
SUNDAY SERVICES

March Theme: VOCATION

Sunday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.
The Work of Being the Light

Rev. Olympia Brown, the first woman to be ordained a Unitarian minister, reminds us “to stand by this faith. Work for it and sacrifice for it.” We sit with wonder at how hope and love persist and thrive in the midst of seeming chaos. On this day, we reflect on the ways in which we are called into the world and what is asked of us in terms of real work, sacrifice, and faith. Led by **Rev. Rebekah Montgomery**, with The **Adult Choir** and **Justin Furnia** on piano. Special music by **André Enceneat**.

Children's Worship & Youth Worship—Preschool through fifth grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children's Worship. Sixth grade through Senior High will go directly to classrooms in the lower level of Building 5. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.
Playtime for the Soul

It might seem that *spiritual practice* is serious business, or that our vocation as people of faith is only for the most mature, but as Rumi tells us, “there are a thousand ways to kneel and touch the ground,” and *play* is one. Led by **Rev. Strauss. Sonaria** will sing; **Justin Furnia** on piano.
(continued on page 2)

Quest

The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Rockville:
A Welcoming Congregation

Spiritual Freedom Beloved Community Social Responsibility

Volume LX, Number 6-7
March 8, 2017

Editor: Elizabeth Sullivan
Desktop Publisher: Adrian Graham



- ◆ **Promoting UU Values**
- ◆ **Developing New Leaders**
- ◆ **Sustaining Team Ministry**

Social Justice Town Hall

Sanctuary March 12
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

UUCR's commitment to equality and justice is essential to our identity as a faith community. At this Town Hall, facilitated by Rev. Lynn Strauss and Jack Eisenhauer, you will learn about what is happening and how you can participate in four social justice issue areas:



- ◆ LGBTQ and Women's Reproductive Health
- ◆ Immigration and Interfaith Refugee Resettlement
- ◆ Racial Justice and Beloved Conversations
- ◆ Green Team and Protection of the Earth

Leaders in each of these areas will speak for ten minutes, after which there will be an opportunity for Q&A.

Be sure to bring your ideas and concerns for the “parking lot” that will capture new ideas or overarching thoughts – things we wish to return to at a later time. There will be an information table with handouts that summarize the four areas and note other ways that people can participate. Youth, young adults, adults, and families are invited to participate. There will be light refreshments.

Come, learn and grow your spirit!

Quest deadline: Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on April 12, 2017.
Email to **Beth Irikura**

Quest

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(Sunday Services continued from page 1)

First Fifteen—All ages will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service before going to classes. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, March 26, 10:00 a.m.—New Member Sunday *Call and Response*

As a community, we gather to reflect on the meaning of vocation in our lives this month. The author Parker Palmer writes in his book *Let Your Life Speak*, “before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am.” Part of our discernment as a covenanted people is honoring and responding to how we strive to be in the world. Are we listening to our lives tell us who we are? How shall we respond? Led by **Rev. Montgomery**.

Children's Worship & Youth Worship—Preschool through fifth grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children's Worship. Sixth grade through Senior High will go directly to classrooms in the lower level of Building 5. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.

April Theme: SURPRISE

Sunday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. *To This I Give My Heart*

Rev. Strauss will invite you to consider what it is that calls out for your devotion. To what are you responsible? To what do you belong? And what might surprise you if you gave your heart to it?

Children's Worship & Youth Worship—Preschool through fifth grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children's Worship. Sixth grade through Senior High will go directly to classrooms in the lower level of Building 5. Nursery in Building 3, Room 33.



NEWS FROM OUR NETWORKS



2017 Election Voting Information

Democracy is a core value of our faith. In June, delegates will vote for our next UUA President and open Board and Committee positions. Delegates may vote at General Assembly or absentee.

BE AN INFORMED VOTER

The UUA presidential candidates will appear at the following UUA Board-sponsored forums.

