



UUCS

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane Monthly Newsletter
CREATE COMMUNITY • FIND MEANING • WORK FOR JUSTICE

February 2019 • Volume 27 Issue 2

UPCOMING SERVICES

February 3 — Isabel Call – UUCS Intern Minister

Universalist Economics

In an environment of rapid technological change and economic turmoil, 19th century American Universalist Hosea Ballou preached a theology of abundance that disrupted the harm caused by Calvinist ideas. In this second sermon of Isabel's three-week series on economics, we bring his insights into the 21st century. Together we explore what it means to practice and preach Universalist economics, instead of scarcity, in our daily lives.

February 10 — Isabel Call and Aria Curtis

Spirit of Play

Our three-week series on economics culminates with play! In this multigenerational worship, we act out abundance and cooperation and invite our children joyfully into the game of life. Let us transform the legacy of extraction, enclosure, and exploitation we have inherited into a collective embrace of the common good. We bring a spirit of play to this serious topic, so that you can start the week dancing.

February 17 — Ariel Aaronson-Eves

Black Empowerment, Unitarian Universalism, and an Embodied Path to Healing

The General Assemblies of the late 1960s were hotly contested events, particularly as the Unitarian Universalist Association was deciding how to respond to the rising Black Power movement. In honor of Black History Month we will take a look at this period of our history, focusing on the tensions and traumas embodied in the controversy, and begin to develop body practices that may help us to heal our racialized trauma and ancestral wounds.

Ariel Aaronson-Eves is a third year Master of Divinity student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA, where she is working on combining her passions for land, food, and racial justice. She has been attending UUCS since last June.

February 24 — Rev. Todd Eklof, UUCS Minister

My Moonshot Heroes:

How Ordinary People are Changing the World in Unbelievable Ways

Ordinary individuals today have the power to transform the world in unprecedented ways. Each one of us has the power to accomplish dreams that were unimaginable just a short time ago. But old paradigms about the way things once were, are still holding us back from the mind-bending power that has been placed at our fingertips. In this sermon, we'll dismantle these paradigms by looking at a few of my own modern Moonshot Heroes.

TODD'S THOUGHTS

I've been spending some time recently studying "identity politics" and "identity ethics," because I'm concerned these incomplete theories of human nature are at the root of current social trends that have led to a new kind of segregation and tokenized racism, as well as extremism and intolerance, and some feebleness, among liberals. "The paradox of identity liberalism," Mark Lilla writes in, *The Once and Future Liberal*, "is that it paralyzes the capacity to think and act in a way that would actually accomplish the things it professes to want." I'll continue studying this phenomenon and formulating my thoughts about it more during my brief sabbatical this month. Here, I'll simply consider the meaning of the word, "identity." It originates from the Latin word, *idem*, meaning, "same." Our identity, then, is that which we consider is the same about us all the time, our same ideas, beliefs, habits, ways, likes and dislikes. I won't go into the philosophical and psychological questions that arise around the notion that any of us is or can be the "same" all the time. My concern, rather, is how our emphasis upon our own identity and our right to be "me" and the expectation others be as equally obsessed and concerned about what makes "me" unique as I am, not only seems as egocentric as it is unlikely, but also supplants an emphasis upon our common humanity and the common issues we should be coming together to address. As Fromm once complained, "Equality today means 'sameness,' rather than oneness." Given its etymology, we could take this to mean, "Equality today means 'Identity' rather than oneness, mine rather than ours, me rather than us." I prefer to place my efforts toward things that bring us together, toward the common humanity at the core of our diversity.



— Rev. Dr. Todd F. Eklof,
UUCS Minister



Vespers Service

The monthly vespers service will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. This month's service will be on Wednesday, February 13th, beginning with shared dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel, followed by a reflective time of listening and sharing at 6:30 p.m.

Candles of Care Requests

Kindling our Candles of Care each Sunday is an important part of how we create community. In order to assure a timely response, please submit any requests by calling the church office during office hours Monday through Thursday (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), or sending them via email to our Communications Manager at commanager@uuspokane.org. We cannot guarantee requests submitted after Thursday will be included during the following Sunday's services, but will try. If not, we will mention the request on the following Sunday.

