



The Chalice

Embracing Diversity, Nurturing Spirituality, Promoting Justice in the World

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October 2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT: A TIME OF TRANSITION



This month's newsletter is inspired by Rev. Dan's inaugural sermon and his metaphor of a river and the water flowing through it as always changing. Change is the one constant at UUCL. We have lost two long-time, beloved members but new families visit, and some eventually join. We are taking steps to improve the church building. New air conditioning makes our ship of dreams much more comfortable. Soon we hope to install the second exit and new entry door which will not only make the church safer, but also increase our capacity.

Thanks to the efforts of Tamar Datan we have secured a \$20,000 Chalice Lighters grant. Half the amount was awarded outright for space improvements, with the balance contingent upon the acquisition of the 15' strip of land adjacent to the church.

Then there are the small changes and business that keeps our church and congregants safe. The board met September 12th. The major item of business considered was by-law revisions. Jenna Korff sent everyone the revisions approved by the board that we will consider at the October 16th congregational meeting. Significant changes include lengthening the term that a board member can serve from five years to six reducing the number of congregational meetings from four to one and adding to the requirements of membership that a new member abide by the covenant of loving relations and conflict resolution procedure. When you receive the revisions, please take the time to read through them carefully. PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR BY LAWS REQUIRE THE ATTENDANCE OF 50% OF OUR MEMBERS TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE BY LAWS. Your attendance is very important. Kudos to Jenna, Marco and Tamar for their work on this difficult project.

The board reviewed our insurance coverage. Thank you to Greg Scheib for conferring with our agent, who advised that our current coverages are adequate. Once we complete further improvements to the church we will update coverages. Our agent's only suggestion was that we purchase an umbrella policy that covers excess liability above and beyond policy limits. The board will discuss purchasing the umbrella policy at our next meeting.

The Communications Committee is working diligently to improve our website. John Stevens, our IT guru, reported that UUA has released a website template that has advantages over the system we are currently using. The Communications Committee has decided to adopt the template. This will be much more user friendly, allowing regular updates by "editors" without help from a webmaster. The committee will also update the member area of the website.

Upon the advice of John Stevens, the board approved a system for password management and protection. All passwords will be stored in a vault protected from potential intruders and accessible by a limited number of UUCL staff and members. Thank you to John Stevens for all his work in keeping us safe.

Lastly, the board approved the appointment of Mel Pine as chair of the Caring Committee. We also have new members for this important committee. The board also approved the merger of the Hospitality and Fellowship committees and appointed Elizabeth Scheib and Wendy Testa as co-chairs. Much is happening and changing at UUCL. I do not have enough space here to thank all of you for the work you do for our UU family.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Great News from Tamar Datan!!

Our \$20,000 Chalice Lighters Grant was approved - \$10,000 outright and \$10,000 when the land deal is approved. The initial \$10,000 grant is for the additional church exit, and the second \$10,000 will go towards the purchase of the 15' strip of land between our two parcels. The parcels will be combined into one lot. This is the Phase One of our space improvement plan, which also included the addition of our upgraded HVAC system. Phase Two will be the construction of the ancillary unit which will be used for RE and fellowship purposes. The downstairs of the church will then be converted into office and meeting space.

Heartfelt thanks to Irv Dubinski, Erica Chambers, Sandy Shihadeh, Ann Marie Morreale, and Gaye Wallen for their valuable help with the proposal preparation - and to so many others for their kind support and encouragement.

WATER FESTIVAL 2016



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

Contributors: Kate Savidan, Alan Bentkofsky, Rev. Dan King and Natalie Pien.

Graphics Designer: Christopher D'Arcy.

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

NOTE FROM OUR MINISTER - REV. DAN KING, "WELCOME TO OUR VITAL SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY!" FALL 2016



As a newcomer to Loudoun myself, this is the implicit sense of what I needed to hear, and also to feel, when I came through the doors of this church. That WAS exactly the message my spouse and I received from each and every person who has greeted us over the past several months. Nina and I really do feel welcome, and we want to "pass it on" to everyone we meet. Our spiritual journey to this congregation, perhaps like yours, has been a bit complicated.

