



The Chalice

Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Spirituality, Promoting Justice in the World

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March 2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: CHURCH GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS



At Governing Board annual retreat this past fall, we wrote five goals for the coming year. In the discussion, many ideas came up that we are passionate about, and many ideas flowed from committees and other members of the congregation. It was a long and fruitful collaborative process.

Our first goal: Deepen spiritual connections by *supporting current programs* and nurturing new ones. Obviously, this is a catch-all goal, one that encompasses many of the ideas we discussed in an attempt to address the desire for expanded adult religious exploration, organic membership growth, and vibrant children's religious exploration programming.

UUCL already has many wonderful programs including our weekly Sunday worship services, our monthly Monday night discussion group, and our "affinity groups" like UU Jammers (our monthly music jam). These programs form the bedrock of our community and provide opportunities for us to support and challenge ourselves and each other.

As a small – but mighty! – spiritual community, we have to choose our programs wisely. We cannot afford to spread ourselves too thin. But we also must challenge ourselves to think deeply and to expand into new areas to help us grow.

In the Religious Exploration Committee, we have long been discussing ways to bring OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum to the young teens in our community. Those of you who heard my sermon in November may remember that the OWL program was a very important part of my upbringing in a UU church (although it was called AYS - About Your Sexuality – in my time). As a result of my transformative experience, I am a passionate supporter of comprehensive sexuality education in general and the uniquely wonderful OWL program in particular.

To that end, the RE committee will be hosting a OWL Social on Saturday April 14th to give the congregation information about the OWL program, as well as providing a chance for all members and friends to get together for fun, food, and board games! I hope you all will attend, whether you have children in the congregation or not. There are several ways we can bring OWL to our youth and we would like to explore them all with you.

I hope that by finding a creative way to fit OWL programming into our community, we all can grow and learn. If you have any questions about OWL, please speak with our Director of Religious Exploration Kate Savidan – or better yet – come to the social!

In the spirit of love,

Jenna Korff

Governing Board President



UUCL Annual Service Auction “The Great Gatsby”

**It's the roaring 20's at our annual service auction
and we hope all you guys and gals will join
us for fellowship and fundraising.**

**April 28, 2018
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Ida Lee Rec Center in Leesburg**

**Submit your auction items today at
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/UUCL2018AUCTION](https://tinyurl.com/uucl2018auction)
(also find a link to last years catalog here if you need ideas!)**

**Promises to be a “Roaring” good time, you won't want to miss!
Dress in your best flappers or dappers attire.**

Questions? Contact the auction team at auction@uuloudoun.org



RE UUCL Youth Groups: CHANGES FOR OUR GROWING YOUTH

by Kate Savidan



During the summer of 2017, we took a hard look at our current Religious Exploration program and asked ourselves a few questions. One of the most important ones, the one that stood out the most was, “Were we meeting the spiritual needs of all our children and youth?”

To help us answer this, we sent out a survey to the congregation. All were encouraged to answer as we wanted to hear from parents, youth, children, caregivers, guardians and members of the church. The answers were enlightening and helpful, especially as we narrowed down a central theme: some of our youth were being overlooked.

This is not something we want, as we strive to meet the spiritual and community needs of our children, youth and families, and yet there it was!

The RE Committee met, and after a brainstorming session we decided to form a new Jr. Youth Group geared towards our older elementary and middle school students. Our Jr. Youth Group is open to all youth in Grades 5-8 and meet on the second and fourth Sunday during first service in the mini church. We began meeting in November and have had several successful gatherings with the help of our amazing adult volunteers.

While we strive to give our kids a place to call their own in our church, I also want to invite the congregation to help them understand that they are WANTED here. That the church also belongs to them. This requires help from the entire congregation. Please reach out to our youth members in Jr. And Sr. Youth group and invite them in!

How? I am glad you asked!

Invite our youth to worship! If they can’t make worship, invite them to coffee hour. If they can’t make Sunday mornings, invite them to another program like UU Jammers. If they say that worship doesn’t feed their soul, ask them what would and then reach out to me so we can make it happen. If they can’t get a ride on Sunday morning, set them up with a carpool. Invite them to serve as Worship Associate, share a musical talent, drop the stones during Joys and Concerns or give a testimonial about how Unitarian Universalism has made a difference in their life.

Youth need to be a part of the entire life of the congregation. Our congregations are the last multi-generational spaces in our society. Our schools, our cities and neighborhoods, and our entertainment options are all segregated by age. My hope is that between our youth groups and creating more opportunities for our youth to participate in our church life, we are creating members for life!

Thank you to this Chalice’s Reporters: Carrie Nowell and Nancy Verhovek, and Graphics Designer: Christopher D’Arcy.

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

MINISTER'S MESSAGE: THE UU PATH IN OUR LIVES AND OUR COMMUNITY



Recently, my husband and I had the opportunity to be in the car together for an extended period of time. Among other things, we talked about the course and trajectory of our lives. We each named three turning points, points at which, had we made other choices, our lives may have turned out differently.

