



# 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.

October 2017

## October Worship

Sunday Services 10:30am

### October 1 "Pride Not Prejudice"

"Pride Not Prejudice" was the theme of yesterday's (this year's fifth) Idaho Falls' Pride Celebration. However, those of us who have worked hard to make "IF Pride" such a success still sometimes hear others complain that LGBT people make too big a fuss about their sexual orientation and gender identity. So let's get this "Pride" business straightened out.

### October 8 "A. Powell Davies, A Man, A Vision, and a Legacy"

A. Powell Davies is a name that even Unitarian Universalists living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, way out here in the west, should know. Let's explore a bit of the history and influence of this Unitarian minister; his words and his ideas.

### October 15 "Radicalism in the Name of Hospitality"

Even in this day in age in many parts of the world hospitality is far more than offering a weary traveler refreshments. It is to take responsibility for the traveler's well being in every sense, to provide food and drink, a place to rest, and, if necessary, protect them from any who would do them harm. How have we in "the West" lost this idea and how might we regain this most fundamental part of human societies?

### October 22 "It's White Supremacy! Teach-In II"

"Everybody has to start somewhere and it takes commitment to disrupt business as usual." Last spring, long before "Charlottesville" or the "Fire the-----" speeches addressed to the owners of the NFL, we knew that what we UU's, all of us mostly white folks, clergy and lay, young and old, need to do, is to continue to study and learn together. Let us again focus our worship on how we can recognize and start to address "business as usual"

### October 29 "Celebrate the Dying Season"

For more than a decade this congregation has enjoyed welcoming and learning about the Mexican holiday, "Dia de los Muertos." Let's now explore the connection of that ancient celebration and our own reluctant acceptance of the death that defines these autumnal days.



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Molly Brinkerhoff  
Laura Warner  
Lorenzo Vega  
Steve Wike

# Rev-flections

Every Autumn my reluctant acceptance of the swift advent of winter heightens my taste for savoring warm afternoons. Sipping tea while the sun and breezes and bees tease my purple aster’s many flowers, gives me sweet pleasure. And when I catch a glimpse of glowing treetops tipped with golden green just before evening shadows drop, I cannot help but sigh. Such moments are rich with ease and appreciation. Those gray and smoky skies have finally gone and now the high clear blue seems brighter, those few clouds whiter than I’d remembered .

This year that abrupt transition from a very dry and generally quite hot summer to chilly autumn caught me off guard and set me to thinking about my own attitude of denial and resistance.

How can it be so hard to simply take each day as it passes by? What is that all too human tendency in me that causes me to wince when the plans I had not even fully thought through or developed, have to change? Why am I reluctant to discover now that I will need to adjust to a new direction?

These days, knowing that so many other people continue to deal with deprivation and despair as they struggle to simply survive, I feel outrage for them and embarrassed at my own pettiness. The ease in which I am living proves the idiocy and height of irony! How can I, why can I, feel so blessed, while others suffer? I am overwhelmed with frustration and futility. The fickle face of fortune smiles for some of us, all the while frowning upon others. And we are left to try to figure out how our small acts of kindness and support could possibly offer tiny respite; or lighten unfathomable despair.

And yet that is our human dilemma. And, each of us is powerless to accomplish more than what is ours to do, and so, we make the choices that seem wisest, aware that what we know today will seem woefully inadequate tomorrow. We can look ahead only as far as we can see from today.

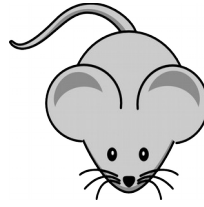
As this congregation met last Sunday to affirm the board’s suggestion that this church follow UUA guidelines and seek an “interim ministry” to follow my retirement, I was asked by many just what my future plans might be. Honestly folks, I am not clear about that. I ache to be closer to my family, especially those grandsons in Texas. However, Austin is sprawling and huge and hot and in “that” state. Other options tantalize me as well.

But mostly it is interesting to discover that I approach this next transition with excitement and eager anticipation and with a certain amount of anxiety. Fortunately much of my call to ministry does not reside in any particular call. Ending my stay here in Idaho Falls, I will remain a UU minister, I will just not be **your** UU minister.

