



Horizons Newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN IDAHO FALLS

Our Vision

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls is a vibrant and welcoming church home for everyone. With a tradition of thoughtful searching, we are a beacon of truth, love and justice.

Our Mission

Honor the individual's right to religious and spiritual freedom
Minister to each other and the community at large
Nurture the search for truth and meaning
Be a loving and intergenerational community welcoming to all beliefs, races, sexual orientations, ethnicities and gender identities
Improve the quality of life by living our values and working for local and universal justice

Our Covenant

Love is the spirit of this community and service its law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

July 2017

July Worship

Sunday Services 10:30am

July 2 "Celebrate Life"

Rev. Mara Pennell looks at living our lives in the way we wish to be remembered and remembering how wonderful life really is.

July 9 "Living UU Principles"

Join Worship Associate Annette Lovell as she asks, "If you were on trial for being a Unitarian Universalist, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" Come and explore how our lives could look if we can live our UU principles every day.

July 16 "Where is Everybody?"

In 1950 Enrico Fermi asked the question about space aliens: "Where is Everybody?" We still don't know the answer, but the possible answers do tell us much about our place in the universe. Join Josh Cogliati to explore this provocative question.

July 23 "Summer in the Circle of Life"

This month's spiritual theme in our Touchstones publication is "The Circle of Life." Sometimes it seems as though our UU communities give short shrift to the summer season of our lives and our UU community. So let's invest a Sunday morning examining what a spiritual summer might feel like. Let's ponder how we might best appreciate the sweet challenges summer offers in our lives.

July 30 "Worship and Nature; Poetry in the Park!"

Summer is a wonderful time to appreciate the writing of some of our favorite poets and philosophers. We will bring treasured images and ideas and enjoy a special service out of doors. We have reserved the Freeman Park Band Shell for this morning's worship. There we can enjoy worship in the out of doors and then have a lazy picnic lunch and appreciate simply being together in the fresh green space overlooking our beautiful Snake River. Please bring your friends and neighbors, a chair or blanket, your lunch and any outdoor equipment or games that you and /or your children might enjoy for an afternoon in the park.

August 6 "Discarding and Discounting"

Whom do we seek out and whom do we ignore? Our American mythology says we are an egalitarian society, but our history uncovers a different reality. Our Unitarian and Universalist ancestry reveals that our religious forebears a story of a distinct tendency toward elitism and classism. So let's look at what this means for our ability to become the Beloved Community we hope to be.



Ref- lections

Living in Idaho has many benefits; we all treasure our clean air and fresh water, our proximity to the parks and wilderness, our rivers and lakes,

and mountains, the abundant wildlife and our open spaces. But living in Idaho also means that we are far from the center of the greater Unitarian Universalist movement and activity. We tend to be involved and connected within our own congregation and sometimes almost lose sight of

the fact that we are also part of a larger denomination, that we are a “member congregation” of a faith tradition that is non-hierarchical. We are all in this together, we have no popes or bishops or high church councils that determine policies. We are part of a democratic religious denomination. Representatives from each congregation get together each year at our “UUA General Assembly” to make decisions that affect and define our faith community.

Each UUA Member Congregation sends individuals to “GA” as voting delegates. This year the assembly was in New Orleans and I attended. As the minister of this UU congregation, I am automatically a voting delegate, and Elizabeth Cogliati and Vic Allen were also selected to represent us and able to monitor the events and to vote on line. I have always loved this experience of true democracy at work. The UUA keeps congregations informed, there are pre-GA sessions that help delegates understand the process and then during GA, the actual deliberative

assembly of a couple of thousand of Unitarian Universalists work together to make decisions that will guide the congregations of our denomination.

This year, however, for the first time in the more time in the nearly thirty years since I attended my first “GA,” back in 1989, I was *anxious* about attending. I was concerned for our denomination, for our

“This year, however... I was anxious about attending”

larger religious “community,” for this Association of Congregations that I respect and so love.