I think of when and how I found the Unitarian Universalist faith, moments that I have questioned my involvement, and moments when I was ready to leave the church. One such time of almost leaving was just before I was hired as the Young Adult & Campus Ministry Coordinator for the First UU Church of San Diego. That decision, to take the job, to stick with it, to continue to love this faith and deepen my own spirituality led me to fulfill this call to ministry, led me here to UU Church of Loudoun, to all of you. It has changed my life.

What I want to know is how has it changed yours? What did you give up to be here at UUCL? And what do you gain from it? There are so many stories of how this beautiful, complicated and imperfect Unitarian Universalist faith has saved lives. I think of many stories from young adults with whom I worked, of those going through divorces, of transgender individuals who find a loving community, and all of us seekers and wanderers finding and making meaning.

As you ponder how UU has changed your life, consider that changing lives is really the business and purpose of what we are about as a church. I invite you to broaden your individual perspective and to consider how we as a church change lives. Then ponder where we go next in our community life or as is often asked of Unitarian Universalists, "Where is love leading us now?"

I look forward to exploring those musings with you in the days to come.

With love and Respect,
Alice King, UU Minister



ROADMAP TO COMMUNICATIONS AT UU CHURCH OF LOUDOUN

We have several static and dynamic ways to communicate with members and visitors including our online website, Facebook pages, mailing lists, and the printed order of service on Sundays.

Website Information about our church is always available through our website www.uuloudoun.org. If you take a peek you will find old and current newsletters, sermons, ways to donate, and a whole host of information. While most things on the website do not change, the church calendar is available there as well as upcoming sermon topics. The Members Area of the website is your one-stop shop for documents including the membership directory, auction files, committee documents, budget information and past UUCL Board meeting notes.

Facebook Our official Facebook portal for the public is found at <https://www.facebook.com/UULoudoun>. This page is updated with upcoming sermon announcements and recordings of sermons but for the most part this is a static place for visitors to find out about our church. Official posts here are provided by UUCL Leadership. The UUCL Fellowship Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1135238173153791/>, is a secret group on Facebook just for internal UUCL conversations. Members can post information about events, church topics, impromptu gatherings, and anything of interest. This group is regularly used by church members to stay engaged with each other.

Mailing Lists We run two email listservs through Listbox.com. You can review and modify your subscriptions to mailing lists through the Listbox user interface, or ask for assistance from communications@uuloudoun.org.

uucL-announcements list is a moderated list which carries all of the official UUCL announcements and reminders posted by church leaders. Visitors are invited to this list to ensure access to communications about time-sensitive matters including changes to services and our weekly emails about church gatherings.

uucL-discussion is an unmoderated list, open to UUCL members and friends. All members are added once they have signed the book, but may unsubscribe at any time. To post to this list, send emails to: uucL-discussion@listbox.com, or reply to an email from your email browser. The Discussion list is a forum for discussing wider-community announcements or bringing up church-related issues for discussion. This list is a great way to reach individuals who do not use Facebook.

uucL-re is a discussion list used by our Religious Explorations program

uucL-womenspirit is a discussion list used by our Women's Spirit Group

uucL-youthgroup is a discussion list used to communicate about Youth Group activities

uuJammers is a discussion list use by the UU Jammers fellowship group

Order of Service The printed order of service (OoS) distributed at Sunday worship provides many of the same dynamic announcements, reminders and information that the online communication medium offer. The handy yellow pull-out of meeting & announcement reminders is suitable for posting on the fridge at home!



EXPANDING OUR BELIEFS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The Leesburg Huddle (an off-shoot of the Women's March) and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun joined together to bring a speaker from the national group Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). The presentation entitled "Talking to Friends and Family About Race", occurred in early January and was attended by church and community members alike. The purpose of the workshop was to create a safe space for attendees to practice effectively and confidently confronting racism in everyday conversation, especially among family and friends, with the goal of encouraging change in the minds of the people around them. A member of our congregation, Carol Harkrader-Pine gave a brief description of the day's events: About 50 people from diverse backgrounds gathered for event. It was an experiential workshop, so the first thing that was done was to ask us to interact with people we didn't know. There were several exercises in couples or small groups, and then the small groups would share with the full group. We had a lot to say and even went overtime. Most of us found it a great way to learn and practice sensitive communication.

The workshop was well received by attendees. Therefore, plans are in the works for future events to build on previous knowledge and work through the sometimes difficult subject matter of racial inequality. If you did not have an opportunity to attend the workshop or if you want to brush up on some of the topics, stay tuned for future events. Also, you can explore the groups involved on the internet.

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is a national group which can be located at <http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ShowingUpForRacialJusticesurj/>

SURJ also has a local NOVA chapter on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SURJNoVa/?ref=ts> and a DC chapter on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/surjdc/>

Finally, The Leesburg Huddle has a Facebook group as well <https://www.facebook.com/groups/661742447343143/>

Special thanks to Eric Groo and Robin Gerhart for helpful to coordinate this event and for getting UUCL involved in this very important topic.