BOARD SLIVERS

I am halfway through my term of office as board president and am using this slivers article as a chance to report about what your board has done so far and what we hope to accomplish before July 1st when Susan Virnig takes over.

- Graham Taylor agreed to be our treasurer. Our previous treasurer resigned eight months earlier. Although Graham spends winters in Arizona, in today's world, with email, it is not a problem. He is in constant touch with Heather and our bookkeeper and is quite active in the current budget preparations. Last month he wrote an article for the SUUN explaining a way you can save the church money if you make a payment with a credit card.
- Similarly, the board's finance team had two members resign and was without a leader. Ed and Lisa Cayous and Elissa Lowe joined the team and Wayne Attwood, with his long years of work in finances with the church, agreed to serve as chairperson. Herb Bonallo is also on the team. This newly invigorated finance team is working with the operations team to produce a budget for the next two years.
- The board has endorsed the idea of a two-year budget cycle in the interest of saving many hours of staff and volunteer time. Our hope is that, together with efforts by the generosity team, we can encourage more of the congregation to do a sustainable (automatic monthly) pledge. With a sustainable pledge and a two-year budget cycle we hope to bring more stability and long term thinking to our church finances.
- Thanks to the generosity of time that our ministerial intern, Isabel, has provided, there is hope we can get the board records (agendas, minutes, reports from the treasurer, minister and children and family ministry director) stored on the internet so that anyone with a Google account and permission can access this information. The benefit to the board and church is that it should reduce paper use and it provides for powerful editing capabilities. Many of these records are on Google Docs now and Isabel has agreed to take time at the February board meeting to help educate us.
- At the January board meeting the board will begin examining our endowment policies. A board team has done research on endowment policies in six other program size churches and we will begin a collaborative effort with the endowment team to determine if we need to bring changes in our endowment bylaws to the congregation.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to put the dates of the upcoming UUA General Assembly (GA) on your calendars. It takes place June 19th through June 23rd. I have been to several and enjoyed and was inspired by them all. If you haven't already signed up to rent a spare bedroom to one of the out-of-town attendees, I strongly encourage you to do so. The money they pay for renting your room will help support our church.

*The board of trustees meetings are usually the
4th Wednesdays 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the church.
Anyone is welcome to attend.*

Thank you,
Jerry White,
UUCS board president

WE ARE NOW STREAMING OUR SERVICES

Live streaming of our Sunday services is available by going to our homepage at www.uuspokane.org and clicking on the **Watch Services** button. You can also watch past services by following this same link. If you need to leave the sanctuary, but don't want to miss what's happening, just find our wireless network (**UUCS**) and enter the access password: **UUCSbooster**. Then go to our website at www.uuspokane.org.

The streaming access is on the homepage [▶ Watch Services](#)

Blessings for these cold months, whether you're hibernating or busy. I'm enjoying my first real winter in over a decade, though it was a bit of a relief to visit California last month. After a week with friends, colleagues, and loved ones, I returned rejuvenated and excited

for the opportunity to spend more time planning and leading worship during Todd's sabbatical. Please give me some love and honest feedback for my upcoming series on the Economics of Abundance. This is the beginning of my lifelong quest to blend two passions, theology and economic justice, and make them real for my community.

Our UUCS young adults gathered a couple times in January to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and kick off Black History Month. For our first Young Adult Circle Worship gathering, I brought some of the wisdom and beauty of ecowomanism I enjoyed while in California. This body of thought and practice grows out of the prophetic leadership and ecological sensitivity of African and African American women. You may be familiar with Alice Walker's writing, in which she shares her visceral knowledge of the ways that racism and sexism degrade our human community and play into systems of domination threatening the planet. I was blown away by one of her "daughters," Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris, who was the honored teacher at the Symposium last month at my seminary, Starr King. She brought down the house with her scholarship and operatic singing, often while rocking her new baby. May we all find ways to live such integrated passionate lives!

I'd like to take this opportunity to share a brief observation about the ways we include young adults in the community. As one of the more visible young adults, I am often approached by older church members with ideas for young adult activities, especially volunteer tasks well-suited to the able-bodied and technologically-savvy. I encourage everyone to spend a moment thinking of some alternative ways you might reach out to younger people you've seen at church. What points of commonality might you have? We are tending the tender flame of connection among young adults; it needs kindling, not logs, and breath, not gusts of wind.

