



THE UU-LINK

July 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

July Services

July 1

Freedom

Susan Weber

As we approach the anniversary of our declaration of freedom from England and it's King let's reflect on the different kinds of freedom, and look at what some of Unitarian Universalist Ancestors had to say.

July 8

Amazing Grace

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck

What does it mean to have grace in our lives? How can we offer it to another? We will explore these ideas as well as the history behind the well-loved hymn "Amazing Grace" which continues to be sung 250 years later.

July 15

Reclaiming Sabbath

Rev. Libby Smith

"Just to be is a blessing," said Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. But in our fast-paced world, with its expectation that we be plugged in and ready to respond at a moment's notice, we have lost the art of "just being." Can we reclaim the sabbath time that is crucial to our well-being?

July 22

Profiles in Courage

Tara Stephenson

John F. Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage" tells about 8 brave US Senators. It's time to update this with more "profiles in courage"!

July 29

Are You Joking

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck

The world is always with us in its complexity and conflict. Sometimes we need a respite from the everyday issues that bombard our senses. We will look at humor in religion to lighten our mood; expect a chuckle or two along the way.

DonSense – by Rev. Don Garrett

July: Vacation Time!

We stay pretty busy here at UUCLV, but things do slow down a bit in the summer – and I'm slowing down a bit, too. I'm taking the month of July as vacation. Not to worry, though. We've lined up some great services for July, including our old friends, the Revs. Richard Speck and Libby Smith.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "In this refulgent summer, it has been a luxury to draw the breath of life. The grass grows, the buds burst, the meadow is spotted with fire and gold in the tint of flowers. The air is full of birds, and sweet with the breath of the pine, and the new hay. Night brings no gloom to the heart with its welcome shade. Through the transparent darkness the stars pour their almost spiritual rays. The mystery of nature was never displayed more happily."

Thank you, Rev. Robin Capoor!

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Robin, who volunteered this past year in our pastoral care program. Though she's stepped aside from that role, she is continuing as our Affiliated Community Minister.

Joanna Herron, currently serving as a chaplain at St. Luke's, has volunteered to step in for emergency coverage during my time away.

Questions? Sermon!

UU's are known for their questioning attitudes. Prove it! Send me your questions and I'll do my best to answer as many as I can in August.

My email is: minister@uuclvpa.org. I'm looking forward to an inbox full of curiosity.

Mindfulness Schedule Update

Our Mindfulness Practice group, which meets at 7 pm Tuesday evenings in the Community Room, is modifying its schedule for the summer (as usual). We'll be meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. That means: July 10 & 24 and August 14 & 28. Come and enjoy all the wonders of mindfulness.

I look forward to returning in August, refreshed and ready to bring you all the riches of our recent General Assembly in Kansas City. UUCLV is on the brink of some wonderful transitions, and so is the Unitarian Universalist Association. Let's let ourselves get excited about it. We're looking forward to a rosy – if complicated – future together.

See you in church.

– Don

FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we begin our new church year, our 70th, thank you all for your confidence in electing me as board president. I hope to honor your trust by listening to your comments, concerns and ideas, and, with board members, other leadership, and our minister, lead us forward as we enter our next 70 years.

I've read that how a congregation begins is how it will become. UUCLV began as an idea of Jeanne Goodin, who, with a group of like-minded people, first met as a Fellowship at the Americus Hotel in Allentown in 1948. One purpose was to be together in unity.

Today, being a compassionate community is our core value, and we covenant to support each other in times of happiness and sorrow. Recently at our Congregational workshop, we affirmed as a priority to continue as a beloved community supporting each other in happiness and sorrow, fostering a true sense of belonging. As we began, so we will move together in the future.

This year with transformational planning, we look to our future, and change can be scary; but our congregation is like the Shu tree in the Taoist story – grown old with twisted lumps and knotty bumps. Not useful for timber – but, planted in an empty field, everyone can enjoy its shade and rest freely under its shelter. We have our knots and bumps, but we are clear on our purpose to care for each other. I'm happy to be part of this.

- Cecilia Eberhard

GET YOUR MEETING / EVENT ON THE UUCLV CALENDAR

Urgent! A reminder that the UUCLV church calendar gets wiped clean on July 1, the start of our new church year. Please use the Room Reservation form on our UUCLV website to schedule all regularly recurring events – like committee meetings, films, classes, etc – as well as one-time events like the Spaghetti Dinner or Plant Sale. This includes events you posted on the wall calendars at the recent Program Council meeting, where did calendaring for 2018-19. Questions? Contact the office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

SAVE THE DATE! UUCLV 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

September 22 - Open House for the congregation and for the community .

