



# THE UU-LINK

July 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

## July Services

July 3

### On Being Religious

Libby Smith

We sometimes define ourselves as "spiritual, but not religious." And yet we are a religion, one with centuries of history and tradition that inform who we are today. What does it mean to be "religious" as a UU? And why does it matter?

July 10

### All Our Life's a Circle

Sue Weber

Let's explore what this means and how the "Religion of the Circle" is part of our Unitarian Universalist tradition.

July 17

### Cultivating Compassion

Libby Smith

The call for compassion is central to every major religious tradition and may be the most important task of religious life. If only it were easy!

July 24

### Speak Truth to Power

Robin Capoor

As the convoluted political process winds its way toward the November 8<sup>th</sup> election, UU's have wisdom to add. Can we speak our truth to power?

July 31

### Wrestling With the Holy

Libby Smith

Part of the religious experience involves seeking out and recognizing those moments when we feel connected, to, or part of, or even just the longing for, something beyond ourselves.

## DonSense – by Rev. Don Garrett

### Summer Sabbatical Thank You!

After finishing six years of ministry with UUCLV, the Unitarian Universalist Association and my letter of agreement both think that I am ready for a rest. For a sabbatical. Like one day off a week, a month per year taken after five to seven years is the norm. And although I love it here, I must agree that it feels like they are right.

I want to thank everyone in the congregation, especially the leadership over these past six years, for sharing the great collaborative journey of building the Beloved Community. Although there may never be an end to that journey, I know we have made good and important progress.

We have identified our core values. We have a congregational covenant that lifts up our relationships as sacred – an excellent humanist twist on what it means to be religious.

I leave you in good hands while I am away this summer, July and August. The Rev. Libby Smith will be leading five services in July and August, on the theme, "What does it mean to be religious?" She has met with our Worship Committee and they are eager to work with her.

Our own Rev. Robin Capoor has agreed to be there for any pastoral care emergencies that may arise, supplementing our solid support from Church Family and our Community Listeners.

And our new Past President, Ellen Bell (praised be her name) has agreed to keep an eye on our office staff in a supervisory role during my absence. The good news is that they are committed professionals with 6-7 years experience here, but it is good to know that there is backup if needed.

This summer, Claudia and I will be hiking the Rocky Mountains, following a program of refreshment and renewal designed to help me return in September ready to begin again. I never thought it was enough just to be born again. It's much better to be born again . . . and again . . . and again.

Again, I thank you so very much for this opportunity.

See you in church next September.

– Don

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### A Place to Trust

As your new president, I'm excited about the coming year at UUCLV! I look forward to meeting our opportunities and challenges together. Most of all, I am humbled by the faith and trust you have placed in me to lead the congregation for the coming year. Thank you.

Speaking of trust, I want to make the following connection: the love we share for each other and for our Beloved Congregation needs trust in order to grow. We talk about our need and desire to grow in membership. In order to grow, we must have something to offer. We must have love. Our hearts, individually and collectively, must be open to love. Yet, an open heart is a vulnerable heart. We must trust ourselves and each other with our open hearts in order to grow in spirit and numbers.

Trust comes with time and, in many cases, forgiveness. May the coming year find you forgiving, trusting, and growing. Let's make the UUCLV a place where we can trust and love each other and offer ourselves to others. I think we will find the *UUCLV growing, as well.*

I look forward to talking with you throughout the year. Thank you, again, for your trust.

-- **Bob Kriebel**, Board President

## ARE YOU ON THE NEW CALENDAR?

Every year, on July 1, the UUCLV Church calendar becomes a blank slate. So - we need all committee chairs, event chairs, etc - to please use the Room Reservation form on the UUCLV website to help us update our church calendar with all your monthly meetings and annual events.

Fill out the Room Reservation form fully, and indicate if the event is monthly. Hit "submit" - and you're done! If you *don't* see your event on the calendar, after you've submitted the info using the Room Reservation form, just email the church office at [uuclv@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclv@uuclvpa.org). Thanks for getting your info to us!

## SHARED PLATE FOR JULY: THE COMMUNITY BIKE WORKS

Community Bike Works provides inner-city children living in at-risk situations with meaningful work-ethic alternatives to gangs, drugs and the streets. We use bicycles, peer role models and adult mentors to develop and nurture relationships and to engage youth; and once engaged, influence their behavior and their outlook about school and life.

In the Earn a Bike program students work from a manual, and each student keeps a journal of his or her progress. Students arrive for class on time and ready to work, work at a task until completed, see the satisfaction of turning a broken bike into a functional one. Once students complete their classes, they earn their refurbished bike and new helmet .

## UUCLV OFFICE NEWS

\* The UUCLV offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 for the national holiday.

