



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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President: Dave Welch (president@uuvv.org)  
Minister: Rev. Mark Walz (minister@uuvv.org)  
Treasurer: Kim Townsan (treasurer@uuvv.org)



Jerry Offerman '16

## JANUARY 2019 THEME: INTENTION

### Mark's Trail Welcoming



Rev. Mark Walz

Every time we open the doors to our Sanctuary, we have an opportunity to alter the course of someone's life. Friend, Neighbor, or Family Member. Insight or Worship. They may hear something spoken, something sung, a prayer, or simply feel the love that is palpable when we gather. When that 'something' feeds a deep, personal hunger, a recognition occurs, perhaps even an epiphany. Suddenly our church feels like home to them. A home they didn't know they were searching for. A safe, religious home they didn't even know existed.

It can take time to process what they are feeling. Some will want to slip out quietly and let the experience settle gently as their day progresses. Others can't wait to see what else we are up to. Some stay for our after-church conversations, or TED talks. Some accept our invitation to join us for a Pot-Luck or a special meal. Others might want to ask questions, ask about who we are and why we are, take a tour of our campus, or disclose what brought them to us that day. How we engage them next is crucial.

Of course, not each of us is available every time a guest or neighbor appears. But do we personally take responsibility to make them feel comfortable every chance we get? Do we honor our shared ministry and accommodate their choices? Do we let them lead us? Do we let them engage with us on their own terms? Do we race to the next thing we want to do, or do we treat them as treasured guests to our spiritual banquet?

Our congregation is growing. Both Incarnation-ally and numerically. Everything we offer here is important to one or more of our Members and

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### From the President

Last month I sent you a poetic wish for the holidays. This month it is a return to business. Let's talk bricks and mortar. We just completed a Building Fund Pledge Drive. We asked you to support expected building maintenance and needed repairs and renovations amounting to \$72,000. You responded by pledging over \$77,000! So ... from me to you ... a heartfelt sense of gratitude for your generosity and support of our church. I know I said I was going to write about bricks and mortar and I will, but your giving lifts my spirit. Bless you. What are you going to get for your gift? We already have new tile throughout the building. Soon all of our restrooms will be ADA compliant and we will have a more accessible building at our entrances. New lighting will be coming. And because of an unexpected generous insurance settlement we will soon have a new roof. The Building Committee, headed up by Cliff Harrison and Ducky Berkley along with Dane Nielsen and Loren Loberg, is investigating new sound solutions for our sometimes balky microphones. Our choir is expanding, and with new members comes the problem of where to put them. The Board just established a task force to research the best way to reconfigure our Choir Loft to accommodate a larger choir while at the same time not inhibiting the sight lines and aesthetics of our sanctuary. All of this is made possible by...you. One more "Thank You" along with a wish that this coming year is rich and full with the gift of a growing church and populated by the people you love.



Dave Welch

Dave Welch

It is easy to say what one intends: the difficult thing, sometimes, is to have an intention.

*Jean Rostand*

Friends. The Podcasts. Gathering over coffee and snacks. Insight and Worship. Education and Affinity groups. Pastoral and Grief Support. Outlets for our compassion and generosity. We, who are already here, need them. Those, with the courage to try a new church, may too.

To expand our Welcome, attempts are being made to provide a small Coffee Service in the lobby area after Worship or Insight that would encourage our engagement with Guests. It is hoped that this will safeguard our start times for Adult Education, Congregational Conversations, or TED talks, and not inconvenience the Sunday morning Support Teams unduly. It hasn't been perfect by any means, but no complaints from Guests, and our hearts are in the right place. We are taking a 'Lobby coffee break' and will start again on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please be kind in your responses. Helpful suggestions joyfully accepted.

With growth comes change and the need to try new things. We need permission to fail, that we may ultimately succeed. We need permission to re-try things that failed before. We also need permission to stumble and tweak our attempts. It may be that completely new ideas will surface. Perhaps we'll become a church where new folks succeed doing the things we couldn't, and seasoned members succeed at the things we hadn't yet thought to try. Mahalo and Happy New Year!

See you in church.

~Mark

**Important Notice:** Until further notice, send your contributions to the UUVC newsletter to Cindy Perez at: [cperez55@gmail.com](mailto:cperez55@gmail.com).