Community grows conversation-by-conversation, and I am grateful daily for the nourishing connections I'm finding here among you. .

Thank you!, Isabel
internminister@uuspokane.org

Tea Time with Isabel

Mondays 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. (e. e. cummings room)

Come share gentle conversation, a cup of tea, and a macaroon. All are welcome.

Connect with Other Young Adults

Join facebook.com/groups/UUSpokaneYoungAdults/

Join groups.google.com/d/forum/uuspokaneyoungadults

And keep an eye out for 2-3 gatherings this month!

AROUND THE CHURCH

Our Hearing Loop System

UUCS has a hearing loop system in the church sanctuary/friendship hall area to assist people who have hearing loss. **And remember, when in church for services or events, if you have compatible hearing aids, switch them to T-coil or ask at the sound booth for a hearing assistance headset.**

Remember, Follow Us On Facebook

We're Cleaning Up our Compost!

Next time you're taking a dirty plate to the kitchen, you'll see that we have made it much easier to decide how to scrape your plate. Our new signs are as follows:

Compost — No meat, no paper

Recycle — Clean paper, recyclable plastic, and cans only

Garbage — Everything else!

And in the kitchen, you'll find the same easy labels on the bins under the counter.

OF INTEREST TO UUS

Buddhist Meditation Class

The nuns from the Tibetan Buddhist Sravasti Abbey are engaged in a three month silent retreat and there will be a break from mid-December through mid-January. Beginning January 14th, student-led meditation classes will be held each Monday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in our chapel through the end of March. Beginners and drop-ins are always welcome! Each class includes two meditation sessions, homework, discussion/questions, and reflection on the book, *A Fearless Heart: How the Courage to Be Compassionate Can Transform Our Lives* by Thupten Jinpa, PhD. — though it is not necessary to have the book or to have read it. Contact Susan Virnig, susan@newstories.org for more information.

Small Group Ministry

Newer congregants have, in recent months, contacted me wanting to be involved in a small group ministry. For those of you not familiar with Small Group Ministry, small groups within the church is for community building in a smaller venue within the larger congregation. Groups are generally 10-12 members, usually meet in group members' homes, generally once a month. The foci are a covenant of respect and confidentiality among members, a loose format for sharing and then exploring spiritual or meaningful themes. There are five active groups in the church. However, to develop more we need team members to help me, and more interested congregants, as well as either a newer congregant or a more-established congregant to facilitate the development of a group. Please contact me if either of those three ways to be involved speaks to you. Sincerely, Patty Bedalov, Small Group Ministry Team Leader (509) 954-0311 or pattymaryrose@gmail.com

2019-2021 Budget Summit Meetings (Two Year Review)

All Are Welcome To Attend

Budget Summit II

April 30th @ 1:00 p.m.: Thoreau Room

OPERATIONS TEAM

O-Team Meetings

Your Operations team meets regularly to discuss the daily operations of the church, address concerns of congregation members and teams, and plan how best to move the mission and vision of the congregation forward as per our Policy Governance charge. Our 1:00 p.m. meetings are held in the administration office workroom. Please check with Heather for the meeting days. Of course, all are welcome to attend the meetings. If you are unable to attend, but would like something to be put on the agenda, please contact Heather at (509) 325-6383 or heatherk@uuspokane.org.

DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

The SUUN (monthly newsletter)

Deadline for Submissions: The third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. This will be true even if there are five Thursdays in the month.

Submitting Articles to the SUUN

Please remember that any and all submissions to the SUUN must be made through this email, suun@uuspokane.org.

SUUNday FOCUS (Sunday bulletin)

Deadline for Submissions: Every Wednesday by 10:00 a.m.

Send SUUNday FOCUS submissions to focus@uuspokane.org

To join our Weekly Focus e-Newsletter and for other important email updates, please sign up on our website. Go to the homepage at www.uuspokane.org, scroll to the bottom and fill out the form "Subscribe to Our Updates." Thank you for keeping connected with UUCS!

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

CELEBRATING FAMILY MINISTRY

As a community, we are thinking quite a bit about safety this winter. We are re-examining and updating policies and procedures with that safety in mind. One of those policies being updated is that now, **as of January 1st, the religious education wing has a no-nut policy.** Some of you will have already noticed the signs, so this isn't news, but I want to make sure that everyone is aware. This policy is in place at all times and is for the safety of children in our community with severe nut allergies.

