



The Chalice

Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Spirituality, Promoting Justice in the World

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



This fall has been a flurry of activity here at UUCL! Perhaps the most newsworthy is our brand new second exit!

Our new, second exit was completed in time for the Water Ingathering service on September 10. This renovation brought our sanctuary's official maximum occupancy from 46 to 77, which makes it safer and more accessible for all, and also increases our ability to rent it out for events.

When we conducted a ceremonial ribbon cutting immediately following the Water Ingathering, it was a celebration of much hard work. On hand to cut the ribbon were Tamar Datan and Allan Bentkofsky, the most recent past UUCL board presidents, who championed this second exit and shepherded it along the road to fruition. Tommy Chambers, our previous Buildings and Grounds Chair, Sandy Shihadeh, board vice president and Gaye Wallen, our administrator, all played vital parts in the process.

Also present for the ribbon cutting were Drew Lauten and Lisa Bateman from Lauten Construction and our pro-bono architects John and Marilyn Burroughs. Many thanks to them for their work and to the grant from the Chalice Lighters fund at the UUA, without which this wouldn't have been possible.

Unfortunately, this renovation also gave us new, unhappy information about our building, specifically that it was being eaten from the inside out by powder post beetles.

After much research and deliberation, the board decided to have the church building tent-treated with pesticides to kill the powder post beetles and halt their destruction. This tenting began on schedule on Tuesday September 26th and was finished on Thursday September 28th. Many people - too numerous to mention! - helped empty the church before the tenting and put everything back together afterward. The RE committee took this opportunity to paint and spruce up the nursery and main space which now looks bright and clean and cheerful.

Drew Lauten told us that the wise and skilled people who built this church did so with many layers of support that will keep it standing despite any damage done by the beetles. This is an apt description of our community, who are the stewards of this beautiful building today. Our many layers of support hold us up and for each and every layer of support, I am so grateful.

-Jenna Korff

WATER INGATHERING & RIBBON CUTTING ON FIRE ESCAPE!



PICNIC, TENTING & NEW CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE 2017!



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION SPACE-LIFT



Our Religious Exploration received a much needed makeover this fall. If you haven't been downstairs to check it out, you really should!

The discovery of the Powder Post Beetle infestation and the resulting fumigation gave us the needed push to give our downstairs space a solid and thorough cleaning. With the help of many church members and youth volunteers, we emptied the space of every single item used, touched, or played with by children. This included the nursery, storage closet and many food and fellowship items! Everything was kept in a storage locker in our parking lot, along with most of the items in the Sanctuary.

The day the fumigation was finished, a cleaning crew came in and gave the entire basement an intense cleaning. The following day, Friday, September 29, myself, along with Shelagh Meade, Michelle Saville, Dave Testa, Jenna Korff, Leah Cooper and Christopher D'Arcy, painted like no one has ever painted before! We chose a very soft blue with white trim and managed to get a solid two coats in the space before calling it quits. On Saturday, while most of the congregation was upstairs in the Sanctuary during the Minister Start Up, Dave and Daniel Testa, Christopher D'Arcy and Emma Saville finished everything! They even painted the ceiling!

After our new facelift, I began the work of putting the space back together. This involved many trips from the pod back to the RE space back to the pod, which was made easy by the hard work of Sandy Shihadeh and Gary Steinbach. While Ann Marie Morreale worked on the bathroom space, Shelagh Meade and Jenna Korff tackled the nursery and storage space. We have cleared out trash, clutter, duplicates and unused or unneeded items. Already the space looks bright, clean and uncluttered.

There is still much to do but my hope is that by the time you are reading this we will be finished and everyone will be enjoying our new space!

Many thanks to all of our helpers and volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you.

Kate Savidan

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MINISTER'S NOTE



Recently, at the White Supremacy Teach-in on October 15, I issued an invitation for all of us to embark on a Journey Toward Wholeness. In many ways, this is a journey of discovery, a journey of connection and a journey of covenantal relationship.

This journey will involve work that we do together—classes, workshops, experiences, perhaps experimenting with different ways of doing things.

The journey is also personal; it requires each of us to do our own personal work, to find things on our own to read, watch, explore.

This journey also involves work in the larger community—who are we in the Leesburg/Loudoun community? Who and which organizations can we partner with to do this work of building the Beloved Community? How do we learn from others, be generous with our resources and support other organizations which help us live out our mission?

Scary. Exciting. Powerful. All this and more await us. And as we move through it, joy awaits us. We will be uncomfortable at times; conversations may be difficult; but we have to do this if we want to be who we say we want to be in the world. It takes courage. We will make mistakes; we will need to forgive ourselves; we will need to again, and again, come back to covenant. But we have each other and a world weary and in need, indeed, dependent on our willingness to engage. I. Can't. Wait!