## Treasurer's Report

**Kim Townsan**



On behalf of all of us, many thanks to all who contributed to the 2018 Building Fund. A total of 55 pledges were received, from 77 individuals. And our goal of \$72,000...exceeded! Total commitments were received of \$77,730, 8% more than our goal. These monies will be used for meeting our mortgage commitment, along with maintaining our wonderful building!

On the operating side, income continues to exceed expenses, with net income of \$3,687. One area we are seeing expenses higher than budget is in our electrical costs. As Cliff Harrison has shared, our building is getting much more use during the week by various UUVC groups and committees. The cost of growth! We expect to see some reduction in costs as Cliff is working on putting in thermostats which can be controlled remotely.

As everyone is aware, the stock market over the past several months has been losing ground. UUVC's investment in the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF) has been affected by the decline, losing \$13,139 during the month of October; for our current fiscal year this reflects a net loss of \$7,814. As of the UUCEF's October 31 statement our total investment with UUCEF was \$191,000. If the markets continue to decline, we should be anticipating further reductions in our investment.

January brings with it the new year and ... tax time. A reminder that emails will be sent in mid to late January showing all contributions made to UUVC during 2018. Those emails will then be followed by emails showing balances on pledge commitments. Committee chairs will also receive in January reports showing six-month expenditures to their respective budget areas.

### January Sundays at UUVC

**January 6,** Rev. Walz, Two Cookie Communion

**January 13,** Kathy Sanders "Forgiving the Unforgiveable"

**January 20,** Rev. Walz

**January 27,** Bud Hearn Faith Journey: "A Planetary Pilgrim's Faith Odyssey"

### Attendance and Generosity

**November Attendance: UUVC Total: 377 (219 Worship, 158 Insight)**

**November Share the Plate:** Christmas Baskets, \$2802

**December Share the Plate:** Clarion Call

**January Share the Plate:** Literacy Council of Garland County

# Membership Snippets



Pam Harrison

The Membership Committee is in a transitional phase for the next few months. I will stand in as acting Chair while Ronnie Zuege has agreed to be Vice-Chair and then Chair. We thank Nell for sharing her experience and her knowledge of UUVC with the committee these past few months.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, we welcomed six New Members into the UUVC family. They are Nancy Baumgartner, Colleen Boardman, Linda Ragsdale, Patsy Slezak, and Cindy & Bill Spears. THANK YOU!

On behalf of our Committee, Brenda Tirrell, Debbie Bostick, Ronnie Zuege, Bari Searls, Cindy Nance, Malinda Zarate, Becky Hamilton, Ducky Berkley, Anne Hagen, and Susan Atchley, we wish you all a wonderful New Year.

## New Members of UUVC



Reverend Mark Walz, left, welcomes new members: (L-R): Linda Ragsdale, Bill & Cindy Spears, Colleen Boardman, Nancy Baumgartner, and Patsy Slezak, joined by David Welch Board President, and Becky Hamilton, New Member Coordinator.

**Watch for More New Member Spotlights in Coming Issues!**

## New Member Spotlight!



Colleen Boardman

Born in Schenectady, NY, Colleen Boardman moved to Stockton, CA when she was ten and lived there for fifty years. She was employed by San Joaquin Co. for 35 years and retired in 2010 as a Supervising Fraud Investigator for the District Attorney's Office. She and her husband Tom moved to HSV in 2012. Colleen and Tom have one daughter Erin, son-in-law Glen, and 10-year-old grandson Connor who live in Gilbert, AZ. Colleen's favorite things to do are traveling, going to listen to music (Clarksdale, MS is one of her favorites), doing genealogy, floating on the lake with girlfriends, reading, and, of course, going to UUVC on Sundays.

## Did You Know?



**An Orange Lanyard with name tag! Do you know what the significance is?**

If you answered "Frequent Visitor" you are correct. An Orange Lanyard helps the congregation recognize our valued frequent visitors. We hope all of you will take the time to give our Visitors a warm UUVC welcome.

*"We are a church for those seeking a liberal religious community. We provide an open path of inquiry toward a personal belief by questioning, discovering, discerning and serving."*

## A Few Scenes from Christmas Eve Service



Photos courtesy of one of our guests on that special evening, a professional photojournalist:

F.T. Eyre  
VISUAL ALCHEMY

# Religious and Secular Education

Warren Searls



## Got a Minute or Five or More?

The UUVU Education Team needs your help in developing a vigorous adult education program. The team wants to offer studies in a variety of subjects, including the different traditions of major religions such as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Alongside these, the team would also like to offer studies in non-religious worldviews like humanism, secularism, atheism and agnosticism.