It wasn’t just because New Orleans promised to be sticky and hot in June, (it was) or because I would be arriving already exhausted, (I did.)

It wasn’t because so many of my dear clergy mentors and friends have already retired and were not planning to attend, or because I continue to feel that GA is just too expensive, (it surely is.) No, this year General Assembly seemed like an opportunity for encountering and experiencing hurt and division. I knew that there would be conversation and possibly defensiveness about the accusations of “White Supremacy” and the subsequent resignations of Peter Morales, our UUA President some other key leaders, and that many of us were feeling sadness and loss over the sad death of our beloved UUA moderator Jim Key. Though I was registered and had made reservations, I was also filled with trepidation and reluctance as I packed and made ready to depart for a week in the “Big Easy.”

Fortunately the leaders of our UU Minister’s Association and the trio of wise people selected as “interim co-presidents” by the UUA Board to guide us during this brief, but extremely important time of transition, provided a truly healing presence. They were

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Minister
Rev. Lyn Stangland
Cameron

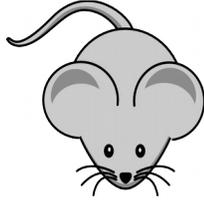
Office Administrator
Vic Allen

**Director of Religious
Education and
Exploration**
Elizabeth Cogliati

Executive Board
Arthur Kull
Katherine Giovanna
Daniel Schwen
Molly Brinkerhoff
Lorenzo Vega
Steve Wike

Church Mouse

OK people, it's officially summer, you know, the season when things are supposed to be a little laid back and more relaxed. So what's with **you**? You all have been anything but relaxed; you certainly did



anything but stroll along lazily during the month of June! We mice think it may have all started when a spanking new gutter was installed along the back roof of the garage to replace Steve Wike's hose extension which, along with the asphalt sealing done by Kendall Lovell, really appeared to eliminate the water problem that we watched Lorenzo and so many of you struggle with several times last winter.

But your June's activities sent our loyal family of church mice spinning! We should have known when the attractive flyers designed by Katharine Giovanna announced that you all were planning a June 10 "Back Yard BarBQ and Auction" and Katharine and her daughter Gemma repotted a couple of the church's old plants and disposed of a diseased ficus. Because, before long, we mice were forced to zip about to remain safe and out of the way!

On Sunday June 4 we had a great time listening to your congregation's dear friend James Francis' presentation on what Abraham Lincoln's words have to offer as the nation considers the threats to democracy today, and after worship a crew of UU's moved all the pews to transform the sanctuary. Then Katherine and her husband Dennis suspended dozens of colorful paper lanterns from the ceiling beams and later she and Sadie and Bea and Sue and Molly added trellises and flowers and jaunty red picnic plaid tablecloths! They also turned Fellowship Hall into an attractive "Dance Club." What a transformation!

And then the gas grills arrived; Sadie and Larry dropped off theirs and then Diane and Dennis Roberts picked up, delivered (and later returned) four more. Molly and Annette and Arthur set up the bar and the raffle and then on Saturday Daniel arrived early to chop veggies while Tom Brinkerhoff and the band set up and practiced. Our mouths watered as we watched Ronda organize her parade of delicious-looking desserts! Before long our entire mouse family was delirious from the aroma of grilled brats and fresh corn on the cob!

What fun you all seemed to be having! The few items in the silent auction and the generous raffle were like icing on a great cake and provided opportunities for everyone to get involved. And then afterwards people scurried about to set things back to "normal" for Sunday's service the next day.

Rev. Lyn and Liz Marsden were the last to leave when they discovered that the sanctuary door locks were malfunctioning and would not lock. Our whole family

watched sleepily as they tried to figure out what to do and finally slipped a few pieces of wooden shims into the mechanism to hold the doors secure until the locksmith could come to correct the problem.