But this transition gives us all of us time to gather our thoughts about change. Autumn is a perfect opportunity to reflect on personal life transitions. When the temperature and color and fragrance of the out of doors greets us with so many sensory changes, it may be a great time to ask how we all benefit from paying more attention to our own lives.

So we have much to attend to this fall; we can reach out to help one another and the stranger, we can strengthen this UU community and we can connect more deeply with our own sacred selves. May we welcome this season, this time of transition. Let this be a time for doing what is ours to do, for *living*. “Opa!” and many blessings, Rev. Lyn

# Church Mouse



We could tell it was time for fall even before last month's weather turned so abruptly. Every year as autumn approaches your congregation begins to get even busier. There is always the water ceremony and the start of new Religious Education and Exploration classes. And, there are usually some new programs that start to meet in the Jefferson Room. This year we enjoyed the lively discussions of "The Class Class" and the role play that was part of the first "Bystander Training." Of course we are excited to know that "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" will start up again on October 1. ( You know how much we appreciate good food and they begin each session with a lovely lunch.)

However, we have also watched sadly as Tom Eddy and Steve Wike brought those boxes of bricks into the garage. We know the building can use the bricks for needed exterior repairs, but we hate to see Tom and Rae move to Florida for good. For many years they were both at the center of the energy and direction of your church. We've watched them as they contributed their ideas and their dedication to making this community a great place. Rae created those beautiful white damask table covers for the altar and Tom kept all kinds of mechanical and building things working. We sure hope they know that they will be missed. Our entire mouse family stood by quietly as good-byes were said and tears were shed. We, like many of you, hope they decide to come back and visit now and then. But life goes on, even when good people leave the community. So we wish them well and hope they know how grateful you all are for their many years as part of your UU community.

And during the last *five* years, we mice have grown to love that noisy September afternoon when kids from the area high schools' Gay Straight Alliances come by to use all those borrowed air compressors to inflate balloons for the PRIDE Parade! It's by far the very noisiest and maybe the most industrious event of the year! Let's see; there are 6 colors of balloons and 5 back packs per color and each back pack has 26 balloons (plus there are 5 "rainbow" packs.) That means the crew inflated over 900 balloons! And that's not even counting the few that popped along the way! What an event! And what a way to get ready for the whole PRIDE weekend. Even though it's really noisy and, there are tons of people around, it's become one of our favorites.

And another thing, this year we have been warned that more change is in the air. We overheard Katharine Giovanna say that the Johnson Brothers window installers will soon be here to put new windows in the REE rooms and in the basement. We're sure happy to know that will make the old building more snug and more attractive. And then we overheard Steve Wike and Arthur Kull talking about the fact that, finally, the old "Knob and Tube" will soon be entirely replaced. We mice have heard any number of Building and Grounds chair people worry about all that old wiring, and we mice just know how relieved you will all feel when that is done! But no one will be happier than the Yoga group when the parking lot doors have been repaired and those locks and breaker bars work properly once again. And we know too that Rev. Lyn and others will be thrilled when the exterior lighting has been upgraded so that the walkway, sidewalk and ramps are safer at night. It may be that you will have to wait until spring before the sealcoat can be applied to the parking lot, but all in all we UU church mice expect that you UU's must be thrilled to know that your recent "Capital Campaign" has been so successful in permitting those projects which will make such a difference for your community. So it may be fall but it looks like this old UU is almost "springing" forward. Enjoy this season. Your favorite church mouse.



# Around UUCIF

## Touchstones Oct. 2

A favorite experience shared by many UU's in congregations across the nation, is that of participating in "small groups" or "covenant groups." In small groups, people come together regularly to think about and share deeply their views and stories related to a theological and spiritual theme. One UUCIF Covenant group meets on first Mondays every month at 12:30 in the Jefferson room. Using the monthly "Touchstones Journal" participants read from the printed resource exploring ancient and contemporary wisdom on the topic. Respectful listening and deep sharing allow individuals to get to know one another as each person discovers the source and dynamic of their own relationship to the theme. The "Touchstones Journal" also provides writings for use in daily meditation. While all are welcome to attend "Touchstones" the hope is that people will attend regularly as regular participation encourages the development of trust and community. Our Touchstones' theme for October is "Hospitality."