The world around us is changing and we at UUVU need to be aware of what is changing and how that change is occurring. It has never been more important for people to understand the main traditions of faith and belief. In addition, science and technology impact the flow of data across the internet that affects a wide variety of worldviews. We need to achieve fluency in relating to people with different traditions and outlooks from our own. We need to engage deeply with the worldviews we are now encountering and will encounter in the future.

How can you help? Take 5 minutes to tell me what subjects you are interested in learning more about. Better yet, offer to teach a class or facilitate

a discussion on a subject you already know about or are willing to study and share. We all have life experiences, knowledge and skills that we can share to help others better understand the world we live in. Do you know how to use an iPhone, send a Tweet, use Instagram, MS Word or Excel? Share your knowledge and skill with those who would like to learn.

Learning by teaching is not a new technique. Remember giving a book report in grammar or high school? Got the idea?

Send me an e-mail [wsearls@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wsearls@sbcglobal.net) .

## February Lecture Series at UUVU

Presenter: Rev. Bud Hearn

[1] **Significance of the Nag Hammadi Library.** An accidental discovery of Christian & Gnostic manuscripts predating the Canonical Gospels revealed the astonishing variety of thinking in the early Christian period. Texts were based on memories of the living Jesus, not the risen Christ, and "blacklisted" as heretical.

[2] **What are the Dead Sea Scrolls.** The scrolls are the oldest existing manuscripts of a Jewish commu-

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## Computers for Kids (C4K) - Help Wanted

Bob McCleskey



Bob McCleskey

We are often told that a person would like to help with the C4K program but they are not computer techies, hence not capable of helping. We have opportunities for non-technical persons to contribute to the program in the following 3 areas.

- Writing grant applications. Considering its mission of helping students and adults who can benefit by having a personal computer, C4K is definitely qualified to receive grants. So, if you have ever written a grant or are willing to learn how, step forward and contribute to the program.
- Assisting with decluttering the C4K workroom and storerooms. We are in need of short term assistance in better organizing the materials which are involved in refurbishing the computers. The work may include taking excess or non-usable materials to a recycle center.
- Small donor request cards are available on a music stand in the Community Room (near the Sunday goodies table) which we hope UUVU'ers will take to local merchants to make them aware of our need for their older computers which are refurbishable. Any business that uses computers is a prospect. Only take a few palm cards and take more when those have been used.

**Individuals or Businesses**

**Please Donate your**

**Old or Replaced Computers**

To: 

**UU-COMPUTER 4 KIDS PROGRAM**

- Restores and Distributes computers to local area students and needy
- 10 year history
- Has distributed >500 computers

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**UU Village Church**  
403 Barcelona Rd, HSV, AR

C4K Hours: Wed, 10-4 pm  
(Will pick-up or You Can Drop-off)

Call: Loren 501-204-2725  
Bob 501-226-9426  
Jade 817-210-2561  
UUVU Office 501-922-1255

**To Donate visit [uuvu.org/c4k](http://uuvu.org/c4k)**

## Committee Updates and Other News of Interest

### Social Committee

Cloe Bayer, Social Committee Chair



Our next social event is the tour of Flyway Brewing Company in North Little Rock on January 16th. This tour costs \$6.00 per person, but you get a pint of beer and the glass it came in. Lunch will be available at a nominal cost. Please sign up in the Community Hall, or call Cloe Bayer at 922-3810.

In February we will have our biannual Chile Cook Off. The date is Saturday, Feb. 16th, at 12 noon. Watch for the sign-up sheet to appear shortly.

the fourteen congregants who did the shopping and the three who delivered the baskets. Because of your generosity, there was \$108 left to donate to the Langston School emergency fund for such needs as replacing a child's broken glasses.

The Share the Plate for January will be the Literacy Council of Garland County. Volunteers conduct free, confidential tutoring for adults who want to improve their reading and writing, or those who want to learn English. They are always in need of tutors as well as the funds to run the office and to supply teaching materials.

The UU Service Committee Guest at Your Table donations were \$433, including \$103 given anonymously. We hope that many mailed their contribution directly, or gave online at [uusc.org/guest](http://uusc.org/guest). We hope we will qualify for recognition as a congregation that supports UUSC again this year.