September 23 - Jubilee Service

September 23 - Anniversary Dinner for the congregation.

Read the past. See the future.

CHAPERONES NEEDED FOR UUCLV EVENT RENTALS

The UUCLV is looking for adult church members and friends interested in working as paid chaperones for party/event rentals at the church. Event chaperoning is generally a 9 hour shift, usually Saturday mid-afternoon until 11pm+. The pay rate had just been increased to \$15 an hour. The rental events are usually parties or showers, with food, alcohol, and music, with 70-150 attendees.

Chaperones work solo, and need to know the church / facility extremely well; are given sole responsibility for the entire building, safety, liability and security during the event; and serve as church representative and ambassador, event manager, security person, mediator, and enforcer. Chaperones need to insure that UUCLV / rental contract rules are followed, and that our neighbors are respected. The chaperone also inspects the building at the event's end to determine security deposit status.

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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SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT!

We wanted to share with the greater Lehigh Valley our joy with now having handicap access to all four floors of our building. So we did a press release! Below, in part, is our announcement! Share the news! – *Dora Davenport*

“A 70-year-old congregation in Bethlehem’s Historic District has installed an elevator to service its four-story 19th Century building to provide greater access to members and friends. The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV), 424 Center Street, completed the elevator in early June to enhance access for its members, friends and the community at large for use of its second floor sanctuary for religious services, weddings, concerts, and public events.

“It is extremely important to our members and friends that we provide access to those with all ranges of ability, including those using wheel chairs and walkers,” says outgoing Congregational President Cease Blocker.

NEED A CHURCH DIRECTORY?

The current church directory of UUCLV members and friends is available for members at the Welcome Table during Coffee Hour after the church service. If there are any corrections for future printings, please contact Cari Poole, Membership Chair and Kate Scuffle, the Church Administrator, at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

THE JULY SHARED PLATE:

This month the shared plate offering will be for our local LEPOCO Peace Center and it's summer day camp, who's mission for the last 50 years is to bring residents together to work on a range of problems that threaten peace and our planet.

UUCLV OFFICE NOTES

THE AUGUST UU-LINK:

The submission deadline for the **August issue** of The UU-Link is the 3rd Sunday of the previous month: **July 15**. Please submit all of your photos, articles and text info (as Word files) to thelink@uuclvpa.org. Submissions may be edited for length, format, content, etc.

JULY BREAKFAST FORUM

July 1

The Story of God II w/Morgan Freeman Cease Blocker, Presenter

"The Chosen One" Almost every faith has a figure believed chosen by God. Freeman goes in search of the chosen people walking the earth today, including the new Dali Lama, religious shamans; Muslim, Sikh, and Taoist people who show divine inspiration, etc.

July 8

Beacon Press and the Pentagon Papers

Victor Madeja, Presenter

President Nixon was disgraced when the heroic publishing of the Pentagon Papers revealed that he was lying to the public about his losing Vietnam War strategy. Victor will discuss the historical facts of how the Beacon Press, our UUA publisher, agreed to publish volumes of Daniel Ellsberg's stolen Pentagon Papers from the government and was about to be prosecuted by Hoover's FBI.

July 15

Life as a Theravada Buddhist Monk

Bhante Dhammawansa, Presenter

A Theravada Buddhist monk since his youth, Bhante will share his life story, from a novice monk in Sri Lanka to becoming the Senior Monk at the Dhamma Wheel Meditation Society in Clearwater, Fl. He'll talk about how one's own efforts, and meditation, are vital to the path towards enlightenment. He'll follow his talk by leading us in a Loving Kindness meditation.

July 22

Gratitude

Annie Marans, MSN, RN, Presenter

Experts have linked gratitude to a host of physical, psychological, spiritual and social benefits. Come and enjoy discussing ideas about the benefits, myths and possible blocks to Gratitude. Annie enjoys years of facilitating group discussions, and is a recent graduate of both a two year Interfaith Studies and a Heart Centered Meditation program

July 29

Human Evolution: Latest Science, Fascinating Questions

Richard A. Mathisen, Presenter

Scientists have learned a huge amount about human evolution in the past 20-30 years. They believe during the last 5 million years there were big developments in five areas. We will explore the Evolution of the Body, of Emotions and Marriage, of Cooperation and Morality, of Language, and of Tool Use. Richard will provide an overview and lead a discussion.



FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Recently the Religious Education committee concluded that so much of our mission that overlaps with the Worship Committee, the two committees should work together. We have identified several topics for discussion: how to include children and families in worship services; how to make multi-generational services more appealing and interesting to children; exploring ways to involve youth and young adults in the worship experience. With the introduction of the ability to project images, movies and text, there are some exciting and new ways to do that. Many adults have told me they enjoy seeing the illustrations that go along with the story for all ages. As a result, I have altered the type of book that I choose to ones that are visually interesting. Others appreciate being able to view the words to the hymns on the screen. We have demonstrated the concept of using projected images during worship. Who could have predicted that installing the elevator would have made that possible? We haven't even scratched the surface of what is possible using video. I hope that we can find the resources to install a more powerful and permanent audio/visual system. It will be a big investment, but I believe a crucial one if we want to bring our worship service into the 21st century.

In faith, **Jansen Wendell**,
Dir of Lifespan Religious Education
lec@uucvpa.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

SUMMER CURRICULUM: *Let the Force be With You* a Jedi curriculum. This 10-session summer program is designed to bring spiritual/ethical lessons from Star Wars into a cohesive program for children. The program will start on June 17th and run until the end of August.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

WHAT ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASS WOULD YOU LIKE US TO OFFER?

Now is a great time to make your preferences known. Are you interested in faith development, social or racial

justice issues, or a support group? There are some new programs from the UUA such as Spirit in Practice, which was created to help Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help them connect with the sacred ground of their being, however they understand it. Other familiar curricula are Building Your Own Theology, and Our Whole Lives for adults. Perhaps you would like something more open-ended such as a discussion group about an important topic such as journaling, end-of life issues or raising spiritual children. Let Jansen Wendell know what you would like at lec@uucvpa.org.

MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

(Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:15pm, the Community Room)

Starting in July, the group will switch to alternating Tuesdays. Keep an eye out for the details. For more info, contact Janice Lovegrove at lvjspirit@aol.com. We meet 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.

RE CALENDAR - JULY / AUGUST:

Sun, July 1 thr August: Summer RE for K-6th continues

Sun, July 1: (Lesson 3): Red Sabers - Respect All People

Sun, July 8 (Lesson 4): Orange Lightsaber - Offer Fair and Kind Treatment to All

Sun, July 15 (Lesson 5): Yellow Lightsaber – Yearn to Accept & Learn about Ourselves, Others & the Mystery

Sun, July 22 (Lesson 6): Green Lightsaber – Grow by Exploring What is True and Right in Life

Sun, July 29 (Lesson 7): Blue Lightsaber – Believe in Our Ideas and Act on Them

Sun, August 5 (Lesson 8): Indigo Lightsaber – Insist on a Peaceful, Fair and Free World for All

Sun, August 12 (Lesson 9): Violet Lightsaber – Value Our Home, Earth, that We Share with All Living Things

Sun, August 19 (Lesson 10) - Lightsabers in Action

Sun, August 26: Star Wars party

Sat, September 8 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm): Teacher Training



THINGS TO DO W/UU'S IN JULY

There are a few fun and get-together events that still have slots open for you to join in during June and July 2018. If you are interested in joining-in please contact Dora Davenport per email at doradavenport@msn.com, or call cell: 201-247-2427, or tell her at church..

BICYCLE RIDE & ICE CREAM TREAT – July 14th – 2:00 pm - \$5/pp – with Cecilia Collura-Eberhard - bike from Hellertown to Coopersburg – 2 available
A nice easy scenic bike ride along the Saucon Rail Trail from Hellertown to Coopersburg (6 miles) to Inside Scoop. Stop for ice cream treat of your choice, then return ride to Hellertown. This is a family friendly outing and for all ages.

IF I HAD 5 WISHES – July 18th – 2:00 pm - \$18/pp - Home of Robin Capoor & Dora Davenport - 6 available

An opportunity to write a unique reflection of your life. Robin will guide you through the process of creating your obituary. It will give you time to focus on what still needs to be added to your bucket list. High tea will be served after the workshop. Home is fully air conditioned.

POOL PARTY – July 28th – 1:00 pm - \$40/pp – Home of Frank & Judy Claps – 12 available (rain date Aug 11th)
Enjoy an afternoon of great pool water, fantastic food and drink. Fun for all! Stay as long as you like throughout the afternoon.

UPCOMING AT THE FOURTH FRIDAY FILMS SERIES

July 27 - "The Big Money Agenda" is a documentary about money in politics by local film makers Vince Mondillo and Richard Master.

August 24 - "It Happens Right Here: Human Trafficking in the Lehigh Valley". We'll shine a light on this problem with a documentary and discussion

September 28 - "The Empire's War on the Border" looks at the immigration issue and what we can do about it.