Over the years we mice have seen many people work on those doors so we were already ready to support that "Capital Campaign" that we heard the board preparing. And on Sunday after worship Arthur Kull used a slide show that Vic Allen prepared to explain to those who were at the special meeting about the safety needs and improvements the "Capital Drive" money will make possible. Of course we mice have known for years that those things should be addressed; we already knew the knob and tube should be replaced, we knew about the door locks and the roof, and the windows and so we listened carefully agreeing with everything he shared.

And now, as the campaign is proceeding and you all have been fortunate to receive some generous matching grants, we mice are thrilled to know that our home in this old mortuary and our relationship with your interesting and kind and caring UU community may continue safely for many more years!

But all that activity made for a very full agenda during June. Rev. Lyn was not at all sure how things would settle out. Because of what the board learned last year DREE Elizabeth Cogliati and the Religious Education Committee knew they could no longer safely use the window Air Conditioner unit. But summertime makes the nursery too warm so the nursery is now meeting in the old Yoga Room and REE classes will be held in Fellowship Hall and out of doors. Of course we are used to having to share our cool and quiet spaces during the summer so we are not much surprised but we are also alert to the fact that this means we may be more likely to be detected so should you hear a tiny squeak or detect a quick scurry we implore you to stay quiet - we are looking forward to a peaceful July and August. Your favorite Church Mouse.

Men's & Women's Groups

UUCIF's Women's group

will not meet in July due to the 4th of July Holiday. The Women's Group will meet Friday, August 4th at Marilyn Watts' home. You can contact Robie Cartmell at 523-5250 for details.



The Men's group has also decided to not meet the month of July. They, too, will resume meeting in August.



Around UUCIF

Touchstones

Our Covenant Group Ministry uses the publication called “Touchstones” which each month provides deep and thoughtful insights regarding a spiritual theme and then provides a daily focus for personal reflection and mediation. The July Touchstones theme “*The Circle of Life*” begins with this quote from the late Reverend Forrest Church, “*Religion is the human response to being alive and having to die.*” This places the circle of life at the center of our religious concern. Our seventh principle and sixth source reinforce the importance of the circle of life, both literally and metaphorically.”

Our UUCIF Covenant group meets on the first Monday of the month at 12:30 pm in the Jefferson Room. New comers are welcome. Consider checking this supportive opportunity for in depth relationship out this summer. In the fall there may be an opportunity to begin a second group meeting at another time.

Garden Away!

Our Community Garden is a special place for both us the the larger community. Often people will make a point of coming by the office to tell us how much they appreciate having the garden available in the neighborhood

So if you are a gardener, or even if you aren’t but would like to try your hand, our garden and grounds can always use some assistance. Weeding, pruning, planting, and trimming are ways to help out when you can. You don’t need to spend hours and hours at it, just a little now and again. Together we can continue to make our Community Garden beautiful and inviting!

Auction Results!

All tolled the events of our 2017 Dinner and auction brought in nearly \$7,000! We would like to thank all the many people involved in making this event happen so successfully - Katharine Giovanna- and her husband Dennis: for delightful graphic design, and decorations making things feel festive and outdoorsy The food prep and grilling masters, Daniel and Liz Marsdan, Annette Lovell for organizing the auction and Molly Brinkerhoff for acting actioneer and putting together the “Raffle”, Ronda Wike for organizing the fabulous dessert auction, Diane and Dennis Roberts for grill pick up and delivery. To the members of Eclectic Connection for their lively music that had everyone dancing!! And to all the other many folks who helped make it a wonderful evening of food and fun.

Common Read 2017-18

A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

The Common Read Selection Committee has chosen two books for this year’s Common Read: *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema (Skinner House, 2017), stories, analysis, and insights of a number of UU religious leaders of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in UU communities.

Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want, by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen, (Beacon Press, September 2017) It examines the anti-democracy movement that led to the Trump presidency, then offers a vision and call to action to save the democracy we thought we had and to take our civic life to a place it has never been.

