



THE UU-LINK

August 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

August Services

August 7

Living With Reverence

Libby Smith

Reverence has been defined as a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe. It's common to all faiths and cultures, and fundamental to the religious or spiritual life.

August 14

How Great is Your Love?

Tara Stephenson

The size of your loving may be more important than what you believe. Let's explore this idea together!

August 21

Breaking Down Barriers

Libby Smith

So often we say we come to church to be with "like-minded people." But religion needs to be about more than connecting to people like ourselves. It asks us to reach across boundaries and to cross borders to connect with and appreciate and learn from those people we perceive as different.

August 28

An Oasis for Free Thinkers

Rev. Robin Capoor

A look at how a deeper understanding of "oasis" can enrich our Beloved Community.

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



Touching Our Soul With Music

Recently, I was fortunate enough to spend a few days in Nashville, TN, “The Music City”, singing in the barbershop harmony society’s international contest. Nashville’s moniker is well-deserved. Broadway the side streets are packed with musicians pouring out their songs in the hope of being discovered. The doors remain open. All you need to do is walk down the street to fill your heart with outstanding music.

I spent a lot of time listening to the best barbershop quartets and choruses in the world, and came home changed for the better, reliving many touching moments in song. I was reminded of the power of music of any style – barbershop, classical, country, jazz, pop, and even hip-hop.

Music inspires us, comforts us, moves us, delights us, and, yes, fills our souls with something bigger than ourselves. At the UUCLV, we are so blessed to be surrounded with music. Larry does an outstanding job guiding the Beacons to fill our hearts so lovingly. Thank you, Larry!

Our Second Sunday concert series offers opportunities to fill ourselves with the finest in many genres of music. Thanks to Sue and Jan Phillips, Allen Zinnes, Pat Herring, Larry Lipkis, John Diamant, Bob Cohen, Ellen Bell, and Barb Forry (apologies to anyone I missed) for enriching us with the highest quality of music.

Recently, I got an email from a gentleman who is a member of another local church. He and his wife have visited the UUCLV many times, and his wife was so moved by our hymnals that he wanted to obtain a set of them for her birthday. Even our every-day music is special!

Yes, we are truly blessed to have music surround us. The next time you see Larry or one of the Beacons, make it a point to thank them for their gift...for touching your heart and your soul.

-- **Bob Kriebel**, Board President

ARE YOU ON OUR NEW CALENDAR?

Every year, on July 1, the UUCLV Church calendar becomes a blank slate. So - we need you to use the Room Reservation form on the UUCLV website to help us update our church calendar with all your monthly meetings and annual events for 2016-17.

Fill out the Room Reservation form, 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 Room Reservation form, just email the office at uucv@uucvpa.org. Thanks for your help!

GROCERY CARD AND EQUAL EXCHANGE FUNDRAISING TEAM

Every Sunday Giant and Weis grocery cards and Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate are on sale at the coffee hour after church. The sale of these items provides funds that benefit the UUCLV. Rory Maruschak has headed the grocery card and Equal Exchange fundraising team for several years. She has now decided to give someone else the pleasure of taking charge of this project. We have recently added some new volunteers to the sales team, but we need someone to take charge of keeping up the inventory by ordering cards and coffee/chocolate periodically. Rory will stay on as a member of the team and will train all of our new volunteers including the new team leader. Please stop by our table next Sunday at coffee hour and say YES

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

424 Center Street, Bethlehem PA 18018

Office Phone: 610-866-7652

The Minister: minister@uucvpa.org

Office Email: uucv@uucvpa.org

The Sexton: sexton@uucvpa.org

Religious Education: lec@uucvpa.org

The Link email: thelink@uucvpa.org

Sunday Bulletin & OOS: sunday@uucvpa.org

The eNews: uucvnews@uucvpa.org

We're on the web at www.uucvpa.org

THE CENTER & WALL STREET JOURNAL June 2016

We completed our 2015-16 church fiscal year on June 30 and I'm happy to report that UUCLV finished the year just barely 'in the black', and we are in reasonable financial shape heading into 2016-17. A summary of our income and expenses through June 2016 is as follows:

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Total income	\$ 311.1K	\$ 321.1K
Total pledge payments	\$ 211.8K	\$ 215.2K
Total Fundraising	\$ 22.0K	\$ 28.9K
Total Rental Income	\$ 57.7K	\$ 39.8K
Total expenses	\$ 317.0K	\$ 320.9K
Operating Surplus		\$ 149

Further details are available in the monthly financial reports posted on the UUCLV website.

Thanks to total pledge payments over budget, strong fundraising income, unanticipated non-pledge contributions, and most expenses at budgeted amounts, we were able to end up with a small surplus without the anticipated need to tap into our reserves. This was in spite of losing significant rental income and taking on some added employee expenses during the year. If you've not completed your pledge payments for last year please do so as soon as possible. If you have – thank you.