Here are some common questions I've received about this policy and their answers:

● ***What nuts can I bring with this policy?***

None. This policy applies to peanuts and tree nuts, which include walnut, almond, hazelnut, cashew, pistachio, pine nuts, and Brazil nuts.

● ***Is it really necessary to have this policy in place at all times? Why not just on Sunday mornings?***

Quite often at events, particularly large ones, crumbs make their way into strange places. Nuts may fall into couch cushions and residue from our fingers can make its way onto door handles. It is logistically easier to maintain a no-nut policy, rather than require that each time there is an event or meeting where someone may have brought nuts that they thoroughly sanitize everything in the room and remove all waste.

● ***Does this include baked goods or cooked food with nuts?***

Yes.

● ***Does it include peanut butter? What about almond or cashew butter?***

Yes. Sunbutter is sometimes a good alternative to all three of these, as sunflower seeds are not tree nuts and people with peanut allergies are not usually also allergic to sunflower seeds. However, sunflower seeds are often produced on equipments shared with peanuts, so please read labels carefully.

● ***If someone brings something to an event that has nuts, what do I do?***

Remove the nuts: you can throw them away in the church garbage in the kitchen or the person who brought them can leave the item in their car. Make sure anyone who touched the nuts/food washes their hands immediately. If you are concerned that nut crumbs may have been left behind, please clean up thoroughly and [let me know](#).

● ***Does this also apply to sunflower seeds? What about coconut?***

It does not apply to sunflower seeds, with caution. While sunflower seeds are not tree nuts and people with peanut allergies are not usually also allergic to sunflower seeds, sunflower seeds are often produced on equipment shared with peanuts, so please read labels carefully.

It does not apply to coconut or coconut oil. Although in 2006 the FDA began identifying coconut as a tree nut, most people with tree nut allergies are not also allergic to coconut and it is not typically restricted in the diets of people with a tree nut allergy.

● ***Can't people with nut allergies just not eat the nuts?***

Nut allergies are not quite as simple as just not eating the nuts. They can be unpredictable and those with severe allergies can have a reaction even from trace amounts. It is worth noting that the spaces we are currently applying this

Our community includes children with severe nut allergies. For their safety, please note:

THE UUCS RE WING IS A

NUT FREE ZONE

This includes all types of nuts.

THIS POLICY IS IN EFFECT AT ALL TIMES.

policy to are also spaces where the children in our community spend most of their time. They are still learning to navigate the world and cannot be expected to know how to find out if something has nuts in it every single time.

Tree nuts can be found in some unexpected places, like cereal, crackers, pesto, or candy. So it is a good rule of thumb to make it a practice to read the label!

Thank you all for your understanding and care for the children in our community,

Aria Curtis

Director of Children and Family Ministry

THANK YOU!

Staff would like to lift up the work of Dan Schaffer, Don Willingham, Harry Tweedie, and Ed and Lisa Cayous. The five of them moved the accordion wall from the Sanger Room to the Thoreau Room, which has been an immense improvement for Children's Chapel. Jean Larson and Lila Girvin have been leading the charge for repainting the Thoreau Room, and Jean has been working hard with a small group of people to paint a beautiful flower mural in the room. The mural has already brightened the space and the kids are excited about it. An enormous thank you to all those who helped with these projects!

PARENT NIGHT OUT

friday, february 8
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Don't forget to sign up for the next Parent Night Out on February 8th!

While you get an evening to yourself, the kiddos will get to have a pizza dinner, experiment with water conservation, and watch an episode of Mr. Rogers. Drop-off begins at 6:00 p.m. and pick-up is by 10:00 p.m. Parent Night Out is open to kids under the age of 13 and space is limited to 20 kids. Click [here](#) to sign up!

Big conversations are happening at the Parent Support Group!

Join us on Saturday, February 9th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and/or Monday, February 25th from 6:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. to connect and share wisdom with other UUCS parents. Childcare and snacks provided, no sign-up necessary.