### 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

## "New To UU" Afternoon With Tea Oct. 21

*This October you are invited to: "New to UU Afternoon with Tea" will be, Sat. Oct.21, 2017, from 1:00-4:00 PM Coffee, tea, juice, fruit and light "Tea" foods provided!*

The "New to UU" is a quick introductory session designed to give people new to this faith or community a chance to meet one another, to get to know a bit about the history of our congregation here in Idaho Falls, and a great way to find out more about the rich story of our Unitarian and Universalist heritage. As congregation leaders share what it means to be a UU we also learn what is expected of members of this church community.

Please "sign-up" on the clipboard during coffee hour. Let us know immediately if you will need child care! If you want to know more please contact Rev. Lyn at 522-8269, or, minister@idahofallsuu.org, or chat with our Director of Religious Education and Exploration REE Elizabeth Cogliati.

## Bystander Training Offered Again Oct. 23

Have you ever wondered if you would have the courage and creativity to deflect harassment or bullying you might encounter in a public place?

This summer our faithful Social Justice Chair Elizabeth Cogliati attended an on-line UU offering of "Bystander Training" designed to be shared with other communities, and on Monday, September 25, eleven people gathered at UUCIF to learn from her experience. Led by Elizabeth with support from Rev. Lyn, attendees were given information from groups who have been studying "Bystander" assistance; materials made available through the UUA, and from sources found on national "Bystander" websites. The session, complete with role play and creative responses, was lively, moving and informative, and Rev. Lyn and Elizabeth have decided that the program is important enough and popular enough to present again. The repeat "Bystander Training" will be offered, Monday, October 23, at 7pm.

They may also offer a follow-up evening designed to give participants an additional opportunities to explore the possibilities of providing support for victims of bullying and harassment.

## Touchstones Theme: Hospitality

Hospitality is the ancient and primary vocation of religious community. The impulse to authentic hospitality emerges from an abiding sense of home and the reality that we are a stranger. When we welcome the stranger we are welcoming our self. Commitment to hospitality involves a concern for the stranger, the immigrant, the refugee, the homeless, the oppressed, those mired in poverty, and more.



The pineapple is a symbol of hospitality



“Once the guest has eaten and drunk at your table, the guest becomes kin... beggar or enemy, friend or chief, if they knock on your door, it will open; if they seek your shelter, it will be given, and if they ask for hospitality, give them your bread and wine... for who knows when you may need the help of a fellow human?” Keri Hulme

**Please join us in exploring the theme of Hospitality**

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**Welcome**, photo by R. C. Mariner, May 28, 2017, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/isfullofcrap/34560785750>



# UUCIF News From “Upstairs”

By Elizabeth Cogliati

The 3-7 year-old class is learning about the UU principles in the class, Love Surrounds Us. The 8-13 year-olds will be learning about electronics in their science-based class.

Thank you to September REE volunteers (and a special thank you to Laura Warner for the donation of the dollhouse to the Yellowstone Room -- it is very popular during free play time!)

- Jatuporn Burns
- Katharine Giovanna
- Katrin Lepler
- Liz Marsden
- Marie Wallaker
- Laura Warner
- Rhonda Wike

**Cakes for the Queen of Heaven** resumes on October 1st after the service. This class for adult women discusses women in the history of religion. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

**“Cakes for the Queen of Heaven resumes October 1<sup>st</sup> after the service.”**

**Contact DREE**

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dree.uucif@gmail.com

**DREE Office**

**Hours**

Thursdays  
8:30 - 11am

## October Men’s and Women’s Groups Meet for Food, Fun, and Conversation

On the first Friday evening each month UUCIF women are invited to participate in a potluck supper and evening of community. On Friday, October 6, UUCIF women members and friends will meet as The UU Women’s Group at Judee Stanley’s house at 1915 Amanda Court, Idaho Falls. This will be our usual potluck at 5:30. Any questions, or for directions please call Judee at (208) 523-2637 or Robie Cartmell at (208) 523-5250.