Initially, in our "mixed marriage" from Catholic and Protestant families, we came to Unitarian Universalism looking for a religious community that would help us raise our preschool children with healthy respect for diverse family lifestyles and for ALL the religions of the world as well as grounding in the practical ethics of Jesus (and the Buddha!) that we had learned from our own upbringing and education. We were not disappointed!

But we were pleasantly surprised that we also received support for ourselves! The daily routines of parenting those children on top of our demanding careers had taken so much of our energy and time that we had neglected our own spiritual lives for years. Perhaps that has been true for you, too?

We found an open and accepting community of folks very much like us in their sense of the important values and priorities for a healthy modern life, not just recitation of ancient creeds and blind acceptance of improbable myths and dogmatic pronouncements by remote patriarchal church authority. When we felt this resonance, we knew we had found our family's religious home. And over a few years, our commitment to the UU faith tradition grew even deeper, to the point that we made our transitions from church volunteers with "day jobs" in law and teaching to accept a call to professional UU ministry. The 25 years since we made that decision have been full of challenging and inspiring experiences in the five different states that we have called "home" at various times. But now, with our shared enduring commitment to our newest grandchildren, we find that we are really Virginians!

As the chosen Developmental Minister for this UU Church of Loudoun, I believe it is my responsibility to collaborate with lay leaders, musicians, and religious educators in the design and presentation of inspiring, nurturing, informative, and challenging worship services and programs for adults and families which will promote health, wholeness, and spiritual growth for the assembled congregation as we participate together in meaningful outreach and social justice efforts for the larger community. We also aim to extend a sincere welcome to others to enjoy the full range of benefits of being active participants in this particular community — to feel mutual support in times of trial, to share challenges, to overcome obstacles, to enjoy the good times and have fun, too! We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to connect with this community, fully grounded in historic traditions and also responsive to contemporary lifestyles, as we learn about YOU and YOUR needs and talents so that we can be mutually enriched. We are looking forward to getting acquainted!

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about our congregation.
Dan (The Reverend) King, Developmental Minister (minister@uuloudoun.org)

SPOTLIGHT - LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council is composed of committee chairs, who guide the duties of their committees and meet bi-monthly to work towards church goals through joint projects and collaborative efforts. In the hopes of getting to know these individuals, we asked each chair to answer the following questions:

- Provide a brief history of how you became a UU and joined UUCL.
- What lead to you serving as chair of your committee?
- Describe the responsibilities and main activities of your committee.
- What areas are you hoping to develop within your committee?
- Do you need volunteers and, if so, what assistance do you need?

Tommy Chambers --Building and Grounds Committee



I was born with an “open mind,” so I was destined to become a UU. But I didn’t discover UU and how it was the perfect faith for my spirituality until my mother in law, Ann Marie Morreale, introduced me to UUCL.

I have a bad habit of overcommitting myself, than wondering what I got myself into. :-)

There was a vacancy on the B&G Committee, some special projects needed some fresh energy to move them forward, and because I’m in property management by trade, it just fit.

Old buildings need TLC, just like a human body, there are things to do to keep it as healthy as you can. If our church were teeth, B&G would be the toothbrush — we keep the church fresh, maintained and healthy.

Amazingly, after 15 years in the property management industry I have become “less handy” — I rely on contractors and professional trades for special projects and I just coordinate. There are small tasks needed for B&G that someone who is handy could handle much more economically than hiring a contractor. The committee is in need of people who are skilled at simple “around the house” maintenance skills.

Someone who swings a hammer with confidence or doesn’t mind taking on small “handywork” would be a wonderful addition to this committee.

Tamar Datan - Stewardship and Social Justice Committee



A lifelong Jew, I started attending UUCL almost a decade ago with my then partner, now wife, Sandy Shihadeh. I found the warmth of community extremely inviting, and happily attended for several years as a friend. Then one particular Sunday, Sandy had to stay for a congregational meeting to approve the budget. I looked over the numbers and started whispering questions for her to ask. She told me that if I was that interested, I should become a member so I could ask my own questions. I had thought that “joining” meant converting to a new religion – which I did not wish to do. After a Rabbi reassured me I would not need to forfeit my Judaism to become a UU, I happily signed the book!