- Feb 25** **Pacific Northwest District Assembly**
10:15 am PT - pnwduua.org
Unitarian Universalist Church, Eugene, OR
- April 1** **Central East Region Leadership Day**
10:00 am ET - uua.org/central-east
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda, MD
- April 8** **Southern Region Spring Gathering**
11:00 am ET - seduua.org
Unitarian Church in Charleston, SC
- April 21** **New England Regional Assembly**
7:00 pm ET - uua.org/new-england
Hilton Boston/Woburn, Woburn, MA
- April 28** **MidAmerica Regional Assembly**
7:30 pm CT - midamericauua.org
Chicago Marriott Oak Brook, Oak Brook, IL
- May 6** **Pacific Central District Annual Assembly**
1:00 pm PT - pcduua.org
Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Walnut Creek, CA
- June 23** **General Assembly Presidential Candidates Forum - Live Stream 8:00 – 9:30 pm CT**
New Orleans Convention Center, LA
Watch the live stream and recording on uua.org/ga
Sponsored by the Election Campaign Practices Committee



Revised Jan 30, 2017



VOTE!

DELEGATES

Delegates are selected members and qualifying religious professionals of certified congregations. Congregations decide how to select their member delegates and may choose to instruct their delegates how to vote.

CREDENTIALS

After March 1, congregational officials may access credential documents at my.uua.org to assign and distribute them to members selected as delegates.

VOTE IN PERSON - GA IN NEW ORLEANS

On June 24, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CT, delegates may scan their GA name badge at voting kiosks in the Great Hall Lobby of the New Orleans Convention Center to vote.

VOTE ABSENTEE - ONLINE

From June 1, 9:00 am to June 24, 5:00 pm CT, delegates unable to vote in person may access their election ballot by following the voting link found on their delegate credential document.

VOTE ABSENTEE - MAIL

Delegates unable to vote in person or online may request a paper ballot by mail at UUA General Assembly, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210. Requests must include a copy of the delegate credential document and be postmarked by June 1. Completed ballots must be received by June 14 or postmarked by June 12.

INFORMATION

UUA Elections & FAQ	uua.org/elections
UU World Coverage	uuworld.org/topics/uua-elections
Technical Support	delegatesupport@uua.org
Election Questions	secretary@uua.org
General Assembly	uua.org/ga
	generalassembly@uua.org
	617-948-4208

Going to GA this year? If you are interested in serving as a UUCR Delegate to the General Assembly, please contact **Eric Burch**, or **Ellen Rohan**, by **March 31** to receive sign-up information. Visit www.uua.org/ga for information on General Assembly. (click the image above for the original document with active hyperlinks.)

DeLynnations

by Rev. Lynn T. Strauss

Of One Faith

We who love UUCR have become keepers of the flame of love and justice. Wherever we are, by whatever name we call our holy ground of being...whether God or Goddess, Earth or Sky or Tree, Spirit of Life, Love Universal, Mystery Beyond...

We are One in our values and principles.

We are One in the embrace of diversity and inclusion.

We are One in continued discovery of truth and meaning.

We who love UUCR are keepers of the flame of beauty. Look to the night sky in these early days of March, the vastness overhead stirs a vastness in our hearts. There is joy to be found in a community of Beloveds.

Look deeply into the flame and see reflected there our centuries-old tradition and our discoveries, ever new, of what it means to be human.

We who love UUCR are keepers of the flame of hope and gratitude. Let us give thanks.