I leave you with this by Micky Scott Bey Jones:

Invitation to Brave Space

*Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a "safe space"
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world,
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
We will not be perfect.
This space will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But
It will be our brave space together,
and
We will work on it side by side.*

Reverend Alice King
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White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack

by Peggy McIntosh

"I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group"

DAILY EFFECTS OF WHITE PRIVILEGE

I decided to try to work on myself at least by identifying some of the daily effects of white privilege in my life. I have chosen those conditions that I think in my case attach somewhat more to skin-color privilege than to class, religion, ethnic status, or geographic location, though of course all these other factors are intricately intertwined. As far as I can tell, my African American coworkers, friends, and acquaintances with whom I come into daily or frequent contact in this particular time, place and time of work cannot count on most of these conditions.

1. I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.
2. I can avoid spending time with people whom I was trained to mistrust and who have learned to mistrust my kind or me.
3. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.
4. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.
5. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.
6. I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.
7. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.
8. I can be sure that my children will be given curricular materials that testify to the existence of their race.
9. If I want to, I can be pretty sure of finding a publisher for this piece on white privilege.
10. I can be pretty sure of having my voice heard in a group in which I am the only member of my race.
11. I can be casual about whether or not to listen to another person's voice in a group in which s/he is the only member of his/her race.
12. I can go into a music shop and count on finding the music of my race represented, into a supermarket and find the staple foods which fit with my cultural traditions, into a hairdresser's shop and find someone who can cut my hair.
13. Whether I use checks, credit cards or cash, I can count on my skin color not to work against the appearance of financial reliability.
14. I can arrange to protect my children most of the time from people who might not like them.
15. I do not have to educate my children to be aware of systemic racism for their own daily physical protection.
16. I can be pretty sure that my children's teachers and employers will tolerate them if they fit school and workplace norms; my chief worries about them do not concern others' attitudes toward their race.
17. I can talk with my mouth full and not have people put this down to my color.
18. I can swear, or dress in second hand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, the poverty or the illiteracy of my race.
19. I can speak in public to a powerful male group without putting my race on trial.
20. I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race.
21. I am never asked to speak for all the people of my racial group.

Peggy McIntosh is associate director of the Wellesley Collage Center for Research on Women. This essay is excerpted from Working Paper 189. "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming To See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies" (1988), by Peggy McIntosh; available for \$4.00 from the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, Wellesley MA 02181. The working paper contains a longer list of privileges. This excerpted essay is reprinted from the Winter 1990 issue of Independent School.

22. I can remain oblivious of the language and customs of persons of color who constitute the world's majority without feeling in my culture any penalty for such oblivion.

23. I can criticize our government and talk about how much I fear its policies and behavior without being seen as a cultural outsider.

24. I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the "person in charge", I will be facing a person of my race.

25. If a traffic cop pulls me over or if the IRS audits my tax return, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.

26. I can easily buy posters, post-cards, picture books, greeting cards, dolls, toys and children's magazines featuring people of my race.

27. I can go home from most meetings of organizations I belong to feeling somewhat tied in, rather than isolated, out-of-place, outnumbered, unheard, held at a distance or feared.

28. I can be pretty sure that an argument with a colleague of another race is more likely to jeopardize her/his chances for advancement than to jeopardize mine.

29. I can be pretty sure that if I argue for the promotion of a person of another race, or a program centering on race, this is not likely to cost me heavily within my present setting, even if my colleagues disagree with me.

30. If I declare there is a racial issue at hand, or there isn't a racial issue at hand, my race will lend me more credibility for either position than a person of color will have.

31. I can choose to ignore developments in minority writing and minority activist programs, or disparage them, or learn from them, but in any case, I can find ways to be more or less protected from negative consequences of any of these choices.

32. My culture gives me little fear about ignoring the perspectives and powers of people of other races.

33. I am not made acutely aware that my shape, bearing or body odor will be taken as a reflection on my race.

34. I can worry about racism without being seen as self-interested or self-seeking.

35. I can take a job with an affirmative action employer without having my co-workers on the job suspect that I got it because of my race.

36. If my day, week or year is going badly, I need not ask of each negative episode or situation whether it had racial overtones.

37. I can be pretty sure of finding people who would be willing to talk with me and advise me about my next steps, professionally.

38. I can think over many options, social, political, imaginative or professional, without asking whether a person of my race would be accepted or allowed to do what I want to do.

39. I can be late to a meeting without having the lateness reflect on my race.

40. I can choose public accommodation without fearing that people of my race cannot get in or will be mistreated in the places I have chosen.