While serving on the Governing Board for five years (four as President) I saw an ongoing need for increased capacity and focus on both Stewardship and Social Justice. The newly combined committee was approved by our current President with a mandate of “taking care of ourselves and others.”

On the Stewardship side, we handle the annual pledge process – called our “Stewardship Survey” – where we meet with every Member, as well as active Friends, to discuss their desired commitment of time, talent and treasure to our beloved community. We also pursue grants for special projects, and support the Fellowship Committee in organizing the new fall fundraiser – “Loudoun Falls for Social Justice.” We are in the process of establishing an annual award to be given at this event – the “Ann Robinson Social Justice Award” – named in honor of a recently deceased, longstanding member and beacon of social action, equality, and diversity. Also on the Social Justice side, we track and promote social action opportunities, support our signature initiative (All Ages Read Together) and other legacy social action programs, and organize special collections.

We hope to continue securing new grants for further space improvements, particularly funds for building an ancillary RE building once the legal/land hurdles are cleared. We’d also like to update the Social Justice booklet, containing information on a wide range of volunteering opportunities made available by UUCL members and friends.

We’d love to welcome new committee members interested in grant-writing and editing, as well as folks who have design talents (digital and otherwise) to help us update the Social Justice booklet.

Mel Pine - New Chair of the Caring Committee



UUCL is my fourth UU congregation. My wife, Carol, and I met at the UU church in Reston in 1990, and we joined UUCL when we moved to Western Loudoun County in 2000. The UU faith is part of our family life together, and wherever we are, we want to be part of the local UU community. I first joined a UU church when I was living in New York City in the mid 1980s.

Since selling my business on New Year’s Day, I’ve been looking for ways to serve. The UUCL Caring Committee has done great work in the past and was an immense help to Carol and me when our son Thomas died in 2015. I’ve decided that some of the most fulfilling work for me going forward will be in the kind of direct, person-to-person compassion carried out by this committee.

We, along with the church’s minister, are the compassionate core of the congregation. We strive to be the safety net making sure that members of the UUCL community get the support they need as they face life’s misfortunes. We also like to be a present in times of celebration!!

We have a good committee whose work will continue. Because of my own life experience, I hope to be a resource on death and dying.

We need a few people willing to reach out -- in person or via phone, email or snail mail -- to other members at important times in their lives. We also need people to keep track of expressed joys and sorrows in order for the committee to provide assistance to members in need.

Ricky Keech - Worship Committee



I came to UUCL about 12 years ago when Marco and I were seeking community and like-minded people. We attended casually on and off for a while and joined later that same year.

I've been involved in Worship for several years, including serving on the committee during my time on the Governing Board as President. After leaving the board I felt called to work within the community that would deepen my spiritual connection to my faith and to the other members, so Worship was a natural choice. When the previous co-Chairs stepped down I readily agreed to take over.

Sunday Services! We are responsible for pretty much everything that happens upstairs on Sunday morning. Determining topics, scheduling speakers, developing service flow and templates, etc. We do all this in consultation with our Minister, but with UUCL having only half-time Ministry, the responsibility for the majority of the services falls on the Worship Committee.

We are continuing to strengthen our lay speaker program by continually recruiting and training. Also, we are working to ensure that the pieces of the service 'fit' together so that we can provide a meaningful service every week. The Music program recently came back under the Worship Committee, and we are thrilled to have Gerri Mathews as part of our team! We also have representation from the RE team on our committee. A service is more than a sermon, and we continue to refine this idea as we grow as a committee.

We always need volunteers! The committee loves when new people join us and bring fresh perspectives on worship to our meetings. We also need Worship Associates and are always on the lookout for people who have a sermon in them just waiting to get out!

