



The Chalice

Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Spirituality, Promoting Justice in the World

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April 2017

UUCL SERVICE AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH, FROM 6PM TO 10PM AT IDA LEE REC CENTER

Are you getting excited about the annual UUCL Service Auction on April 29th?!?!? If not, you certainly should be, it's by far our biggest social event AND fundraiser of the year! So you'll definitely want to plan to be there. For those of you who may not know, the Service Auction is the one night per year that all the adults of our community gather together to enjoy fun, fellowship, and great food, all while raising money for our beloved church community! The auction is our best opportunity to be together and get to know one another better. And by offering or purchasing dinners and events at the auction, we get to keep the fellowship going all year long!

Looking for the nitty gritty details? Well, look no further! This year's theme is 'Love our Mother Earth.' Dinner is potluck, so please bring an appetizer, side, entrée, or dessert to share. Drinks, including beer and wine will be provided by the church. Families are asked to donate 2 to 3 dinners, events, services, etc. for the silent auction. Dinners and events are far and away the most popular (and profitable) items so we try to steer people in that direction. It's a silent auction, so when you arrive you'll be given a bidder number. Items are laid out on tables that close at regular intervals throughout the evening, so you'll want to be there when the event starts at 6pm and plan to stay til the bitter end at 10pm to ensure that someone doesn't outbid you on something you just have to have!

Need ideas on what to donate to the silent auction? Take a look at the draft catalogs already sent out, check out last year's catalog on the websites auction page at www.uuloudoun.org/uucl-annual-service-auction, or talk to people at church to get ideas. We can't stress enough that dinners and events are the most popular items! Simply opening your home up for a dinner for however many people you can accommodate could raise several hundred dollars for the church, you'd be surprised at the number of people who can't wait to have dinner with YOU! Once you've decided what you want to donate, you can complete the donation form online at <http://tinyurl.com/uuclaucaution2017>, or you can grab a paper form at church (or in any one of the many emails we've sent) and drop it in the Treasurer's mailbox or scan and email to auction@uuloudoun.org

Still have questions? The Auction Team has put together a nifty 'UUCL Service Auction FAQ' that we suggest you take a look at. Find it on the auction page of the website or attached to an email with a draft catalog! Or talk to a member of the auction team or a long time church member at church, everyone is happy to answer questions.

Did we mention that the most important thing though is that everyone put it on their calendars and plan to be there? If not, well that's by far the most important part! It simply wouldn't be the same without you!

See you at the auction!

The UUCL Auction Team

NOTES FROM ALONG THE PATH... ABOUT CHANGE — FROM REV. DAN



Changes are in the air all around us. Changes in the weather – one day cooler, the next day warmer- are obvious. But this year, we perceive so many changes in our nation, in the world, and even in the UUCL community which seem to be more significant than in recent memory.

How are we coping with the personal effects of all these changes?

Most of us welcome changes that we perceive as positive. Those of us who are tired of cold weather obviously welcome the return of sunnier and warmer days, when we can see the return of flowers and green foliage. But we know that there are gusting winds and dangerous storms as the various fronts progress across the Blue Ridge with the energy of change, and we are aware of the risks associated with those storms- wind, rain, and lightning, as well as fires caused by weather or other events outside our control. Most of us avoid risks when we can, and we don't live in tents or fragile trailers (which appear to be magnets for windstorms) and we also try to have whatever assurance or insurance we can get against damage or loss of our homes and physical possessions.

CHANGE is a common theme in literature, mythology, and also in Judeo-Christian scripture. The Exodus story of Passover in the Hebrew Bible- the story about Moses confronting Pharaoh to allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt- is all about Moses insisting on change and Pharaoh resisting change.

Moses, though initially resisting the call of Yahweh through the burning bush, finally accepts that he must CHANGE and give up his privilege as an Egyptian noble to reclaim his own religious and ethnic identity in order to lead his people back to claim ownership of what they believed was their ancestral home. Of course, as the story has been handed down for hundreds of generations, both Pharaoh and the Hebrews are only motivated to CHANGE by the various plagues visited upon all of Egypt, by Yahweh's intervention through Moses. But Moses gives the Hebrews the secret pass to avoid the worst effects of the plagues- by overtly showing the blood of a sacrificial lamb on the entry to their homes, they give the signal to the Angel of Death to pass over and spare their children. It was really great to have God on their side, wasn't it?