Rev. Lyn’s Office Hours

Monday 10a -2p
Wednesdays 2-5pm
Thursday 10am to Noon at Café Villa on Park Avenue, downtown I.F.
And by appointment

Office Administrator Hours

Mon. 2:30p – 5:30p
Wed. 2:30 - 5:30pm
Thu. 2:30p – 5:30p

DREE Office Hours

Thursday: 8:30am—11am



“REE has gone to a one room schoolhouse style for the summer months.”

Contact DREE

Phone

(208) 403-1306

Email

dree.uucif@gmail.com

DREE Office Hours

Thursdays
8:30 - 11am

UUCIF News From “Upstairs”

By Elizabeth Cogliati

REE has gone to a one-room schoolhouse style for the summer months. All ages over 3 will be together for the summer and all lessons will be focused on summer fun and what we do in summer. The children will also spend time caring for the REE Children's Garden.
Planned Classes

- July 2 Celebrating the Fourth of July
- July 9 Fireworks
- July 16 Summer Weather
- July 23 Summer Holidays
- July 30 Going to the beach (UUCIF meets in Freeman Park)
- Aug 6 Thunderstorms & tornadoes
- Aug 13 How do plants grow?
- Aug 20 Going to the fair
- Aug 27 Back to school

The nursery will be open every Sunday for children ages 0-3. For the summer, the nursery will be in the old Yoga room downstairs (on the opposite side of the stairs from Fellowship Hall). There will be childcare available on July 30, when we meet in Freeman Park.

**“Rev-flections”
continued from pg 3**

able to bridge some of the divisions, not by glossing over very real differences and hurt but by acknowledging realities and honoring the varieties of experiences and perspectives shared by people of color and other marginalized individuals and groups.

And truly, the events of Ministry Days (the pre-GA gathering of clergy) and General Assembly 2017 were sometimes

painful, *and* they were also rich and fertile.

One image that remains for me came when people used the “NOLA” metaphor of “Gumbo” to describe our faith community -- explaining that what we want to do is to honor the diverse people we are and the promise of our principles. To do this we must be truthful about our racist and classist, sexist and ablest history and mis-steps, as we are also hopeful in planning for our future. We want to become a UUA that is more honest and fully inclusive, not only theologically, but in every way. We want a future different from a past where able-bodied and middle class, and privileged and white perception and experience was simply accepted as normative. In New Orleans “Gumbo” is thick with flavor and yet it does not mask the identity of its specific ingredients, it is lush with the distinct flavors and colors and textures of its ingredients.

This year’s Ware lecturer Bryan Stevens reminded us that, “*We will not change the world if we’re not willing to do uncomfortable things.*” That message resonated during the entire week as interim co-presidents Leon Spencer, William Sinkford, and Soffia Betancourt our trio of co-presidents often repeated their hope that the work begun by Black Lives UU will help us to move beyond the painful past that has so shaped our communities.

Those in attendance also acknowledged again and again that we are only beginning to learn how to listen to the voices from the margins, that we have much work to do to unlearn patterns of behavior that seem so very natural because they are so deeply embedded in the privilege of white and able-bodied and our class-culture. I urge us all to spend some time this summer seeking out better ways of understanding the idea of “White Supremacy.” We might begin by checking out materials from “Black Lives UU.” I invite us to read “Just Mercy” or “The New Jim Crow,” “White Trash,” or even to re-read “To Kill A Mockingbird.” Try to imagine how differently “American” life looks from different places. We have work to do to become the truly “welcoming” and “loving” “Beloved Community” we hope to be and the work we do toward achieving that will enrich us all, will bring us more peace and love and wholeness in our personal and congregational and community lives. Be well, for we are truly blessed. Rev. Lyn



“This is a defining moment...”

Newly elected UUA President Susan Fredrick-Gray

News From GA A New President, Income Inequality and the Growing Sanctuary Movement

UU World Writers

Unitarian Universalist delegates to General Assbemly have elected Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray as the new UUA President. Rev. Fredrick-Gray hales from Phoenix, AZ where she served as lead minister. She is the ninth person and the first woman elected as UUA President. Rev. Sofia Betancourt, one of the three co-presidents appointed by the Board of Trustees to complete the term of President Peter Morales, who resigned April 1, was the first woman to serve as President.