\* Administrator Kate Scuffle thanks everyone for the well wishes, cards, and visits after her recent accident. She continues to heal, started physical therapy, and is transitioning back into the office, tho' still working in part from home via a computer hookup with the office.

## THE UU-LINK

*The UU-Link is published and mailed monthly, and is also available on our website.*

### The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

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The eNews: [uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org)

**We're on the web at [www.uuclvpa.org](http://www.uuclvpa.org)**

## FROM THE LAY LISTENING COMMITTEE

The Lay Listening Committee would like to provide effective, outreach to as many of our church members as possible. To do that, we have redefined ourselves. We will now be known as the Community Listeners. We meet at 1:15 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the Frieda Marie kitchen. Anyone concerned about making our congregation a true community is welcome to attend.

Be a Buddy Could you be a "good buddy?" Sure you could. And if so, Community Listeners wants you.

We want all UUCLV members to know that they are important to our church, whether they can attend service or not. To reinforce this, we are calling for volunteers to serve as a "Church Buddy" to five other members of our congregation.

It's easy. All you have to do is contact your assigned "Buddies" once a month by e-mail, telephone, personal visits, or just a wave at church to see how they are doing. If it seems that more than just listening is needed, contact Community Listeners or Church Family. We will try to assign Buddies based upon the Hospitality Neighborhood system for geographic convenience.

If you want to be a part of growing the caring community of UUCLV, please let Robin Capoor know. Her e-mail address is [robincapoor@msn.com](mailto:robincapoor@msn.com). Sometimes, just knowing that there is someone out there who connects with you regularly can make a difference.

Let's work together to make our church a truly compassionate community.



## JULY BREAKFAST FORUM

July 3

### To begin the World Over Again: The Life of Thomas Paine

Victor Madeson, Presenter

*Happy July 4th! Victor is VP of Thomas Paine Friends. This film is an enlightening biography of Paine who greatly influenced the American Revolution. It is the last great work of multiple Oscar-winning cinematographer Haskell Wexler (1922-Dec. 2015).*

July 10

### 1916 The Irish Rebellion: Historical Background

Tom Eagan, Presenter

*Narrated by actor Liam Neeson, this series tells the dramatic story of the events that took place in Dublin during Easter of 1916, when a small group of poorly-armed Irish rebels took on the might of the British Empire. Discussion topic: Did the historical situation justify the use of violence?*

July 17

### 1916 The Irish Rebellion: The Events

Tom Eagan, Presenter

*Narrated by actor Liam Neeson, this series tells the dramatic story of the Easter Rising, when a small group of poorly-armed Irish rebels took on the might of the British Empire. Discussion topic: Do civilian casualties (collateral damage) render immoral the effort to use violence to resist oppression?*

July 24

### Epigenetics: Maybe Lamarck was Partially Right

Frank Stone, Presenter

*The epigenome (epi - alongside) is the (often environmentally) modified genome that carries additional information about which genes should be switched on or off, and how rapidly the switching process occurs. It's a new area, but a fascinating one. We'll look at a few of the basics.*

July 31

### Groundswell Rising

Cari Poole, Presenter

*Groundswell Rising" is a documentary on what hydraulic fracking is, the toll on people's health and environment, and social and political solutions. Presented by the UU Social Action Committee. The film is locally co-produced by Mark Lichty, a fellow UU environmental activist.*



## FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This summer I will be taking an on-line course on UU history on Thursday evenings, sponsored by the UUA. Some of the names and dates are familiar to me from viewing the film series *Long Strange Trip* (see below if you are interested in borrowing the DVDs). This class will go more deeply in the subject and we'll cover areas not touched by the film series, such as the contributions and tribulations of African American Unitarian Universalists. With respect to race, the history of our denomination is a contradictory mix of positives and negatives. We were in the forefront of the Abolitionist movement, yet in the 20th century, African Americans UUs faced marginalization, indifference and hostility. Our denomination almost split apart in the 1960s when the Black Empowerment movement insisted on a greater voice in funding priorities and policy making. Promises of financial support were made that couldn't be kept, causing bitterness and hastening the departure of many African Americans from our denomination.

When our youth took the heritage trip to Boston last May, I tried to find some curricula for them so they would have a greater appreciation of the sites they were visiting. The only things available were one workshop in the Coming of Age curriculum and the third chapter in the Long Strange Trip DVD series about American Unitarianism. My UU History class requires that I complete a project, either by myself or in partnership. I hope to in some small part correct that oversight by creating a short series of UU history classes for 5-6 graders that will provide an entrée into our interesting history. My hope is to field test it here next year.

In faith,  
**Jansen Wendell**, Director of Lifespan Religious Education  
(lec@uucvpa.org)

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION :

### MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

led by Reverend Don Garrett and Janice Lovegrove  
(July & August: 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings,  
7:00 – 8:30, the Community Room)

With the help of conscious breathing we are able to touch and be nourished by the peace and joy that are available within and around us, in the here and now. We meet most weeks to learn, practice, and enjoy the benefits of mindfulness in our lives, our relationships, and in the larger communities of which we are a part. Contact Rev. Garrett at minister@uucvpa.org for info.