Then, when Pharaoh's resolve is temporarily weakened and he grants Moses' demand for freedom, it is again Yahweh's intervention which allows ONLY the Hebrews to risk CHANGE as they cross the Red Sea. This story has been told and retold among the Jews for hundreds of generations not only to show the power of Yahweh, but also to emphasize how important they were and are as the chosen people of their God.

Passover was also the timeframe for the Christian New Testament story of Jesus returning to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday hundreds of years after Moses. The gospel stories of his miracles and his revolutionary approach to achieving connection with God without strict adherence to religious dogma had aroused great hopes. The adulation he received on entering the city arose from the expectation of the common-folk that he is the fulfillment of the Messianic prophesy of Isaiah, that he would be God's instrument of CHANGE, a new Jewish King of Israel who could lead them, the Chosen People, to overcome the Roman occupation. But there was resistance to even the potential of such CHANGE: the Pharisees sought stability in their authority over the religious system and Roman governor wanted no disruption of the secular status quo.

These and other Biblical stories powerfully illustrated the dynamics of human psychology in showing different perspectives on how CHANGE can be motivated and accomplished, sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly, and how resistance to change, especially directed by God, almost always turns out to be a futile effort.

You may know the old saying that participation in a Christian church is like buying fire insurance for people who believe in Hell. For most Unitarian Universalists, who are not convinced of the promise of Heaven or the threat of Hell, that theoretical inducement isn't very effective to get OUR people into our churches.

But this time of year with Passover and Palm Sunday, in most UU congregations, we find the annual round of fundraising and stewardship which set the stage for finishing the current year and also making plans for the next. It is inherently a period of awareness that we must always be living in the present AND looking toward the future, of hoping and working for positive changes with assurance that the community can manage unanticipated challenges and changes constructively. This, of course, requires commitment of time, energy, and resources from every member of the community.

Our past 10 months with UUCL have been a time of temporary stability for us as we accepted the changes which were our lives required of us. We also became a bit more familiar with a small slice of Northern Virginia (including many of the roads between Leesburg and Fairfax). We were able to cope with the disruptions of our own CHANGE- the move to VA from Massachusetts- mostly because of the people of this congregation who warmly accepted us and our daughter's family. Now, as we face the prospect of another major CHANGE, our summer move to Houston, we are confident that you are a healthy community that knows how to make and live healthy commitments, how to embrace necessary changes in the organization AND changes in both professional and lay leadership with the grace and equanimity you have developed over the years.

Our parting thoughts as we prepare for the next chapter of our ministry in Texas this July:

FIRST: Congratulations on the achievements which have come from your faithful commitments!

FINALLY: We know you will not shirk the opportunities which lay before you, even as those opportunities may demand significant changes in what you choose to do and how you proceed.

Some of those changes will doubtlessly be prompted by the committed and motivated human beings who energetically arise to serve as your leaders and spiritual guides. But, as with all living things, CHANGE- and transformation- will be required and expected from everyone!

Our blessings and fondest wishes for your continuing successes-

Rev. Dan & Nina B.



Nina King and Rev. Dan King



Nina King, Rev. Dan King and Barbara Elvin at the MLK March 2017

RE EXPLANATION OF EXPLORATION

by Kate Savidan



As many may have noticed, the Religious Education Committee recently went through a name change. While I am still known as the DRE and our gatherings on Sunday mornings are still called RE, the “E” in everything has changed from “Education” to “Exploration.”

I am sure many are curious about the why behind the change.

Mostly, this change is so we can train ourselves to think of RE as Religious EXPLORATION instead of Religious Education.

Sunday mornings are an opportunity for trusted adults to join with younger fellow travelers in exploring new thoughts and ways of doing things in a journey of Unitarian Universalist faith development.

This exploration is filled with moments of wonder and sharing. Time spent on this journey is unique in a world where children and youth receive relentless messages of materialism, oppression, and conformity. Fellow travelers form a covenant to make the journey sacred.

The Religious Exploration Team of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun understands this and believes that the name change puts the focus on the journey we take together, regardless of age.

We covenant with our younger members:

- to encourage moral and spiritual growth,
- to create a church environment in which children feel comfortable and to which they are drawn,
- to nurture in our children a sense of community and the feeling of being valued participants connected to the group,
- to offer children a Unitarian Universalist religious identity,
- to assist children in their growth towards greater self-acceptance and self-determination,
- to celebrate life and life's transitions,
- to respect the beliefs of others and the interdependent web of life of which we are a part, and
- to encourage self-expression.