41. I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.

42. I can arrange my activities so that I will never have to experience feelings of rejection owing to my race.

43. If I have low credibility as a leader I can be sure that my race is not the problem.

44. I can easily find academic courses and institutions which give attention only to people of my race.

45. I can expect figurative language and imagery in all of the arts to testify to experiences of my race.

46. I can choose blemish cover or bandages in "flesh" color and have them more or less match my skin.

47. I can travel alone or with my spouse without expecting embarrassment or hostility in those who deal with us.

48. I have no difficulty finding neighborhoods where people approve of our household.

49. My children are given texts and classes which implicitly support our kind of family unit and do not turn them against my choice of domestic partnership.

50. I will feel welcomed and "normal" in the usual walks of public life, institutional and social.

Peggy McIntosh is associate director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. This essay is excerpted from Working Paper 189. "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming To See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies" (1988), by Peggy McIntosh; available for \$4.00 from the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, Wellesley MA 02181. The working paper contains a longer list of privileges. This excerpted essay is reprinted from the Winter 1990 issue of Independent School.

SPOTLIGHT - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This has been a productive year for the Communications Committee. So much has been accomplished by our small group of hardworking members that it seemed like a good idea to outline our accomplishments.

- Implemented the UUA wordpress theme. The UUA theme has made much more information available on our home page, helped us incorporate welcoming content such as testimonies, and suggested other content that visitors often search for. We took advantage of these best practices. Sharing a theme with many other UU congregations gives us a community of people to reach out to for help, and supports the UUA's efforts to help us all achieve a better internet presence.
- Created dynamic website content. A year ago our website was largely static. Now (thanks to Michele Lalumia) it has regularly updated content about upcoming events like the service auction, Loudoun Falls for Social Justice, and Community Table. Members will find the website has more content relevant to them, and visitors will see that we are a current, dynamic, vibrant community.
As part of this, we made website editing more accessible to non-technical users. We don't always take advantage of this but key parts of the website content can now be edited and added to by people with much less technical expertise than before.
- Automated upcoming service information on the website. A year ago, updating service information required HTML code editing. Now (thanks to the new website and Dan Wesley's amazing automation), the upcoming service information in our google spreadsheet automatically appears at the right time on the web page.
- Made the website friendlier. A year ago there were next to no member faces on our website. The UUA recommends photos of people as key to inspiring first-time visitors. Now many of our pages use the smiles of our members to greet our visitors.
- Made the website faster. A year ago, and as recently as this spring, we were all struggling with a website that was painfully slow to load. Through a number of steps we've made it much more responsive.
- Consolidated our services. A year ago we had our internet services split between Network Solutions and GoDaddy. We really weren't happy with Network Solutions. Now we've consolidated with HostGator. This will make our internet services easier to administer (particularly as volunteers come and go) and less expensive.
- Created an online photo archive with Google Photos. We'd never had this before. Now, we have one place to store pictures to be used for the website, newsletter or Facebook.

But with new changes and innovations comes new problems that don't always have easy solutions. As our committee pushes onward, please remember we are all volunteers. And if you see a communications committee member, give them a nice pat on the back and a thank you.

Good work team!!!

The communications committee consists of: Alice King, John Stevens, Gina Faber, Carrie Nowell, Dan Weasley, Michelle Lalumia, Nancy Chamberlain and Christopher D'Arcy.

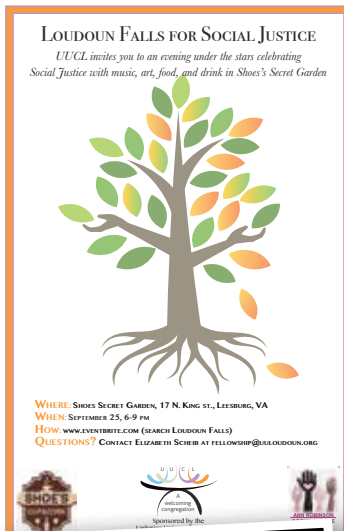
Thank you to this Chalice's Reporters: Nancy Chamberlain, Michelle LaLumia, and Carrie Nowell.

Contributors: Wendell Fisher, Rev. Alice King, Jenna Korff, Kate Savidan and John Stevens.

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If you would like to join this team, please contact communications@uuloudoun.org

LOUDOUN FALLS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



We held our second annual Loudoun Falls for Social Justice event on Monday September 25th. Thanks to the hard work of Elizabeth Scheib, Katherine Jacobs, Tamar Datan, Wendy Testa and Leah Cooper, we came together to celebrate the work of Wendell Fisher and Herb Bryan of the Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee. I am grateful to all involved for their hard work making this event happen.

Here is a special thank you from one of this year's recipients:

I would like to thank the Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun (UUCU) and the Social Justice Committee for bestowing upon me such an honored recognition as the Ann Robinson Social Justice Award.

Ann represented the best of the human spirit and how much better

we can become as a people. I will forever appreciate your acknowledgement and continue to represent those values that Ann lived her life by. Thank you once again.

-Wendall T. Fisher