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### Social Justice Committee

Meg Koziar



Five local families, including one with four children, received a basket from UUVC, with toys and clothes for the children and food for Christmas dinner, plus a \$200 gift card. Thanks to

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## David and Marie Welch to Co-Star in "Love Letters."



Dave Welch

Two UUVC members will star in the upcoming play LOVE LETTERS. Marie Welch and David Welch will co-star in "Love Letters," a play by A. R. Gurney which centers on two characters, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. They sit side by side at tables and read the notes, letters and cards which over nearly 50 years reveal their hopes and ambitions, dreams and disappointments, victories and defeats that have passed between them throughout their separated lives. Like life it is a

play of laughter and sadness. The play will be presented for one night only – Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Coronado Center. Your ticket will include a red velvet cupcake, as well as a flower for the ladies seating at a table for eight. Seating is limited to approximately 200. Tickets are \$15 each and maybe reserved with David Welch at 651-695-1515 or [idwelch123@gmail.com](mailto:idwelch123@gmail.com).



Marie Welch

Our intention creates our reality. *Wayne Dyer*

Men with good intentions make promises. Men with good character keep them. *Ronald Oliver*

nity that withdrew to Qumran. Revealed is the unsettledness of first century Judaism giving rise to groups holding divergent theological positions. The similarity with the Nag Hammadi story is noted.

**[3] How Humans Made God.** The question whether God exists is the wrong one to ask. It should be how did humans come to think of God at all. God is not a historical figure as Jesus, yet as a con-

cept historical in the context of serving both a linguistic and social purpose.

**[4] Putting Satan in His place.** Biblically Satan is referred to sporadically in fragments woven together into a unified context. Point: Satan is an amalgamation of scripture and dogma. The word used metaphorically to describe the repertoire of evil. it is a "tempting" story.

Advance registration is desired. Sign up sheet Community Hall. Or call 204-7191

## New Art for the New Year

Daryl M Wedwick



Daryl Wedwick

Friday, January 4, 2019, 10:00 a.m., UUVC's Community Hall. That's the time and place for all UUVC artists to bring their works of two-dimensional art to exhibit on the Art Wall until March. Perhaps those paintings, photographs, stained glass, quilts, etc. have been recently created;

perhaps they have been recently 'rescued' from an old closet, but there are no age limits for the art...nor for the artists...either! The Art Wall has room for 15 artistic works.

It is encouraging to note that at least three new artists have inquired as to the Art Wall hanging requirements! For them and for the folks who may have just forgotten, each piece of art must be an original work signed by the artist who must be a UUVC Member or Friend. It must be appropriately framed and have a wire hanger; no sawtooth hang-

ers, please. If canvases of any depth are gallery-wrapped, please paint the edges of the canvas. On the back of each work the artist must attach a tag which lists the title, medium, name and phone number of the artist and the value of the painting for insurance purposes.

Please deliver the artistic works to the Community hall by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 4, 2019. If that time is not convenient, perhaps the material can be left in the UUVC office earlier. The material currently on display may be picked up when the new pieces are delivered.

Should anyone wish to purchase a piece displayed on the Art Wall, the buyer must deal directly with the artist.

## January Celebrations



- |      |                |      |                  |
|------|----------------|------|------------------|
| 1/1  | Loren Loberg   | 1/28 | Randy Flueckiger |
| 1/4  | Marie Walch    | 1/28 | Carl Ford        |
| 1/7  | Alex Perez     | 1/28 | Peggy Watts      |
| 1/10 | Patrick Ransom | 1/29 | Merrill Clark    |
| 1/16 | Pam Harrison   | 1/30 | Toby Hamilton    |
| 1/27 | Ann Haase      | 1/30 | Nancy Unowsky    |
| 1/27 | Gerald Wheeler |      |                  |

- |      |                                  |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 1/8  | Mark & Toby Hamilton             |
| 1/11 | Alicia & Bill Baucom             |
| 1/18 | Joe & Sam Stout                  |
| 1/19 | Glenn Calloway & Lorraine Ridley |
| 1/21 | Dennis & Nola Abraham            |

## 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](mailto: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 (January 12). 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)

### 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



After a two month hiatus, we will restart our Fourth Friday film series in January. The next movie has not yet been chosen, as we are awaiting the release to DVD of several promising films. The name will be announced by mid- January, when a newer list becomes available.