UUCS Parent Support Group

2nd Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
4th Mondays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
in the young room

For more information about any of the above, please contact Acting Director of Children and Family Ministry, Aria Curtis, at re@uuspokane.org or by calling the main office at 509-325-6383.

FROM YOUR TREASURER

This is a report on the first half of FY 2018/19, i.e. July the through December 2018.

In my last financial report (published in the November edition of the SUUN) I commented on the variability of our finances. I also explained that we needed to utilize a “seasonal” budget because we have some income sources and expenditures that are expected to be far from uniform over the full fiscal year. Income from the General Assembly (“GA”), to be held in June 2019, will be by far the most significant of these. In addition, this is not a “balanced budget”, but projects a surplus of income over expenditures of approximately \$8,000 for the entire year. As previously reported, the UUSC Board of Trustees took several actions to reduce expenditures in FY 2018/19 because they thought that the original budget might have been overly ambitious.

Actual income exceeded budgeted income by over \$7,200 for the half year. Pledges were about \$7,300 higher than our budget, but this was almost exactly canceled out by a \$7,100 deficit in “non-pledged donations” (e.g. revenue from the Sunday services and donations that are not part of a member’s pledge). The “all other” category of income (which includes an \$8,800 contribution from our Endowment Fund) was about \$6,600 above expectations. This is misleading, because this category included about \$6,400 of income that should really be attributed to the next two quarters. **So, taking everything into account, income was roughly in line with expectations.**

The expenditures side followed a familiar pattern of modest underspending in all categories. “Ministerial services” (which includes Isabel, our ministerial intern) was about \$3,000 lower than budget, largely because Todd did not spend much on his “professional expenses”. “Music and worship”, “Children and Family Ministry” and “Administration” were all 1-2% below their budgets. “Building and Grounds” tends to be one of the more volatile categories of expenditures, and this came in about \$2,600 (or 6%) below budget. The “all other” category of expenditures was \$3,900 below budget, largely because the Risk Management team did not spend very much. **Overall, expenditures were \$12,300 less than budgeted.** Note that this is relative to the revised budget after the board had cut various expenditures, not the original budget passed by the congregation.

Putting all these numbers together, we achieved a surplus of income over expenditures of almost \$12,500 in the first half FY 2018/19. If we subtract the \$6,400 of income that really belongs to 2019, this reduces effective excess to \$6,100, whereas our seasonal budget expected us to lose \$7,100. Combining these two numbers you could say that **for the first half of FY 2018/19 we did \$13,200 better than predicted**, thanks largely to our good control of expenditures.

Don’t get the champagne bottles out yet! Some categories are quite volatile and we may see a different pattern in the remaining two quarters of the fiscal year. The numbers that I monitor the most closely are the pledges received and the “non-pledged donations”. Taken together, these were right in line with our budget expectations for the first half of FY 2018/19. We do have a history of holding expenditures below budget, so if our income remains strong, then we should have a successful fiscal year.

Graham Taylor,
UUCS Treasurer

P.S. If you find some of these numbers confusing you are in good company! There are many similar numbers and the seasonality (especially GA coming at the end of the fiscal year), together with the non-balanced budget can lead to puzzling results.

UUCS Income & Expenditure July – Sept 2018

Income			
	Actual	Budget	Actual minus Budget
Pledges Received	\$213,344	\$206,000	
Non-Pledged Donations	\$20,378	\$27,500	
Fundraising/Rentals	\$15,343	\$14,920	
All Other	\$29,955	\$23,355	
Total Income	\$279,020	\$271,775	\$7,245
Expenditures			
Ministerial Services	\$68,287	\$71,342	
Music & Worship	\$31,797	\$32,561	
Children & Family Ministry	\$42,549	\$43,188	
Administration	\$61,685	\$63,041	
Building & Grounds	\$36,437	\$39,009	
All Other	\$25,809	\$29,715	
Total Expenditures	\$266,564	\$278,856	-\$12,292
Surplus	\$12,456		
Deficit		-\$7,081	

MUSIC NOTES

Well, folks, we have a most delightful dilemma on our hands in the music department! We now have more mixed choir members than we have room for seats in the choir loft! As of this week we now have 38 singers on the rolls! Of course, we do always have some people sick, some out of town, etc. So we have been able to fit all who will be here on a Sunday into our space so far. I do notice that the sound coming out of the choir is more robust and that I can get dramatic changes in dynamic levels—soft and loud sounds—which is exciting for me and you.