LEPOCO PEACE CAMP

The **Young People Making Peace Day Camp** is an opportunity for youth to participate in songs, crafts, non-competitive games and learning activities that emphasize peaceful solutions. It runs mornings from July 23 -27, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. Children ages 5 to 14 are welcome. There is a sliding –scale fee and scholarships for those in need.

The camp is sponsored by the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern and staffed by volunteers who are dedicated to empowering children with peace-making skills. If you have questions or seek a registration form, see Elizabeth Griner.

UUCLV MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the UUCLV Men's Group will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 2 in the FM kitchen. The topic will be: If you had to have given a faith statement at age 14-15, what would it have been? Why? How might it have changed over the years? Why?

The UUCLV Men's Group is open to all affiliated with the church high school age and older and their friends regardless of gender. Please bring food and/or beverage to be shared. For more information, contact Frank Claps at 610-346-7629 or men@uuclvpa.org.

Thank You All !!!!!

Once again our church community has opened up their hearts to those less fortunate. Our Wednesday Night Showers has become not only a night where bodies can be refreshed but also a gathering of friends with a safe place to talk and to enjoy refreshments for a few hours. We will continue this outreach into the summer. Your continued support is appreciated by our volunteers and guests. We like to offer clean socks and underwear when needed and our stock has diminished. If you get a chance and think of it when you are out and about; we could use some men's socks and large and xlarge underwear. Thank you again for supporting this effort.

GO UUCLV !!!!!

UU'S LEARN TOOLS FOR ENDING THE MONEY BAIL SYSTEM

by Elaine McArdle, *UU World Magazine*

Every day, thousands of people are held in jails across the US—not because they've been convicted of a crime, but because they cannot post bail. The hazards of the bail system hit people of color especially hard, because one in three black men in the U.S. will go to jail at some point, while for whites, that number is one in seventeen, according to Leslie Mac, a member of the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective.

Educating Unitarian Universalists about this money bail system, and helping congregations work to abolish it in their communities, was the focus of "Anatomy of a Bailout," a panel discussion that kicked off the three-part public witness at General Assembly 2018, June 20–24 in Kansas City. This year's GA public witness was organized by Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU).

Black people are twice as likely to be held in jail awaiting trial as white people, said Mac, who led the discussion with four panelists who are black residents of the Kansas City area. Even a short stay in jail can result in a person losing their housing, job, custody of their children, and even their life, Mac said, citing the case of Sandra Bland, who died in a Texas jail in 2015 after being pulled over for failing to signal a lane change.

"We are out to change policy, hearts, and minds" in order to move toward abolishing money bail, she said.

"It is an unjust and unfair system," said panelist Justice Gatson, a Kansas City-based organizer for the ACLU of Missouri and founder of Reale Justice Network. "Right now, it is a pay for play system: if you have some money you can get out of jail," but if not, "you are stuck in there and all kinds of things start happening to your life."

"It's usually a very minor offense that turns catastrophic and turns people's lives upside down," said Ock Blac, a formerly incarcerated man who is now a legal observer for the ACLU in Kansas City, an advocate for victims of domestic violence, and, along with Gatson and others, an organizer of the Mother's Day bailouts in Kansas City, part of a national movement to raise money to bail women out of jail on Mother's Day.

While Blac said he was not innocent of all the crimes of which he was accused, he also told of being arrested for driving without a license even though he was a

passenger and not the driver in a car that was in a parking lot and not moving. He was carrying \$500 in cash at the time, but police would not allow him to access it to pay bond, Blac said, and he was in jail for four months. He lost his job, house, and car because he couldn't make car payments.

"When I finally did get to court they dropped the charges and let me go," Blac said. "Frankly, they just beat me down, and this is one story of many."



Activists working to end money bail speak at a 2018 UUA GA public witness event organized by Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism. From left: BLUU organizer Leslie Mac, LJ Brackson, Ock Blac, Janae "Justice" Gatson of the ACLU of Missouri, and Antonio Ausler.

Panelist Antonio Ausler, a social justice activist, said he started college in January 2010 without a high school diploma or GED. He had a 4.0 average his first semester and in his second semester he earned his GED and was asked by a professor to represent the college in a state competition for media production. But after being arrested for having marijuana in his system, he sat in the Green County, Missouri, jail for 45 days, during which time his GPA dropped because he missed so much school. He spent \$2,000 at the jail commissary for phone cards and snack, "so before you ever get to see a judge or ask for discovery to see if they even have probable cause to take you to jail, you've spent" thousands of dollars, he said.