Rev. Fredrick-Gray spoke to the General Assembly following her election saying ““This is a defining moment, and the stakes are very high. We have deep work to do within our association and our tradition, and critical work to do beyond the association.”

Throughout her campaign, which she launched in March 2016, Frederick-Gray championed the UUA as “a voice for love and justice.” She promoted a three-point vision of a “spiritually vital” movement “grounded in relationships” and “organized for impact.”

In other action General Assembly delegates overwhelmingly supported passage of the UUA Statement of Conscience Escalating Economic Inequality. Delegates at the 2014 GA in Providence, Rhode Island, selected "Escalating Inequality" to be the UUA's 2014–2018 Congregational Study/Action Issue. Delegates at this year's GA considered the resulting Statement of Conscience that grew out of the CSAI, both in a miniassembly and during the general session.

Several participants in the miniassembly expressed concerns that the statement, while a good idea, still read like a draft and needed more work. Meanwhile, the group Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community had circulated a statement explicitly calling for delegates to vote against the statement because it said it failed to address key factors. Some of these same concerns were voiced on the general session floor on Saturday, but in the end, most delegates clearly felt it was more important to pass what they saw as an imperfect but extremely important Statement of Conscience.

The growing Sanctuary Movement within the UU community also received attention and praise during GA. During Thursday morning's general session acting Moderator Denise Rimes reported on the rapid growth of the sanctuary movement in Unitarian Universalism. She lauded the growing sanctuary movement within Unitarian Universalism. There are currently sixty-three UU congregations and organizations supporting the movement and/or offering sanctuary to immigrants at risk of being deported, she reported.

“We lift up the work that you do to save these vulnerable human beings,” Rimes said.





“We are
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2017 Capital Improvements

Dear Members and Friends,

At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017, the membership agreed to proceed with the fundraising and execution of capital projects to upgrade and maintain parts of the church building. The major intent of this effort is to:

Make the 2nd floor of the building usable for Religious Education during cold winters and hot summers by providing insulation and sufficient power to air condition in summer.

Secure the building with new doors.

Paint the outside of the building and sealcoat the parking lots.

The list of projects is as follows:

Projects	Est. Cost
Replace “Knob-and-Tube” wiring and insulate the attic	10,300
Replace single pane windows on 2nd floor and basement	4,000
Replace main doors to building (beyond repair)	6,000
Replace lighting in Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and Outdoors (LED)	3,500
Water Softener for hot water heating and boiler	2,000
Sealcoat Parking Lots	2,350
Chimneys (take down west & repoint east)	2,500
Repair brickwork; paint building and railings	14,000
Total	44,650
Contingency 20%	8,930
Grand Total	\$53,580

Two of our generous supporters have volunteered to contribute 50%, i.e. \$27,000.

Anne Voilleque has donated \$12,000 in memory of Miles Willard, Shirley Maeck, Steve Watts & Richard Wilde.

Bill Maeck has donated \$15,000.

We are now soliciting matching donations from members and friends to get to the ~\$54,000 needed. We very much appreciate your help in contributing to this one-time capital fundraising effort.

Thank you.

Arthur Kull, President, Executive Board

If you have not already, please find a pledge card on page 8, fill it out and return it to the UUCIF office. Thank you!

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“THE UUCIF 2017 SAFE AND SECURE BUILDING AND GROUNDS” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

It is my/our intention to contribute \$ _____ each (select one): Year Quarter
 Month for the next three years in support of the
" The UUCIF 2017 Safe and Secure Buildings and Grounds " Capital Campaign.
It is my/our intention to make the first payment in _____. 20_____.

Signature: _____ Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____ Date _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Unitarian Universalist
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Dear Friends of Faith and Conscience,