In the meantime, some FAQ's:

Movie night began as a small group of folks who got together once a month to watch movies in each other's homes. When our building was purchased, it became an Affiliated Interest Group and the movies shown were made available to a larger audience. The Church is not responsible for the movie choices or their content.

How does the movie get chosen? Newspaper reviews are the first source of information. Highly rated movies which we think will appeal to our congregation are considered first. We use the Rotten Tomatoes website reviews and AARP magazine's listings of "Movies for Grownups."

What about content? We avoid extreme violence, horror movies, or overtly sexual situations. We try for PG movies, but most movies being released today do carry an "R" rating; much of that is for language or depiction of drug usage. As the movies are not screened by us before being shown, we sometimes get surprised at what turns up. Some of that is un-

avoidable if you want to see the latest Oscar contenders without going to the theater, and we hope that as a group of adults only we can keep an open mind regarding occasional risqué content.

What is the mission of the Film Fest group? Our mission is to show the latest highly acclaimed movies without our audience having to drive miles to the nearest theater, or maybe not wanting to go by themselves. Discussion of the film afterwards is encouraged. And, the popcorn is free!

### Meatless Meal Group

The Meatless Meal Group is experimenting with monthly evening gatherings at which we share appetizers. To learn more, contact Sue Loberg.



### Dining-In and Dining-Out Groups

Our Fall "Dining In" and "Dining Out" groups should have had their final meals of the season by this time. Sign-ups will begin in January for the next series, which will run from February through April. This is a great opportunity to get to know a few of your fellow UU's better in a social setting where the emphasis is on fellowship.

"Dinners for Six" or "Dining In" involves gathering in the homes of others in your group on a once-monthly basis for an evening of food and conversation. Married couples, partners and friends work together to host when the group comes to their home. Also, UU singles often team up which allows them to share the hosting duties between them.

"Dining Out" groups were started recently for those who like to venture out for dining and socializing at our numerous nice restaurants, both locally and beyond. As before, each "Dining Out" group will number around six people which keeps the group more intimate while dining. Each couple (or team of singles) will agree to find a restaurant they like (or wish to explore) and then make the necessary ar-



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# Dispute Mediators

## Anger Management

Cloe Bayer



Cloe Bayer

There is an environment of meanness in our world today that not only allows angry outbursts but seems to encourage them, and this dynamic has spread the tolerance for meanness to other environments as well. So how does one manage a

difficult situation when anger arises or the conversation turns negative?

Language sets the tone for communications and relationships and can help manage an immediate situation as well. There is a tactic called reframing and restating, which can be very effective when used correctly. You can acknowledge the other person's perspective or feelings and ask questions instead of making statements. For example, when faced with a harsh remark, "(I can hear how angry you are") and then simply restate the sentence in less harsh terms. "(So, the problem seems to stem from...is that right?)" No blame. This shows effective listening and de-escalation. Asking questions and acknowledging feelings without judging them are common to all situations, regardless of circumstances and personalities.

How about if the anger is your own, and how do you figure out what the source of the anger is? A short checklist might be: Is there a person who always makes you angry? Does that person's behavior, habits, language or treatment of you represent someone

else who treated you badly? Is there a situation that usually makes you anxious or angry? If so, avoiding anger-generating situations is the first step to managing your own anger.

Appropriately stating your own feelings can help, too. Perhaps a parent might want to let an adult child know that a decision seems wrong, but does not want to interfere or state that opinion inappropriately, and instead says nothing. If the situation is dire enough, prepare for a conversation when both parties are calm; make a list of the one or two points you want to make and stay focused on them. A good idea is to write out language that begins to feel comfortable to you, say it out loud so you can hear what it sounds like to the other person. Start with a neutral statement rather than an accusation, and an explanation of the purpose of the conversation. Most of all, acknowledge the other person's feelings and responses while still staying focused on your own goals.

Remember, anger takes an enormous amount of energy and eats you up inside. Learn an appropriate way to express and manage it, or let it go altogether.

*Adapted from articles by Maria Simpson on Mediate.com*

## News from the Rev. Bud Hearn Library

Kim Traw



Kim Traw

A book in the UU Library that has made several "notable" lists for 2018 is Steven Pinker's *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*. December's theme of "Hope" applies to Pinker's examination of humankind's progress. He presents graphs, charts, and statistics to support his claim that our world is actually getting better in just about all areas despite the apocalyptic viewpoints of many.