May you be held in Blessing,

Reverend Strauss

Reflections

by Dayna Edwards, Director of Religious Education

“The opposite of war isn’t peace. It’s creation.” –RENT

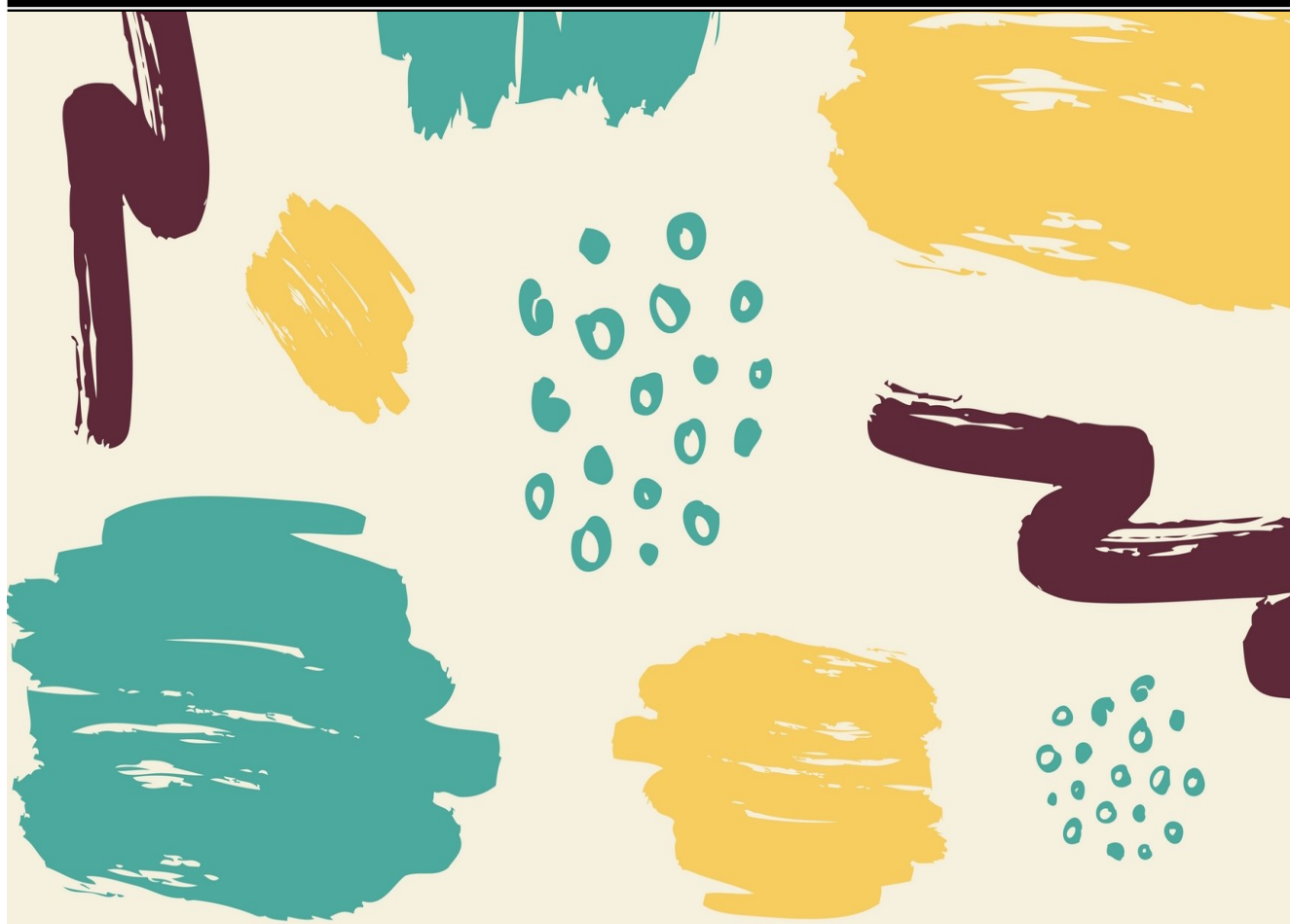
One of my most beloved spiritual texts is the musical *Rent*. The musical is about artists living in the Village at the end of the twentieth century. It may come as no surprise, if you are familiar with the musical, that I am drawn to a new movement in education called “maker spaces”. The bohemians in *Rent* may have been early precursors to the *MakerSpace* movement.