### JOSEPH CAMPBELL VIDEO SERIES – THE POWER OF MYTHS

(2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month Room 304)  
In lively, expansive dialogues, inspirational scholar Joseph Campbell discusses how myths hold the key to understanding human experience. They may vary superficially from culture to culture, but at their deepest level they all reveal the path to self-fulfillment, social integration, and ultimately, transcendence. Discussion will follow. 16 sessions, lasting about 1 1/2 hour. Contact Cease Blocker at 610-866-3714 or blocker@rcn.com.

### LONG STRANGE TRIP: 2000 YEARS OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY (DVD series):

This set of 6 DVDs, available for loan, trace the history and evolution of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the merger of the two into today's Unitarian Universalism. If you want to find out about how our "Uncommon Denomination" came to be what it is today, from its roots in the Reformation to the American Revolution to the Civil War to the Transcendentalist Movement to the present, these movies are entertaining and captivating. Contact Jansen Wendell to arrange to borrow DVD's.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### SUMMER RE

June 19 – Aug 26 in room 208

Prek-6th graders will be **Backyard to the Universe -Dr Seuss and the UU's** by Helen Zidowecki.

Dr. Seuss's stories are a wonderful resource for teaching UU values.

## **JOIN THE LINK PIZZA PARTY!**

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Mailing Party. Every month, the Link volunteers meet in the FM kitchen at 12 noon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month after the 3rd Sunday of the month for Link-folding, labeling, socializing and fresh, delicious pizza from Lehigh Pizza. The next Link Pizza Party will at noon on **Wednesday, July 27**, and we'd love to have you join us!

If you'd like to join in the fun and help out, or check on the party date for the month, just RSVP to the UUCLV office at [uuclv@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclv@uuclvpa.org).

## **BATHROOM MAKEOVER**

Many thanks to Dora Davenport and Karen West for improving the Women's and Men's bathrooms in the Center Street foyer. Karen and Dora painted the woodwork, primed and painted the radiators in both bathrooms, and Dora purchased and hung new curtains in the Women's room. Karen purchased the new mirrors for this bathroom which our Sexton, Jansen Wendell, attached to the wall. Our members and guests will appreciate our new look!

## **BOOK DISCUSSION**

Our next book discussion meeting is September 11th at 12:00 noon in the RE Library. The book we are reading is: **Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal**. It is the sixth novel by absurdist author Christopher Moore, published in 2002. In this work the author seeks to fill in the "lost" years of Jesus through the eyes of Jesus' childhood pal, "Levi bar Alphaeus who is called Biff". Please join us. For more information contact book [discussion@uuclvpa.org](mailto:discussion@uuclvpa.org)

## **SUPER WORK PARTY!**

We had a super work party on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Ilse Stoll, Karen Berry, Jan Phillips, Dave Kiefer, Pat Herring, and Ellen Bell! Ilse, Ellen, Dave, and Jan weeded the pachysandra bed and other areas. Little trees and very large weeds were removed making us look good again. Karen and Pat cleaned the remaining yellow chairs from the gym. Please join us next time for a pleasant morning of fun and exercise. For more information contact us at [property@uuclvpa.org](mailto:property@uuclvpa.org).

## **HOSPITALITY REPORT**

June's Hospitality Team on duty was the "South" neighborhood, with Anthony Gazzillo at the helm. Things ran smoothly. We were glad to have our friend and staff person Mary Tunstall back at the Sunday Sexton job after recovering from her recent car accident. Hospitality coordinated with Membership to provide a welcome cake for coffee hour on June 19th.

At the end of June, Margo Dixon steps away from the Chairmanship and into the "East" Neighborhood's leadership role, replacing Dora while Dora Davenport steps over to the "North" team, alongside Cheryl Ann Lombardi. Ann Peaslee comes on board to work alongside Anthony with "South," Sarah Carlson stays with "West," Jean Davis, Cecelia Collura-Eberhard and Sarah Johnson serve "Central" together, and Kerri Finkle will become the overall Hospitality Chair. Musical Chairs R Us!

We are always recruiting new talent to help with the co-ordination and recruitment of volunteer Ushers, Greeters, and folks to bring snacks and flowers on Sunday morning. If the spirit moves you, join the Hospitables leadership team! We also love it when you step up to the plate and help us provide hospitality for one and all, all during the year. We could not do it without you. It is a truly collegial and collaborative effort.