The book is divided into three sections. In the first section, Pinker examines the historical roots of the Enlightenment, the predominant thinking at the time when our country was founded. The subtitle of this book--reason, science, humanism, and progress--are the pillars of this philosophical, political, and cultural movement.

The second section of the book consists of Pinker's

arguments that the world has indeed gotten better for everyone. Chapters include discussions on health, wealth, inequality, the environment, safety, and happiness. For example, the chapter on health presents statistics about life expectancy, childhood deaths, and vaccinations. In the section on wealth, he admits that wealth disparity exists, but claims that everyone is better off than they used to be. Just because the wealthy are getting wealthier does not mean that the poor are getting poorer. While Pinker admits that environmental problems and climate change are serious threats, he presents evidence that things "aren't as bad as they used to be." For example, smog in cities is not the problem it once was, and CO2 emissions are not increasing as they once were. He claims that our advances in technology can solve many of the problems that we have created.

In the third section, Pinker examines the ideas of reason, science, and humanism (many of the ideas presented will sound familiar to any UU!). He puts these ideas in the context of today's political and cultural environment and predicts a future of further progress.

Live your life with intention and use every ounce of your being to live the life you were born to live.

*Ana Brandt*

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~Dining In-Out, Continued from Page 8

rangements for the group to dine at that place for their month. This is also a good way to discover more about the local dining scene.

For people who participated in either group in 2018, we will try to place you in new groups to allow you to meet more people. And we strongly encourage newer members and friends of UUVC to join in these groups as another good way to meet other UU's in a small, social group setting. The aim of all the groups is to help all of us develop deeper and more casual connections with one another. You don't need to be expert cooks nor gourmets to participate; you only need to be willing to be friendly and enjoy camaraderie with like minded people. Contact Janine Bethscheider ([jbethscheider1@gmail.com](mailto:jbethscheider1@gmail.com) or 501-226-5714) for more information.

### Future Newsletter Deadlines

For **February Newsletter**, January 28 at noon  
 For **March Newsletter**, February 26 at noon  
 Send contributions to: Cindy Perez, [pcindy55@gmail.com](mailto:pcindy55@gmail.com)

~News from...Bud Hearn Library, Continued from Page 9

I found the book to be very interesting if a bit dense, and many of his claims can be counter-argued with just as compelling evidence as he presents. But the book is certainly thought-provoking and gives me hope that perhaps the world is not "going to hell in a hand basket."

# MUSIC NOTES

John Leisenring



The holidays are behind us now, and the choir will sing that the work of Christmas must now begin. Join us. We'll also sing a wonderful "round" written by a composer just finished with her chemo – "Be Like The Bird." The bird sings and sings, knowing that she has wings.

Enjoy!

*Life is an affair of mystery;  
 Shared with companions of  
 Music, dance and poetry.*

Shah Asad Rizvi

Clyde Pound (piano) & John Leisenring (trombone) delighted us with music on December 23.



## 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: Intention** [in a religious context] (noun)—in-ten-shuhn: the person or thing meant to benefit from a prayer or religious offering, e.g., "The inherent worth and dignity of every person is the intention for which we unite in prayer."
- ◆ **On Coincidence** The first time I ever ran across the name "Ric Masten" was several years ago during a visit with friends in Hot Springs Village before we moved here. They invited us, thinking "The Village" might appeal to us. One evening, one of our hosts, a woman who had worked for me years earlier, brought out a book she thought I might enjoy, saying "this guy's poetry reminds me of yours." Entitled *Speaking Poems*, it was filled with poetry by Ric Masten. Hearing our host read a few poems, then reading several silently to myself, I became enamored with the poet's words.

Only a few days ago, I stumbled across the poet's name again. I was surprised to learn that he had been a UU minister and that at least one of his poems/songs, *Let it Be a Dance*, is quite popular in UU circles. I read his [obituary](#), among other articles about him, and asked myself whether my introduction to the man's work and my acquaintance with it recently were simply coincidences. Of course they were, I replied.

- ◆ In 2016, the **Canadian Unitarian Council** adopted a vision statement that included the following: *As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we are Deeply Connected, Radically Inclusive, Actively Engaged, Theologically Alive, and Spiritually Grounded.*

### 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.