Ann Marie Morreale - Membership Committee



Hurricane Sandy convinced me that continuing to live on the shoreline of Long Island, NY, would require more energy in my retirement than I was willing to give. So, in 2013, I decided to move to the mainland (Leesburg, VA) and give a bit of that energy to my grandkids and a UU congregation. I had found UU in the 1990's through like-minded friends. As soon as I walked through the doors of UUCL and was warmly welcomed by Peggy, Gina and so many others, I knew this was going to be a good fit.

After attending a few events, Newcomer Orientation and signing The Book, I sat in on a Membership Committee meeting and was hooked. Gina was giving up the chair and I took it, hoping that it would be the best way for me to meet each member and learn about the congregation as a whole. It worked!

The Membership Committee leads membership growth in UUCL by helping newcomers make connections with the church and by coordinating membership activities. We are responsible for welcoming visitors, publishing the UUCL welcome brochure, updating the Member Directory, distributing UUA informational resources, providing Newcomer Orientation on the path to membership, coordinating the signing of The Book, planning the annual Welcome to New Members ceremony, hosting the Annual Awesome Newcomers Party, and generally connecting newcomers to the UUCL community.

Currently, we are hoping to establish a Strategic Growth Forum where the Leadership Council (chairs of each committee) develops goals which will assist in increasing the number of UUCL

members. We hold a dinner meeting of fellowship and fun each month at my house.

All are welcome! Email us at membership@uuloudoun.org

Natalie Pien - Green Team



I live down the street. I passed by UUCL for many years before venturing in. When I finally did, the 7th Principle really impressed me. At the beginning, I was not active and always ducked out as soon as service was over. It wasn't until Ricky Keech cornered me to help with the Caring Committee. It's hard/impossible to say "No" to Ricky, so I started with Caring Committee and stayed with it for many years.

Another former UU member and I decided to revive the UUCL Green Team, with the objective to help our congregation reduce the amount of trash generated on-site. Then, in 2013, I hosted the live-stream premier of Bill McKibben's documentary "Do the Math" and the focus of the Green Team shifted to addressing the Climate Change crisis challenging the world, touching all aspects of society.

The UUCL Green Team mission is to help our congregation come into closer alignment with the UUA 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Towards this goal, we provide guidance by example, education, and advocacy.

The Green Team will develop a new approach towards accomplishing our mission.

Yes, we need volunteers who like to do outdoor activities of any kind. We want to help our congregation build a connection with Nature through a variety of outdoors experiences.

Michelle Saville - Religious Education Committee

I joined UUCL about 3 years ago. I came looking for a spiritual home for my children, but stayed because I found one for myself as well.



I became the chair of the RE committee when Jenna stepped into her current role on the board. I was a member of the RE committee at that time and it seemed like a way for me to become more involved with the church. I also greatly enjoy working with the other members of our committee.

The primary responsibility of the RE committee is to plan for the classes that are held on Sunday morning. We work alongside the DRE to offer a meaningful program for our children and youth. Our committee also coordinates events such as the Water Festival and community gatherings. We plan for and conduct a couple of intergenerational services each year and we are always looking for ways to help our children and youth make a meaningful contribution to the community outside of our congregation.

Our committee is currently evaluating the structures of our RE program. We are engaged in a book study of *To Touch Inward Springs: Teaching and Learning for Faith Development* by Betty Jo Middleton. We hope to create an experience that are meaningful.

We always need volunteers and we have many opportunities for people to get involved. We need teachers, assistants, and youth group advisers in our classes. We are also in need of volunteers to host/organize family and youth events. help with intergenerational services, meet with our youth group for coffee and conversation, share your talents with our children. There is a list of ideas for volunteering on the back bulletin board, and anyone interested can see either myself or our DRE, Kate Savidan for more information. We would love to have you join our incredible team!

Wendy Testa - Hospitality and co-chair of the Hospitality and Fellowship Committee

My family and I joined UUCL in 2013.

In spring of 2015 I was asked to chair the Hospitality Committee, which has now joined with the Fellowship Committee.