Imagine a place where you are given a variety of materials and told to create something that speaks to your heart. Imagine if you left church every Sunday knowing that you had contributed to a tangible product that would be evidence that you lived into your values. Imagine if there were a space for our children and youth where they could try something and make a mistake and try again without judgment. Imagine a space where adults were not responsible for imparting knowledge, but instead joined in the wonder and awe of discovery. The image you have in your head is a makerspace.

This summer, UUCR will be running a makerspace program each week during Sunday School time. Our makerspace will be a place with the tools and materials children/youth need to engage in the spiritual act of creation. Adults will act as guides, instead of teachers, as children discern and listen to their inner creative voice. We are looking for adults and families to be activity leads, as well as general space monitors. Current middle school and high school students are invited to be helpers this summer and will also have an opportunity to have a makerspace of their own.

Please take a moment to learn more about UUCR's summer makerspace and to express your interest in helping out: <http://tinyurl.com/UUCRmakerspace>.

Dayna



MAKER SPACE

"THE OPPOSITE OF WAR ISN'T
PEACE... IT'S CREATION" -RENT

SIGN UP TO GUIDE OUR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
IN CREATION AND
DISCOVERY
THIS SUMMER

—
STARTING JUNE 18, THERE WILL BE
SEVERAL SPACES SET UP WITH
MATERIALS TO ENCOURAGE "MAKING"
APPROPRIATE FOR VARIOUS AGES.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

March for Manna

by Dolores Barnes



Our UUCR community has generously donated 1,300 pounds of food to Manna since September, on our way to our goal of 2,500 pounds by August. This is actually down a couple hundred pounds from last year at this time. We can do more! Sadly, one in four Montgomery County residents is still at risk of hunger, and over 35% of our MCPS children qualify for free or reduced meal plans.

Now more than ever, we challenge you to increase your donation efforts – our “March” for Manna.

Your **donations of healthy foods and most needed items such as** whole grain pasta, canned fruit in juice, low-sodium canned vegetables, beans, brown rice, instant oatmeal packets, natural nut butters, tuna, salmon or chicken in water, cooking oils and spices, individual milk boxes, baby formula and baby food, allow Manna to support programs in Montgomery County such as:

Food for Families – provides nutritious food to more than 3,760 families each month.

Smart Sacks – provides nearly 2,490 children in 60 elementary schools with backpacks filled with kid-friendly food during the week.

Food Distribution to Agencies – includes soup kitchens, food pantries, group homes and emergency shelters.

Please remember to bring your nonperishable food items every Sunday to one of our 2 BLUE COLLECTION BUCKETS outside Founders Hall, and outside of the Sanctuary by the courtyard entrance.

Thanks from The Hunger Task Force and Children’s Worship.

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministries of Maryland

by Alonzo Smith

Two UUCR members, Andrea Hall and Alonzo Smith, are members of the UULM-MD Board of Directors.

On January 15, a legislative workshop was held at Rockville entitled “Where Do We Go from Here?” Focusing on criminal justice reform and police accountability, it featured five panelists: Alonzo Smith, Jonathan Hutto (Prince George’s Peoples Coalition), Liz Bobo (former Maryland state delegate from Howard County), Eleanor Piez (interim minister, UULM and UU Church of Annapolis), and Candy Clark (bail bond reform activist).

On January 28, the UULM-MD’s annual “Legislative Kick-Off” was held in Annapolis. Over 150 UUs from around the state were in attendance, and the featured speaker was Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh. UUCR was represented by Andrea Hall, Bennett Rushkoff, Sean McCarthy, Ken Sandin, Rosalie Bright, and Alonzo Smith.

On February 26, Alonzo, Candy, and Susan Westenbarger of the UU Church of Silver Spring, led a discussion on bail bond reform and police accountability at Cedar Lane UU Church. Members of UULM-MD are also involved with legislation to ban fracking, to support death with dignity, and in favor of paid sick leave.