On second Fridays at 5:30 UUCIF men gather for a potluck supper as well. Organizer, Jim Sathé asks that attendees call ahead to plan their food contributions. Please call Jim to RSVP at 303-638-9151.

## “Quality of Life” Festival Oct. 7

A “Quality of Life” Festival will be held Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1pm at Freeman Park in Idaho Falls. This community event will feature speaker, booths, and displays in five topic areas: education, healthcare, clean air and water, public lands, and income inequality. There will also be refreshments, music, and games. Bring the entire family to this educational and free event!

## On the “Horizon” A Change in the Way We Communicate

For many years the ministry and leadership of this congregation have concentrated their efforts to communicate with our members and friends by publishing our monthly UUCIF “Horizons” newsletter. Its purpose has been to keep the community informed about the programs, activities, and the general state of the congregation. For the past decade the worship calendar” has announced upcoming services, our favorite church mouse has let us know what went on behind the scenes, Rev. Lyn shared her own thoughts about the congregation and the world, and we have learned a bit about what is happening elsewhere in the UUA.

However, with the spread of electronic communications and the increased costs associated with mailing hard copies, email has become the default method of sending out the newsletter. And all of us have discovered that it is harder and harder to keep up with all the information in our “in box.” And what we have discovered is that fewer of us actually click to open and then read our newsletter, or remember what we read. As contemporary electronic capabilities have permitted us to connect almost constantly via email and Face Book and on our web page, it seems as if the need for a monthly newsletter may have run its course.

Consequently, in January 2018 our office will begin to issue the newsletter on a quarterly basis (every three months) and in a slightly different format that we hope you will find more interesting and informative.

Your opinion matters and it would be helpful if we could also hear from you about the ways you feel we can improve our methods of communication with you, so we hope that you will join us for a brief post-worship “Newsletter” feedback session on Sunday, October 8th at 12:00 pm.

## Hurricane Relief

Our UU friends and neighbors in Florida, Texas, and the Caribbean—including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands—have experienced extraordinary devastation following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

We invite you to contribute to the ***UUA Disaster Relief Fund*** (formerly the Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund) so the UUA can provide financial assistance to UU congregations impacted by these and other natural disasters. In addition to facilitating their own disaster recovery, congregations receiving disaster relief funds will have discretion to provide financial assistance to their members, as well as to support local partner organizations serving the community at large. The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) may apply on behalf of CLF members living in disaster areas.

Puerto Rico's situation is especially severe. To contribute aid beyond the Unitarian Universalist sphere, there are many organizations on the ground doing important work, such as ***United for Puerto Rico***, a collaboration between the Government of Puerto Rico and the Private Sector; or consider supporting the ***Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands Relief Fund***. We know that long after the initial clean-up, real recovery can take months or years. Your donations will allow the UUA to respond flexibly to this tragedy and to new situations as they arise.

Hurricane Harvey made landfall with devastating impacts to an area of the United States that millions call home. Much of Texas and the Gulf Coast region is still coping with the flooding and damage Harvey wrought. We are holding all of those affected in our hearts and prayers. To be of service to the communities to which we are connected, the ***Unitarian Universalist Association*** (UUA) and the ***Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*** (UUSC) have created a joint recovery fund.

Half of all Hurricane Harvey funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm. We understand that devastation from Harvey is widespread and we hope that by joining together in areas where we have expertise and deep connection, we can make the greatest impact.

### Donate to the Disaster Relief Fund.

To donate by mail, please make check payable to the UUA with “Disaster Relief Fund” on the memo line, and send to UUA Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth St, Boston, MA 02210.

# UUCIF, You, and KISU

KISU – FM is our local “ear to the world” and is a popular source for news, music, and information to many in the UUCIF congregation. So it should come as no surprise that members of our congregation are big supporters of KISU, writing a check (or checks) to ensure KISU FM stays on the air. But did you know you can double the impact of those dollars? Simply note with your check that you would like your donation credited to UUCIF’s account. You get the tax deduction and the satisfaction of supporting a worthy cause, UUCIF gets on air recognition and KISU stays on the air. What could be better?

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Dear Friends of Faith and Conscience,