The hospitality branch of Fellowship provides coffee for the services on Sunday morning. The committee oversees the openers and closers of the building each Sunday. When coffee supplies or paper goods are running low, the hospitality team purchases replacements. Fellowship plans a fall fundraiser, hosts the Fellowship page on Facebook, promotes a monthly Friday social event planned by a member, promotes other events of interest to members and is able to support other committees with events.

We ask that all members sign up to be an opener or closer at least two times each year.

We also welcome members to join the committee to help plan events or aid in providing services for events.

Carrie Nowell - Communications Committee

Raised as a Methodist, my family members began to explore different Christian faiths. Then, through friendships, meeting my husband, and exploring my career, I was exposed to many other religious beliefs, including Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Wiccan, and Agnostic notions. I became a Unitarian in spirit prior to even knowing the faith existed. Then, when my family moved to Leesburg, I began looking for a supportive church environment. I found UUCL in 2015.



I joined the Communications Committee with my neighbor as a way to begin volunteering my time. The committee went through many shifts and changes in a small period of time. I was approached to take on the position of chair to help provide some much needed structure and to recruit new members. It's been a huge learning curve but I am happy to be able to help.

The Communications Committee is responsible for most forms of communication at the church including our website, church server, newsletter, Listbox, and Facebook. We also coordinate some things with the church administrator.

Right now, we are creating a new website with a Wordpress template created by UUA. The committee is gathering and updating content, which is an ongoing process. Also, we are testing out a pilot program for Facebook to see if boosted posts can get the word out about our church and hopefully draw in visitors and new members.

Our committee is always looking for volunteers with knowledge of websites, servers, and listservs; writing, photography and graphic design skills; and Facebook and other social media knowhow. Even members with little experience can be of assistance to this team. I learn new things on this committee all the time!! Also, members can help spread the word by commenting and sharing Facebook posts with family and friends who might have an interest in UUCL. communications@uuloudoun.org

Deborah Stephenson - Finance Committee



I started attending UUCL with Allan B. when we began dating in 2012. At first I was just coming with Allan and then I found that I really loved the people and the church and wanted to become a part of the family. I became an official member in the spring of 2013.

The Finance Committee needed members and some structure and since I have an accounting degree I thought this was an area where I could be of use.

The Finance Committee oversees the financial needs of the congregation. This committee helps with raising funds, budgeting, organizing and running the pledge drive, pledge record-keeping, bookkeeping and other financial matters. This committee also works with each of the other committees to develop realistic budgets and goals.

Our duties are separated into three specific sections: the finance chair, the treasurer and the stewardship chair. The finance chair is responsible for broad policies, advice and internal controls. The treasurer monitors all financial transactions and prepares monthly financial statements. All revenue is monitored and tracked by the stewardship chair.

Anyone who has a background in finance or fundraising is always welcome.

Elizabeth Scheib - Fellowship and co-chair of Hospitality and Fellowship Committee



My husband and I were members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Albuquerque. We joined it after my daughter Grace was born and felt very at home in the openness and shared values of the church. When we moved to Leesburg we happily discovered UUCL. Serendipitously it happens to be the church across the street from my childhood home :-)

I was approached to be the chair of fellowship after a long vacancy. At first I declined because of my involvement in other activities at the church. I was able to shift some of those other activities around, and once we were settled in our new home it freed up some time. I enjoy bringing people together and using social media as well as other forms of communication to do so. It feels like a natural fit!

Our committee facilitates the organization of First Saturday events, which give members an opportunity to easily host low or no-cost events that are diverse fellowship opportunities for our community. We help other committees plan and hold their fellowship gatherings as needed. For the first time, we are taking the leadership role for the fall fundraising and outreach event for the church. It is called "Loudoun Falls for Social Justice." Since merging with the Hospitality Committee, we also support fellowship within the church by working with the Membership Committee to organize opener/greeters and closer/greeters for Sunday services.

I hope to continue to develop fellowship opportunities within and outside Sunday services that make it easy for our membership to host or contribute to fellowship events that they would like to see happen. I see expanding our supportive role, while continuing a leadership role in the events I mentioned before.