You may also have noticed that the choir is singing more challenging things. Late last summer I ordered some more complex pieces—five to be exact—with the intention of spreading them out over the year. But, as it happened, I ended up using all of them before the end of December, as they fit what was coming up in our services! Our choir has always garnered compliments from many of you, but they have been coming thick and fast of late. Quite a few of you have spoken to me, appreciating the upgrade in literature and sound.

Now I am on another round of choral research to come up with a few more exciting things for our singers to do. If you have any ideas, do email me at uumusic@uuspokane.org with your thoughts. I am also thinking toward Spring with the goal of a select small group of singers for a special performance or two. And, I would love some of you instrumentalists to come out of the woodwork so we could have the balance of some other beautiful sounds! Get in touch!

Deb Jacquemin
UUCS Music Director

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The pastoral care team is in immediate need of one or two people to volunteer to take over the memorial services part of the pastoral care team. Amy Howard is retiring from that role after more than six years of faithful service. Thanks Amy and Joan!

The pastoral care team focuses on needs of congregation members such as (1) transportation for medical appointments or other events, including church, (2) meals brought in to the home, (3) social visits and information regarding community services, (4) caregiver respite, (5) home repair and light hauling. These services are provided during times of crisis or life transition.

The team handles the memorial service receptions. We are always recruiting members to join the team or to volunteer when help is needed for the services we provide. If you can help in any way or have questions, please contact me at andstamps@yahoo.com.

Pastoral care team services are strictly confidential and are limited to the specific wishes of the congregation member involved.

Please keep the pastoral team in your thoughts, and whenever you have a need, please contact us. **Any** team member may be contacted.

Team Members Are: Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, *Minister*
Alice Peterson Ann Donahue, *Contact person*
Anna Morrison Barbara Nelson, *Contact person*
Chris Kent Evan Armstrong
John Beaton Majil Fausel
Mary Giannini Ruth French
Torge Lorentzen



TEAM AND GROUP NEWS

UU Women—February

Second Wednesday Lunch.

February 13th. 11:30 a.m. Elliotts an Urban Kitchen. 2209 North Monroe. A newer Spokane restaurant with great reviews. Please join us for good food and good company. RSVP Judy Gammon at rog_jrg@msn.com.

Third Thursday Book Group.

February 21st. 1:00 p.m. The book selections for February are *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White and *Winnie the Pooh* by A.A. Milne—two children's classics enjoyed by adults! For more information, or to join the group, please contact Donna Borden Rhodes at dbordenrhodes@comcast.net. New readers are always welcome. The book selection for March is *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver.

All church women are invited to participate in all UU Women activities.

Memoir Writing

Memoir Writing meets the second Sunday of each month 9:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. in the Potter room. We offer ways to reflect on and reconnect with your stories, and an opportunity to share some of them with friends old and new. Contact: wesley.schantz@fulbrightmail.org

UUCS Men's Group

UUCS Men's Group Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in Summit Tower at Rockwood South Hill Campus. For more information please contact Gordon Diddens at gadiddens@gmail.com.

Art Team

Do you enjoy the works of art that adorn our Friendship Hall? Would you like to help bring more beautiful and interesting works to the church? If so, the Art Team needs you! We have 2-3 major exhibits during the year, plus the December craft fair. We meet for approximately one hour a month on a weekday morning. Please contact Sandy Horn, Sandyhorn2002@yahoo.com or Sue Wotring, susangela40@gmail.com if this opportunity to serve the congregation speaks to you.

Impaired Hearing Group

Leonard Butters would like to communicate with other hearing impaired UU's. He has used T-coil, head phones, the chapel, and streaming and found that, for him, streaming works best. He's interested in what works and what does not work for you. Perhaps a UU impaired hearing group is in order. Email leonard_49@msn.com or phone his CapTel caption-call phone at 448 9688.

Come for as long as you are able to, help out in any way you can, and it will be much appreciated!

Winter Circle Suppers are in progress... but Spring Circle Supper Sign-ups coming soon!

What are Circle Suppers?

- Small potluck groups that meet at church members' homes for two months in a row to create deeper connections between busy church-goers

How do you get involved?