Everyone in the Congregation is part of the Hospitality Committee, and will be asked to take a turn to usher, greet, bring snack or bring flowers during the course of the church year. If you are not sure which is your neighborhood, please click on [hospitality@uuclvpa.org](mailto:hospitality@uuclvpa.org) and we will hook you up.

Hospitality looks forward to working with Kerri Finkle as our new leader, and thanks Margo Dixon for having the idea, carrying it to fruition, and serving as our leader for its first three formative years.

July will be the "Central" Neighborhood's turn for Hospitality. If you live in zip codes 18015 or 18018, that would be you. And thanks.



## **2016 FOURTH FRIDAY FILM SERIES**

The 2016 Fourth Friday Film (FFF) Series is presented by the UUCLV Social Action Committee at 7:15 PM in our community room!

The series has a strong emphasis on promoting the common good as it relates to saving our environment, reversing economic inequality, and repairing our democracy so it works for everyone. The Website for the film series is [www.FFFInfo.blogspot.com](http://www.FFFInfo.blogspot.com).

We invite groups/organizations to join us in this important endeavor by co-sponsoring one or more of the presentations (publicize event, add expertise to the discussion).

We also hope that local college and university professors and their students will connect with FFF programs that align with their curricula and/or interest. Please contact **Tom Ulrich** at 610-882-1136 or [tomulrich41@gmail.com](mailto:tomulrich41@gmail.com) for more information.

*July 22*

### **THE BRAINWASHING OF MY DAD**

The film looks at whether the media is fair, balanced, accurate, and accountable to the truth.

*August 26*

### **GERRYMANDERING**

The movie discusses the problems with how voting districts are drawn.

*September 23*

### **GREEN FIRE: ALDO LEOPOLD AND A LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME**

Follows Aldo Leopold's journey as he explores our relationship with the land and the environment.

*October 28*

### **To Be Announced**



## **2016-17 SECOND SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES PREVIEW**

The Second Sunday Concert committee is delighted to share the line-up for the upcoming concert season with you. Save the dates so you won't miss any of these wonderful performances.

### **October 9:**

Inna Eyezerovich, violin and Holly Roadfeldt, piano. Both have performed as part of the series in the past, but not on the same billing.

### **November 13:**

The Aletheia Trio (Francesca DiPasquale, Juliette Herlin, Fei-Fei Dong) We are so very pleased to have the Aletheia Trio back again. They "brought the house down" the last time they performed with us.

### **February 12:**

Clipper Erickson - this is a return engagement celebrating the release of his new CD.

### **March 12:**

Neil Wetzel (jazz saxophone) and friends. This will be the first time in our 7 seasons that the saxophone has been featured.

### **April 9:**

Ronée Boyce – she is an exciting young Afro-Canadian concert pianist

## **JOIN THE CLEAN ENERGY MARCH AT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION!**

For all of you, and especially those who attended the screening of DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA, about fracking:

On Sunday, July 24, concerned individuals will visit Philadelphia on the eve of the upcoming Democratic Convention to join in THE MARCH FOR A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION. As the nation's spotlight shines on Philly, we must convince leaders to keep fossils fuels in the ground and to transition swiftly to clean and renewable energy.

There are dozens of busses and some trains leaving from spots all around PA, MD, NY, NJ, WV, VA, and DC. Please check the website at <http://act.foodandwaterwatch.org> to find one near you and sign up (there is one leaving from the William Penn lot off Route 33 in Bethlehem).

## **ENTHUSIASTIC THANKS**

*"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."*

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

There was plenty of enthusiasm on Wednesday night June 1 when members of the UUCLV youth group bounded into the church gym and began the hard work of cleaning and storing the shelter cots getting them ready for the shelter to use again this winter. Dragging them out of their storage bin, setting them up, cleaning them and storing them again all the while making it a fun night for all was in the Men's Wednesday Night Shelter committee's opinion a major achievement. In no time.... cots were clean..... a few "hoops" were shot and we were finished. Who knew hard work could be such fun????

The Shelter Committee would like to thank Jeremiah Lormand and his crew: Laura Talaber, Bryton Del, Zee Hoelscher and Nils Nyberg. Your help is greatly appreciated

## **GETTING THE WORD OUT!**

Sharing information is very important to our church family. That's why it is so important to know where to send your announcements. Please follow these guidelines when submitting your information.

**Information sent to the wrong place won't be re-routed.**

### **THE LINK**

Send all material to [thelink@uuclvpa.org](mailto:thelink@uuclvpa.org)

Deadline is the 3rd Sunday of the prior month.

### **THE ENEWS**

Send articles to [uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org) only.

The eNews is published once a week on Wednesday or Thursday, with an occasional weekend reminder.

### **ORDER OF SERVICE & SUNDAY BULLETIN**

Send all announcements and info to [sunday@uuclvpa.org](mailto:sunday@uuclvpa.org).

Deadline is Thursday at noon.

UUCLV

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