Looking ahead to the new church year remember that our expenses never stop – even during the summer. If you've prepaid some or all of your 2016-17 pledge – thank you for helping our cash flow. Pledge payments make up the lion's share of our income, so it is important that we all start paying and stay current with our new year pledge commitments.

The three year payment period for our Capital Campaign ended on April 30. While we've formally ended the program we are still accepting payments from those who have not completed their capital pledge commitments. As of June 30 over \$473K in Capital pledge payments have been received, 95% out of a total of \$500K pledged. Final planning continues for the most extensive and expensive capital improvement task in our long range plan - improving church access.

We invite anyone to join our Finance Committee. Contact any member of the Finance Committee if you'd like to participate in the financial life of our church.

-- **Allen Zinnes**, *Former UUCLV Treasurer*

AUGUST BREAKFAST FORUM

August 7

Dance As Spiritual Practice

Sarah Carlson, Presenter

How can dance be a spiritual practice? How can movement be a form of prayer? Sarah Carlson will discuss her experience as an artist and educator. This forum will include an impromptu performance and invite audience participation in moving exploration

August 14

The First Story Tellers

Cease Blocker, Presenter

From the PBS series, Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth with Bill Moyers, Campbell discusses the importance of accepting death as rebirth as in the myth of the buffalo and the story of Christ, the rite of passage in primitive societies, the role of mythical Shamans and the decline of ritual in today's society.

August 21

1916 The Irish Rebellion: When Myth and History Rhyme

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 to follow this showing of the final episode in the series.

August 28

TBD

TBD, Presenter



FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Spirit of Life

As Director of Lifespan Religious Education, August tells me it is time to turn my attention to classes for adults as well as children. Although my job title contains the phrase *education*, I prefer the phrase *faith development*. The word education implies that the class leader will be teaching other people's knowledge to the participants. Most of the programs in the UUA's Tapestry of Faith curricula are more about helping each participant to be able to identify and articulate and deepen their own beliefs. As I looked at the menu of program offerings, one caught my eye in particular because of its relevance to a ritual we all share every Sunday – the singing of the hymn Spirit of Life after we share our joys and concerns. The program *Spirit of Life* is a 9-session workshop based on the song we sing every Sunday. To quote the description from the introduction:

Many Unitarian Universalists find the song deeply meaningful. Its imagery is beautiful. Its words are inclusive of Unitarian Universalists all along our theological spectrum. Its tune grows on its singers and listeners, and many use the song to help themselves grow...

Barbara Hamilton-Holway's Spirit of Life program seeks to be like the song from which it derives its name and bring meaning, beauty, inclusivity, and growth to Unitarian Universalist adults as they deepen their spiritual awareness and connections.

During each session, participants examine a phrase of the song. Session 1, Spirit of Life, introduces the group to each other and explores what our spiritual practices are. Workshop 2, Sing in My heart, is about celebrations and rituals. Workshop 3, The Stirrings of Compassion, is about Caring for One Another, and so on as we work our way through the phrases of the song. I am pleased to say that Rev. Robin Capoor will co-lead the program with me. Details, such as dates and times, will be worked out in August.

It's kind of odd how little time we spend as UU's thinking about what we believe. We tend to skip the theology part and go straight to the doing part – getting

involved in social justice issues or in assisting the needy, or doing important committee work. There is nothing wrong with that. Making the world a better place is a core value of Unitarianism and Universalism. It's something of which we can be very proud. Nevertheless, we miss something when we skip the *being* part before we go to the *doing*. When we are connected with our religious or spiritual selves, we access a deeper motivation for doing our work: we are more patient with others; we tend to have a wider perspective; when we accomplish a task, there is a deeper satisfaction to it.

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.

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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.

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UUCLV SERVICE AUCTION

SAVE THE DATE :

Saturday, November 19, 2016 – 4:00 pm

The plans, the theme and meal for our annual service auction event are currently under construction. The committee minds are at work!

This newsletter article is just to get you to mark your calendar and save the date. All details will be available soon!

But for now think about what you can offer to the auction making it the best yet!

Any suggestions, questions and comments are accepted at auction@uuclvpa.org or see Dora Davenport.

UUCLV STAND UP FOR UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

On Thursday, July 9th, members of UUCLV were present at the Cease Fire PA rally in Allentown demanding universal background checks for any gun purchases. Phil Reiss, Tom Ulrich, Nancy Weston, Tara Stephenson, Sue Phillips, and Robin Capoor were on hand to make the case, one more time, for the need to register gun sales in order to save lives.

Organized by Cease Fire Pa and the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, the rally brought together approximately sixty people from around the Lehigh Valley who want to see the loss of life caused by firearms end. Speakers from the various organizations as well city and state government highlighted some of the very personal costs of not requiring background checks. For more information about Cease Fire PA, find Nancy Weston at coffee hour some Sunday and she will fill you in on the details.