- Sign up in late-February to early-March at the Welcome Table for April-May Circle Supper groups

Can anyone be a host?

- Yes! If you 'host' you'll have the first dinner at your home and contact everyone to coordinate dates to meet and food participants will bring.

If you have questions, please contact Ann-Scott Ettinger, bark4snow@comcast.net

Greeters Team

The team is responsible for greeting all those who enter into the church on Sunday mornings. We have a vibrant group of greeters and would like to add more team members as well as a new team coordinator. Each greeter is responsible for staffing the table for one service, one Sunday per month. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering as a greeter, contact Erin Fitzgerald at erinfitzgerald@comcast.net or drop by the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings to chat.

TEAM AND GROUP NEWS

Engagement Team

This team is responsible for planning and implementing a program of engagement for congregants. We are guided in our work by the strategic plan and the ad hoc team membership report. We expect that that future feedback from the congregation will also impact our work.

Our team members are:

Erin Fitzgerald, Betsy Lawrence, Bonnie Overlie, Cindy Phillips, Lannie MacAndrea and Laura Zulliger. Our ex-officio members are: Kathryn Alexander (Board Liaison), Isabel Call, Aria Curtis, Todd Eklof, Heather Koselke and Jerry White.

We have met with Heather Koselke to determine what tasks are currently being done by staff and office volunteers. Heather has requested that the team recruit 1–2 volunteers to help with general office tasks and who are willing to be trained to do database entry into Breeze.

We are examining ways to reach out to people who identify as Unitarian Universalists but are not currently attending. This was a suggestion from Linda Moulder.

We have been working hard to determine our goals for the remainder of the church year.

Our goals are as follows:

- Reconnect with long-term members, where are they now? How valued do they feel?
(Bonnie Overlie is the goal shepherd.)
- Streamline processes for welcoming, tracking, guiding visitors and newcomers.
(Cindy Phillips is the goal shepherd.)
- Information tables at community and on-site events.
(Aria Curtis is the goal shepherd.)
- Coordinate avenues (including between teams) of communication—ways of connecting to the hive.
(Erin Fitzgerald and Cindy Phillips goal shepherds.)
- Work on everyone being more welcoming, including “Ask Me” button, ambassadors, etc.
(Erin Fitzgerald goal shepherd.)

The next team meeting is February 6th at from 5:30–7:00 p.m. Friends and members are welcome to attend any meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about the focus of this team, please read the report from the Ad Hoc Membership Team (located on the church website) and contact Erin Fitzgerald at erinfitzgerald@comcast.net or just stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings.

Update from the UUCS Chapter of UUs for Justice in the Middle East

On Sunday, February 10th the Spokane Chapter of UUs for Justice in the Middle East will be starting a study group using the curriculum from the national UJME entitled *The 7 UU Principles and Palestine/Israel*. This curriculum seeks to help UUs build awareness around human rights issues for Palestinians and Israelis in a peace-with-justice framework and present ideas for planning and taking action. It will be conducted based on a covenant that creates a safe space for sharing opinions, seeking truth and deepening community. Sessions will include readings, videos, activities and discussion. The curriculum is designed for adults, and is also appropriate for high school youth. The dates for the study group are Sundays, Feb 10-March 24 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We recommend reading *The Lemon Tree*, by Sandy Tolan before the class. We have several copies you can borrow. Please email us at uuyme@uuspokane.org to register, or sign up at our table in the Friendship Hall.

In conjunction with the social justice council we will also be facilitating a monthly social justice movie night on the 3rd friday of the month in the chapel at 7:00 p.m. The first will be on Friday, February 15th when we will be showing two impactful documentaries:

Bethlehem to Brooklyn: Breaking the Surface (45 min.) 2009. Through a writing program—one in an alternative NYC school and one in Aida Camp—we see the resilience and passion of the Latino, African American, and Palestinian teenagers.

Breaking the Silence: Israeli Soldiers Talk about Hebron (38 min.) 2005. The film title says it all.

On March 15th we will show *Imprisoning a Generation*, a documentary film following the stories of four young Palestinians who have been detained and imprisoned under the Israeli military and political systems. Their perspectives, along with the voices of their families, combine to form a lens into the entangled structures of oppression that expand well beyond the prison walls.