Volunteers are always welcome and I hope to expand this aspect of our committee. I would love to have a list of members who are willing to help out at fellowship events and to know all the talents and skills of our membership that they enjoy using and would love to contribute to fellowship events!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION by Kate Savidan



Another school year has started and Religious Education registration for the 2016-2017 year is underway! We are asking that all parents register their children this year regardless of whether they will be in RE every week or once a month. This ensures that all contact information is up to date, Facebook/newsletter picture consent is given or not given, and accurate attendance can be kept. All parents and caregivers can get the registration forms from the DRE or RE Committee Chair, as well as from the RE teachers during class.

This year, the theme for UUCL's RE is "Our Hebrew and Christian Traditions." This unit is part of a four year rotation; the other themes are World Religions; Unitarian Universalism; and Peace, Justice and the Interdependent Web.

Whether or not a UU family's belief system leans towards the Jewish or Christian faith, the stories from both the Hebrew and Christian Bible are an integral part of our society, literature and heritage. I believe that children who are familiar with the stories from the past are better equipped to understand elements of our culture. The stories from the two faiths are about human issues that are ageless. These stories and customs can help us better understand our neighbors, as well as ourselves. When learned in a UU context, they can help our children understand the universal core of the story.

My goal as the Director of RE at UUCL is for the youth of our congregation to understand Judaism and Christianity as we do other world religions. To do that, we have to study them. My hope is that they will learn that ALL religions share core values, hopes and dreams. I want them to understand that it is human prejudice, not the religion itself, that often causes harm and misrepresentation. I want them to have enough information and opportunities for exploration to decide for themselves what is important to them.

This year we also have some exciting changes to the RE program. The Religious Education Committee has been learning about different styles of approaching UU RE, and we are implementing some of these approaches into our own program. This year will be a year of exploring, experimenting and finding unique ways to approach our classes. Our goal is to better serve all of the youth of our congregation and keep them engaged and active with our church!



GREEN TEAM EFFORTS AT UUCL by Natalie Pien

The Green Team was revived 3 years ago. Today, our mission is to guide, by example, our church family to come into closer alignment with the UU 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. To this end, the Green Team has been engaged in a variety of activities.

1. Develop and facilitate adoption (October 2015 Congregational Meeting) of the UUCL Resolution on Climate Change, which resolves

“We, the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun, commit to support efforts and adopt practices that will minimize the use of fossil fuels to reduce our carbon footprint.”

Full text: http://uuloudoun.org/wordpress1/documents/Committee%20documents/Green%20Team/UUCL_Climate_Change_Resolution_final.pdf

2. Create quarterly bulletins, The Interdependent Web of Life, to dive deep into timely topics. http://uuloudoun.org/site2/members/about-uuc1/news-2/lyme_ticks



The 2014-15 theme was management of black-legged, Lyme disease carrying ticks. The Green Team guided a transition from regular, broad spectrum insecticide spraying to a multi-pronged approach. The new approach included:

- Establishing a landscaped tick barrier around the perimeter of UUCL grounds.
- Setting up a “tick” station with ID cards, instruments, and people-friendly insect repellent.

The 2015-16 theme was how we can become invested in the 7th Principle in our daily lives. This theme included:

- Hosting a workshop on aligning finances with the 7th Principle.
- Hosting a solar cooperative, which included a free energy walkthrough and solar panel evaluation for homes of attendees. The church also received an energy walkthrough.

3. Create and maintain green practices to reduce trash generation at UUCL, which included the following:

- Cloth napkins in the sanctuary instead of paper.
- Compost non-meat food waste instead of trashing it.
- Cloth hand towels in the restroom instead of paper towels.

4. Collaborate with RE on 7th Principle lessons/activities.

- Plant the certified Monarch Waystation.
- Plant a veggie garden on the south side of the building along the walkway to the basement.
- Set up the UUCL Community Compost Bin.
- Paint the rain barrel donated by Natalie and SWCD, to be installed at a future date.

Many ideas need many hands.

Join the Green Team to “be the change!”



UUCL on the D.C. Mall for Pope Francis' Climate Change Rally, September, 2015