*RE class hosts the Valentine's Day Thank You Tea Party.
Will that be one lump or two?*

SPOTLIGHT BARBARA BERGE

A LIFE ENRICHED BY UU



It is not often one of our beloved members who has been with us for many years leaves our church. Barbara Berge, whom many of you know, will be moving to Taos, New Mexico later this summer to live near her daughter Chrissy. While she is sad to be leaving, she is looking forward to spending time with family, meeting new friends and getting involved in environmental issues.

Barbara moved to Loudoun County with her daughter in the 70's where she started her career path at Home Start providing housing to the needy. This led her to a 38-year career as a Housing Specialist at Loudoun County Department of Family Services. She heard about UUCL through her good friend, Barbara Elvin, and attended the church when it was originally located at Loudoun County Day School in Leesburg. UUCL gave her the opportunity to meet like-minded people and be a part of a community who cared about each other as well as issues outside of

church. Throughout the years, she saw several ministers come and go and while they each had a different emphasis, the constant was the supportive community. Being liberal minded, Barbara participated in many outside activities that were in line with UU's seven principles such as the yearly MLK march, environmental activities and most recently the Women's March. What also sustained her personal growth were the committees she was involved in. She taught RE for several years and volunteered to fill in for many years. She was also on the Hospitality Committee for 2-3 years and the Caring Committee for 5+ years. Barbara sang in the choir and enjoyed going to Jammers to be amongst fellow musicians. She believed in and was proud of UUCL's missions especially its Environmental and LGBT work.

Barbara has expressed her sincere gratitude for UUCL as she says her life would not be nearly as complete or enjoyable without it. She wishes to thank all of the individuals who give so tirelessly to make this church what it is, a spiritual place that feels like home.



Barbara and her daughter Chrissy hiking at Ghost Ranch.



Barbara with her family in New Mexico. Standing is Marc Baseman, son in law, Max Baseman, youngest grandson with girlfriend Kiki Klonis, Barbara and Nick Rutkaus, oldest grandson.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring is upon us. The browns and greys of winter that we have lived with the past 6 months are giving way to bright greens, yellows and purples, and blues of spring flowers. At UUCL, the daffodils are blooming, a reminder of the passage of time and better times to come.

It had been my hope that more of our space improvement plan would have been accomplished. Like nature, progress on our plans happen in their own time. The second exit will start soon. The board has selected a contractor. We have revised the plan for the exit, eliminating a ramp, which is not required by state of local laws. Our contractor is revising his plans and we are awaiting an architect's stamp before we can get a county permit to proceed.

Another mild winter has prevented William A. Hazel, Inc. from completing our parking lot. I contacted them when we had the March snow in the hope the company had a little down time, but that was not to be. They know we are ready whenever they are.

It appears that our discussions with Tom Durrer to acquire the 15 foot strip are at a standstill. Mr. Durrer has not responded to our repeated requests to discuss a boundary line adjustment. The board will be exploring alternatives for the use of our property with the county planning board.

Mark your calendars. The annual congregational meeting will be held June 4, 2017 immediately following the service. Pursuant to our newly revised by-laws, we will be electing officers and board members at large, approving the 2017-18 budget, and electing a new nominating committee. I will be requesting each committee chair to write a report detailing accomplishments this past year and plans for next year. I will compile the reports along with the budget and a board report to submit to the congregation. The goal is to facilitate discussion of any matters prior to the meeting.

On the matter of electing officers, I want to let you know that I will not be seeking another term as UUCL board president. It was not an easy decision or one made lightly. I first attended UUCL nearly six years ago, just as John and Phyllis were starting as our new ministers. For me it was a time of deep personal loss when I was seeking spiritual growth and the warmth of community. A year later Tamar Datan asked that I serve as her vice president. After two years as board vice president and two as president it is time to step down. As an officer and particularly as president, the spiritual part of church was increasingly lost to the daily business of running the church. It is, I realize, a selfish decision but it is time to again return to the spiritual side of church.

It has been a privilege to serve as your governing board president. We have a deep pool of able leaders and I am sure the UUCL will continue to grow and prosper.

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.