HOSPITALITY REPORT

Hospitality for August will be provided by the North group led by Cheryl Lombardi and Dora Davenport. If you live in zip codes 18017, 18031, 18032, 18051, 18052, 18059, 18067, 18078 or 18080, please give of your time to be a greeter, usher or snack provider. Snacks do not need to be homemade, store bought is just fine. You will receive an invitation to participate from Cheryl and Dora through Volunteer spot (soon to be SignUp.com). Please sign up to help make our Sunday mornings welcoming for members and visitors.

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

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.

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 for more information.

August 26

GERRYMANDERING

The videos and panel discussion will deal with the issue of how we decide who draws the lines for the election districts in Pennsylvania. The panel will include representatives from Common Cause PA, League of Women Voters PA, a representative from State Senator Boscola's office, and PA Representative David Parker

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 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 UU-LINK PIZZA PARTY!

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Mailing Party!

Every month, volunteers meet in the FM kitchen at 12 noon on the 2nd Wednesday 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 be on **Wednesday, August 31**, 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.

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ADOPT-A-WINDOW PROJECT

"When are you going to paint those outside window frames?" The question was asked at The UUCLV Annual Meeting in June and was heard loud and clear by Dora Davenport on the Property Committee and others including Margo Dixon and Karen West. This painting project is not in the 2016-17 budget because of the cost, but the job is sorely needed.

So an idea was born—ask members to "adopt a window" with a donation just for that cause. Call it Adopt-a Window! The Finance Committee heard this proposal in July and suggested a temporary loan so the work could be done this fall. Get the windows painted because they look bad and could further deteriorate the woodwork, the Finance Committee said. The next night, July 7th, the Board approved the idea unanimously.

Since this cost is outside of the yearly pledge that supports Church operations, we need to raise approximately \$22,000. With roughly 31 fixtures (windows, wooden louvers and other wood), this comes to \$700 per window.

Here is how it works. You can give the full sum of \$700 or partner with someone to adopt a window for painting. Church committees or others can band together to pay for a window. You will receive a letter explaining this project in August. If you can't give now, you can adopt a window and meet your commitment by June 1, 2017 so that the loan can be paid off.

Checks will be administered by The UUCLV Treasurer, Jan Phillips, and can be mailed to The UUCLV—Adopt-a-Window Campaign, in an envelope provided in the August mailing or can be placed in the Sunday collection basket with "Adopt-a-Window Project" in the memo line.

When your "adoption" money is received, you will get a receipt for this tax deductible contribution to the Church. The Property Committee plans this work to begin this fall to avoid another winter with the potential for additional damage from snow, rain and cold temperatures. We will keep you updated, but you will know what's happening when you see scaffolding along beside the building.

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 FM 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, phone, 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 robincaoor@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.

Bethlehem, PA 18018

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Today		<	>	August 2016		Day	Week	Month	4 Days	Agenda	More ▾	⚙
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat						
31 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12:10p Hospitality: FM/Brid 12:10p Sunday Hospitality-	Aug 1	2 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 7p Social Action: FM	3 10 Ricker: Kitchen 7p HAVEN: Rm 100/CR 7:15p Finance: RE Lib	4 12p Zuzu: Kitchen 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 7p Board Mtg: CR	5	6						
7 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service	8 7:15p Social Action: FM	9 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym	10 10 Ricker: Kitchen 2p Conicelli: Kitchen 7p HAVEN: Rm 100/CR 7p J Campbell Series: 304	11 12p Zuzu: Kitchen 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 7p ACLU: FM 7p Worship: RE Lib	12	13 9:30 Retreat: CR						
14 9 RE Comm: 212 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12:15p Membership: Rm 1	15	16 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym	17 10 Ricker: Kitchen 6p RE Comm Retreat:FM 7p HAVEN: Rm 100/CR	18 12p Zuzu: Kitchen 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym	19	20						
21 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12p Property: RE Lib 5p The UU-Link deadline	22	23 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym	24 10 Ricker: Kitchen 2p Conicelli: Kitchen 7p HAVEN: Rm 100/CR 7p J Campbell Series:304	25 12p Zuzu: Kitchen 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 7p Comm on Ministry: RE l	26 6p Kilo Reception: Gym	27						
28 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 11:45 Town Hall-CR 12:10p Hospitality: FM/Brid	29	30 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym	31 10 Ricker: Kitchen 12p Link Mailing Party-CR 7p HAVEN: Rm 100/CR	Sep 1 8:30 Headstart: 304 12p Zuzu: Kitchen 4p Mu Do Kan: Gym 7p Board Mtg: CR	2	3 3:30p Martinez Shower: CR						