SOCIAL JUSTICE / AROUND THE BELTWAY

Joseph Priestley District Chalice Lighter Program

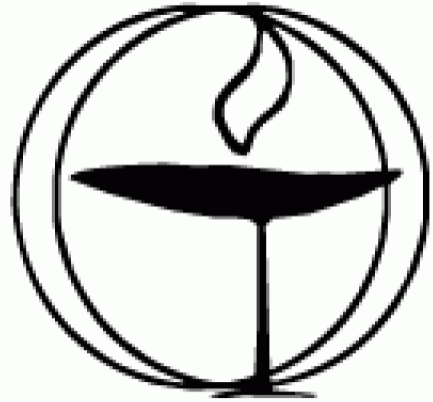
by Ken Sandin

Chalice Lighters support grants to organize new congregations in their Joseph Priestley District (JPD), to help congregations buy land and buildings, and to help congregations afford their first minister or other staff leading to becoming full service.

It is huge financial and organizational stretch for small congregations to move from rental spaces using "church in a box" to having their own home. A Chalice Lighter Call letter or email notifies Chalice Lighters of the results of a grant-giving session of the Chalice Lighter Committee and it is time to send in their pledged amount to support the grants. There are currently 3 of these grant-giving sessions a year, giving approximately 2 grants of 20 thousand at each session. The current suggested pledge is 20 dollars per call, or 60 dollars per year. Pledges of more or less are welcome.

Want to enroll?

Fill out the online form at <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/snxlp821xh4vo3/>



Current Chalice Lighter grants:

- **UU Fellowship of Southern Maryland** in Hollywood, MD, to hire a Religious Education Coordinator to grow their membership. A new Chalice Lighters grant to the UU Fellowship of Southern MD is crucial for its growing youth and young adult programs – the number of children enrolled in its RE program has surged from 5 to 34 in the past two years!
- **UUs of Chester River**, MD, to create a Developmental Growth Plan to increase membership and financial resources, strengthen community outreach, and identify programs to sustain growth.
- Membership is up at the historic **UU Church of Loudon**, Virginia, which has a Chalice Lighters grant to increase its chapel's maximum capacity by adding a second exit.

Help Friendship Force International Celebrate 40 Years

by Dorothy Wicker

The local Friendship Force Club (www.ffnca.org) invites members of UUCR to a program and lunch, provided by club members, on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Program is moderated by Claire Gesalman, the local club president. Hear about and potentially join the local FF club for homestays in New Zealand in 2018 and hosting of visitors from Germany in September 2017. Hear from club members who recently returned from the international conference in Morocco; club members who recently returned from homestays in Ottawa, Canada; and club members who recently hosted visitors from Turkey and will travel there in April 2017.

Friendship Force is dedicated to an idea: a commitment to world peace through the understanding of people and cultures throughout the world. The goal is to bring mutual understanding to the citizens of the world.

Through the powerful tool of home hospitality, the Friendship Force introduces people at the personal level. By living under one roof for a few days, sharing meals, and exchanging ideas, people become friends. Check out www.friendshipforce.org.

We would appreciate knowing how many people to expect for lunch. Sign up at the FFNCA website, <http://ffnca.org/contact-us/>, or by contacting UUCR members Karla Timmons or Dorothy Wicker.

ACTION AUCTION

What Can You Donate for the May 6 Action Auction?

by Marsha Luce

UUCR's **Action Auction Fiesta Cruise** is a great event to share your skills, interests, and hobbies; meet new people; enjoy good food at our cruise ports-of-call; and help raise funds for UUCR in the process.

The **Action Auction Fiesta Cruise, Saturday, May 6**, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., is a fun evening of silent and live bidding on special dinners, events, and services provided by congregation members and friends and local businesses. It is a great way to discover the talents among our congregation. We're accepting donations beginning **March 19**, until **Sunday, April 9**—what can *you* contribute?