"There's a stereotype of black people in jail that it's normal. It's not," continued Ausler, who has young children. When parents are locked away or forced to use family funds for bail, "all this money is taken away from our children and they are left with scraps—and that includes our time and our money." The problem extends to the juvenile justice system, said LJ Brackson, a pastor and small-business owner whose teenaged niece is currently in jail awaiting trial.

In the past two decades, the number of people required to post a cash bond in order to be released after arrest has skyrocketed, while those released on personal recognizance has plummeted, said Mac, who has worked on bail reform for years, including in New Jersey. She said that attempts in that state to change the law were met by strong resistance by bail bondsmen, who stood to lose their livelihoods. Prosecutors use money “as leverage to force folks into guilty pleas,” she said, while people who can afford to post bail often find their cases are dismissed.

“I liken this to payday loans,” Mac said. “This is how they function in our criminal justice system—to them, every arrest is a dollar sign.”

“I’d like to see an end to cash bail for all misdemeanor offenses,” said Gatson. “There’s no need to be locking people up for this. We waste money everyday by incarcerating people instead of paying for healthcare or education or something that would be good for them.”

Side with Love and Love Resists have partnered with BLUU for a long-term strategy on ending money bail, including creating a congregational toolkit that will be available soon, Mac said, adding, “The key to strategy is local organization, political education, and developing policy intervention that ensure reforms to money bail.”

Nearly 100 UUs attended the panel discussion and asked Mac and panelists for concrete advice on how their congregations can get involved in ending money bail. “You have to move from being an ally to a co-conspirator,” urged Gatson.

The panelists had this advice:

- Build relationships with local organizations of people of color; don’t expect immediate trust, but build it over time, said Gatson.
- Learn how to take direction from people of color and ask what they need instead of telling them what you think they need. Make sure people of color are centered. “We’re gonna free ourselves, okay?” said Gatson. “We might need your help along the way on this underground railroad, but you ain’t Harriet Tubman.”
- Work with your local ACLU chapter and other local organizations on the issue of bail reform.
- Criminal justice procedures and rules vary from state to state, and even county to county. Know the law

in your location.

Organize court sit-ins to observe what’s happening in your local courts. “Most people are there by themselves, they don’t have any support,” said Ausler. “Get a group together and do some sit-ins and get familiar with how court is supposed to be held.” Court Watch NOLA does excellent work that other states can model, and the ACLU can help with training for sit-ins, Gatson said.

- Talk to your local district attorneys and prosecutors, demanding reform of the system.
- UU congregations can offer space for reform groups to hold policy and other meetings, Gatson urged. Offering free childcare is also very helpful, said Mac.
- Congregations can do an assessment of all the resources they have to offer—for example, someone who is good at helping write resumes for job-hunters—and share this list with local partners. “Be very clear on what you have to offer, and provide a way for them to get in touch with you,” Mac said.
- Understand that “some of us as blacks, we walk around with chips on our shoulder. It has to do with the pressures that are on us,” said Ausler. He urges white people to understand that “just a smile will help with the distance that’s between us.”
- “Don’t pretend you’re colorblind,” advised Brackson. “God made color and all of it is beautiful. Don’t be scared of it, acknowledge it, be real, be yourself.”

Understand the issues that black people face and support them, Brackson said. “I’m part of a demographic that makes up only 13 percent of the population. Thirteen percent of the vote never wins, so be there” in a relationship of support.

This year’s public witness led by BLUU includes two other prongs: the Care Package Build Project, in which UUs are helping build 1,000 domestic violence care packages for people in the Kansas City area who are dealing with homelessness due to domestic violence, and a hands-on project for people of color and indigenous people at Uzazi Village, which works to decrease black infant mortality and racially based perinatal health inequities through the promotion of culturally congruent care, childbirth education, breastfeeding, and more.

--Submitted by Rev. Don Garrett

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Address Service Requested

TODAY < > July 2018 🔍 Month ⚙️ 📅 🌙

Sun Jul 1	Mon 2	Tue 3	Wed 4	Thu 5	Fri 6	Sat 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Breakfast Forum-CR ● 10:30am Sunday Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6:30pm Men's Group: FM 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Board Mtg: CR 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am RE Comm Retreat: CR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Breakfast Forum-CR ● 10:30am Sunday Service ● 12pm Action Planning Comm: CR 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Breakfast Forum-CR ● 10:30am New Member signing: Sanctu ● 10:30am Sunday Service ● 5pm The UU-Link deadline 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Breakfast Forum-CR ● 10:30am Sunday Service ● 11:45am Town Hall-CR 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Link Mailing Party: FM 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Breakfast Forum-CR ● 10:30am Sunday Service 			Aug 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Board Mtg: CR 		