These movies are free and open to the public.

Barb Stuebing

New Women to Women service opportunity, Days For Girls

The main goal of Days For Girls International, (DFG), a Bellingham non-profit, is to provide washable cloth feminine hygiene products and sex education to young women in developing countries who don't have these supplies/tools. Without the menstrual supply kits these girls would be staying home from school, often alone, missing 7-10 days of school each month during their period. They fall behind their male peers, never getting a chance to go to college or get a job outside of their home. Days For Girls is changing that and we can help!

Join UU women and others in the Spokane community helping to create these sustainable and re-useable menstrual kits. You don't need to know how to sew!

Spread the word and bring a friend to the next work party at the Garland Church. There are a bunch of social justice focused women there who have already made over 300 kits and would love help making another 500!

Come for as long as you are able to, help out in any way you can, and it will be much appreciated!

Next DFG sew day:

February 23rd, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Garland Church: 2011 W Garland Ave.

Hope to see some of you! -Ann-Scott Ettinger

Questions? Email: bark4snow@comcast.net

SUSTAINABLEWORKS HISTORY

Our church is a member of the Spokane Alliance. We joined in 2005 and shortly after, I became chairperson of the jobs research action team. The jobs team was working on ways to increase good paying jobs in Spokane and one of the ways it came up with was the formation of SustainableWorks (SW). With a \$60,000 grant we hired a project manager and began facilitating single home energy saving retrofits. This meant SW would evaluate the homeowner's house and might recommend removing an old 60% stove oil furnace and replacing it with a new 92% gas furnace. There might also be additional insulation installed, new double-pane windows installed, or cracks sealed to prevent cold air from entering. This was all happening just prior to the economic meltdown in 2008. Because the Spokane Alliance had a good working relation with then Senate majority leader Lisa Brown, she approached the alliance and suggested that some of the federal "TARP" money soon would come to Washington to stimulate the economy and might be used to scale SW up to a state-wide program. In its heyday SW retrofitted between 600-700 houses and created work for many people. About 34 of our fellow congregants had various degrees of energy saving work done to their homes. So, 10-15 years later, I contacted three of the folks that received a retrofit to see what happened. Here are some stories:

Linda and Jim Lynn live in an almost 100 year old house and had new windows, insulation, an energy efficient hot water heater, and sealing between the stone foundation and framing. Before the retrofit they were averaging \$449/month in energy costs which decreased to \$224/month. Of course, some of these savings is due to climate change, but in their words, the energy retrofit was a "great experience and very valuable."

Julie and Jerry Jose had a new energy efficient gas furnace and heat pump replace an old stove oil furnace. With the heat pump they were able to have air conditioning in the summer. They said it "saved us money and we are very happy."

Karen and Richard Steel live in a 1926 house that is on the Spokane Register of Historic Places. They spent \$6400 on a new furnace, hot water heater and insulation. Before the retrofit they were spending approximately \$240/month on heat and afterwards it went down to \$140/month in the winter and \$100/month in the summer. In their words "SustainableWorks was the most important energy retrofit program available in Spokane."

I present these as a few of the many successes SustainableWorks has had in the area of jobs creation. They have a number of other areas of social activism that include health care and community development, and if you would like to participate I encourage you to contact Mary Lou Johnson at (509) 991-5512 or Lannie MacAndrea at (509) 995-5025

Jerry White
Spokane Alliance Team

Countering Hate Listening Session

The Social Justice Coordinating Council and the Spokane Alliance UUCS team will sponsor a Brown Bag Listening Session on February 17th, 2019. The session, *Countering Hate Groups/Fascist Movements in the Spokane Area*, will be held in the Chapel at the end of the second service (12:30 p.m.). Our presenter, Dr. Joan Braune of Gonzaga's Institute of Hate Studies, has done in-depth research on the revitalized "alt-right" in our area and has much to share with us. Please put this on your calendar.



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The SUUN is a monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane.

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Covenant Statement

We, the Unitarian Universalist congregation of Spokane, promise to:
support and care for one another,
embrace diversity of persons and spiritual paths,
search for truth and understanding, and
work for social justice and environmental stewardship.
With this covenant, we honor each other with our laughter and
tears, our compassion, and respect.
We are a community of open hearts, open minds, and open hands.

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