- donate baked goods or gourmet meals
- have a game night or pool party
- have a brunch/lunch/dinner in your home
- lead a hike, bike, canoe, or kayak trip
- share about your travels
- deliver fresh-picked berries to someone
- donate time in your vacation home
- teach a musical instrument or sport
- donate restaurant or gift cards
- provide a service (childcare, lawn



Kathy and José Clemente have been delighted to host the **Taste of Brazil Dinner and the Caipirinha “Lessons”**. *“These activities not only help UUCR financially, but we also get to know a number of UUCR members. These gatherings have allowed us to have fun while giving guests a small taste of the Brazilian culture and food.”*



April Pulvirenti has **baked little pies and made applesauce**. *“The entire process of donating items is thrilling—from watching the auction sheets fill with names during the dinner, to apple-picking and ingredient shopping, to cooking, and to seeing the light in the faces of the people when they pick up their pies and applesauce. It has been just a great feeling to share something I enjoy doing, while at the same time supporting UUCR.”*

Chris and Nick Kohout started a **“family game night”** that has become an annual tradition. *“It is fun to connect to folks on a deeper level than one finds in coffee hour chit-chat. Our family game night has helped us get to know other families with elementary-age children in the congregation. It has been a wonderful experience!”*



Do you have need for a skill, trade, or even unskilled labor:

- baby-sitting
- help in the garden
- computer help
- lawn mowing or yard work
- someone to paint your house
- repair work in your house

List what you're willing to pay and at the Action Auction, someone who is willing to provide that service will write their bidder number next to your offering.

(continued on page 9)

(Action Auction—continued from page 8)

To get more ideas, take a look at the 2016 Action Auction Catalog at www.uucr.org/actionauction and then complete the 2017 Action Auction Donation Form. Online donations will be available from the UUCR website **starting March 19**.

“Talk to us!” say Action Auction Co-chairs **Carolyn Randall, Claudia Chitty, Liz Zerby, and Sandy Larkin**. They can be reached at auctionleads@uucr.org. You can also visit our table after Sunday services starting on **March 19** where you can get more ideas on what to donate.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Thinking of You

compiled by Judy Eisenhauer on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

Steve Crawford and Liliane Floge are mourning the death of Steve’s brother, Jay Crawford, on February 21. Jay died at age 81 in Vero Beach, Florida, after lengthy health problems and a stroke in December. Steve reports that his brother had a long and happy life.

See Lam sustained a head injury in a fall in early February and was hospitalized briefly then sent for rehabilitation. He has been home a few weeks now, doing very well, and is walking and driving. His son Ben has been staying with him while he recovers.

Richard Noreikis, formerly a member of UUCR’s Adult Choir, is in hospice care at home in College Gardens. Our ministers are in close touch with Richard and his wife, Norma. Our loving care goes out to Richard. Cards are most welcome.

Melissa Rael is at home and receiving regular deliveries of homemade soups and stews from the Pastoral Care Team’s “Soup Brigade.” Melissa has ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), has a daily caregiver, and is also receiving help with paperwork from Marianne Miller.

Myra Tate, UUCR’s Director of Music from 1994 to 2007, died last month. Rev. Strauss has met with Myra’s daughters to plan a memorial service to be held at UUCR on Saturday, May 13 at 2:00 p.m. Be assured that it will be a lovely service with beautiful music.

The **UUCR Staff** wants to enthusiastically thank Ellen Rohan and Steve Green for their generous gift of Olney Theatre tickets. Eight of us attended a Wednesday matinee of *Sweeney Todd*, a wonderful production with a rather questionable message. Steve is the technical director at Olney, and the theatrics were amazing. Your staff had a great time!

Please contact **Judy Eisenhauer** with any joys, concerns, or accomplishments you would like to share in this column.

Quest

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville
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March 8, 2017

DATED MATERIAL

Our Vision

The vision of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville is a strong, vibrant, and loving religious community actively engaged in nurturing spiritual freedom and working for social justice.

Our Mission

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville is to engage one another in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy. We aim to:

- Nurture, sustain and challenge people to grow spiritually and find meaning in their lives through worship, religious education, social and creative opportunities;
- Grow together as a multi-generational, diverse and inclusive community;
- Lead social justice, community service and outreach activities to positively transform our community.