again be at the piano for the August 5 service.

August will also be the month that we fire up the choir for the upcoming season. Rehearsals begin on Friday August 24, at 2:00 PM in the church, and anyone who has an interest in singing with us should arrive at 1:30 and join us. If you are not sure about your abilities, simply attend a rehearsal and observe. We'd love to have you.

Love is friendship set to music – Jackson Pollock

A Request from the Editor

As I write this, one of my brothers is about to undergo surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm in Houston. It's serious, but I anticipate he'll come through it fine. However, he may need my help during recovery, after he is released from the hospital.

With that as a backdrop: I may not be able to devote the time necessary to complete the September issue of this newsletter without help. I'd be most grateful if someone who either already knows Microsoft Publisher or is willing to learn on a fast-track would step forward to be my backup if necessary. Interested? Contact me by phone (214-507-8453) or by email (jsswinburn@gmail.com).

Future Newsletter Deadlines

For **September Newsletter**, August 27 at noon
For **October Newsletter**, September 25 at noon
For **November Newsletter**, October 26 at noon

I will be grateful if you would let me know, five days in advance of the deadline, if you plan to submit something for the newsletter. Send contributions to me:
John Swinburn, newsletter editor, jsswinburn@gmail.com

Things to Think About & Random Tidbits

- ◆ **UUVC Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianUniversalistVillageChurch/>
- ◆ **UUVC Website:** <http://www.uuvc.org> ◆ **UUVC Video Sermons:** <https://www.uuvc.org/video-sermons.html>
- ◆ **Definition:** Deracinate (dih-ras-uh-neyt)—1. to pull up by the roots; uproot; extirpate; eradicate. 2. to isolate or alienate (a person) from a native or customary culture or environment, e.g. (def. 2), "He plans to deracinate them by making the practice of their religion illegal."
- ◆ **On Monogamy:** Pepper Schwartz, a sociologist, said "I don't think we are a monogamous animal," adding "Monogamy is invented for order and investment – but not necessarily because it's 'natural.'" Other social scientists have written on the relative merits, and pitfalls, of different expressions of polygamy: polygyny and polyandry. Living in "The Natural State," one wonders what, really, is natural?
- ◆ **Scientific proof is a myth.** Proof can exist only when there is absolutely no room for doubt. And there is always room for doubt. Science is about evidence, not proof. I doubt that I am a hallucination of your brain on LSD, but I cannot prove it. I can only offer evidence that suggests otherwise.
- ◆ A "**preponderance of the evidence**" (the greater weight of evidence favoring one side or the other) is required for a decision in a civil case, in contrast to the more severe test of evidence, "**beyond a reasonable doubt**," required to convict in a criminal trial. You've heard the phrases, now you've read how at least one person thinks they compare.

UUVC Principles

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.