



# Horizons Newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN IDAHO FALLS

December 2017

## 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.

## REE For Reason, Reverence, and Retuning To Our Roots

Rev .Lyn and DREE, Elizabeth Cogliati are using this final edition of the monthly Horizons newsletter, this December 2017 Horizons to shine the light of our congregation's attention into the heart of our UU faith tradition; Religious Education and Exploration for Adults and REE for Children and Youth. We hope that you all will become better informed about the way UU's use their congregational resources to learn and grow in spirit and faith by participating in REE. We hope that you will be inspired to join an adult REE class or program because we all learn better together when we learn from one another in community. And we hope you will respond positively when you are asked to share your own life experience as a volunteer working with our Youth and Children in REE classes and programs

In the past we have enjoyed a variety of curricula. We have appreciated UU Bible Study, explored the theology of the World's Religions, (Catherine Nelson loved that one) and we have learned about social justice issues like mental health and immigration. During the next weeks and months we will add "What Moves Us" to the present program offerings of "Touchstones Small Group," "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven," "UU Social Justice Community Read," and the brand new "Philosophy Society." Winter is a wonderful time to expand our inner horizons and we welcome everyone to take advantage of our special UU commitment to Lifespan Religious Education and Exploration.

## December Worship

### December 10 "UUCIF Holiday Pageant"

It's a different sort of holiday worship service. On Sunday Dec 10 we welcome all to our Annual Holiday Pageant -- we invite you all to join us for a very different sort of service. This year we enjoy presenting a down home contemporary version of the much loved O Henry short story, "The Gift of the Magi."

This Sunday is also our Holiday Party Second Sunday Shared Meal. Bring along a dish to share following the service!

### December 17 "Bringing in the Light"

Each year the gathering dark calls us to remember what a central role the contrast between dark and light has meant in our history, literature, and theology. Let us consider why that we contemporary individuals might better understand our ancestor's desire to celebrate the winter solstice; their need to be assured that somehow light will return.

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Cameron

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Daniel Schwen  
Molly Brinkerhoff  
Laura Warner  
Lorenzo Vega  
Steve Wike

## Rev-flections

Sunday's sermon "What Moves Us" asked everyone to ponder what it is that brings each of us to feel, or to act or to think the way we do. I shared there several personal stories; ways that I have been "moved" my own feelings and thoughts to change my attitudes and actions. I shared stories that have "moved" me; the recent words of apology by Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau, my opportunity to view and experience the power and the artistry of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on display each year at Breaking Boundaries, listening to the pod cast words of Senator Elizabeth Warren as she remembers her elderly Aunt Bee's arrival to offer child care and how that gift made possible her own ability to become the powerful voice for working moms and financial ethics in the US Senate.

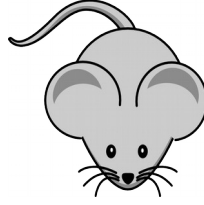
That question; "What Moves Us?" is also the name of a program that nestles within the UUA umbrella called "Tapestry of Faith." Tapestry programs are UU "courses" or curricula designed to be used by congregations but are available for free and may be examined and used by anyone. We member-congregations fund "Tapestry" and the many other resources available on line at the UUA websites through our yearly fees.

Tapestry of Faith programs are among the many, treasured examples of courses of study that fall under the title "UURE" Unitarian Universalist Religious Education." Here at UUCIF we actually expand the acronym RE, "Religious Education" to REE and include "Exploration," because unlike the "Sunday School" models that may come to mind when people hear the term "Religious Education," our Unitarian Universalist' tradition is not simply a time when leaders pour forth "truth" or information, UU REE is an opportunity for adults, youth and children to do what A Powell Davis intended when he said "Life is just a chance to grow a soul."

Our UUCIF Religious Education and Exploration program for Children and Youth provides Sunday morning classes and other program opportunities for our young people to learn about all kinds of ideas and to explore their own feelings in a safe and nurturing atmosphere they are encouraged to question and explore topics that they might otherwise not have a chance to address; ethical and moral topics the miracle of birth and the loss and sadness of death.

Our adult REE programs offer us a chance for deep study and long time Unitarian Universalists often appreciate the fact that Religious Education and Exploration are at the very heart of our UU movement. Our UU congregations reflect our faith in "Lifespan" Religious Education. We recognize that one does not simply reach and plateau at "adulthood," but that we continue to grown and learn through out our lifetimes. Consider the warmth of community and the energy that come from learning together as your opportunity to nurture your spirit this winter.

# Church Mouse



You know, no matter how you all move the pews around, we church mice always have the best seats in the house! We have loved watching as the electricians finished their work to finally remove the old “knob and tube” and we can hardly wait to have the exterior lighting updated. Those steps outside the office and the ones to the lower parking lot are treacherous in the December darkness. But all that illumination in the Yoga Hallway has made us feel a little exposed! We sure don’t want a lot of Yoga people carrying on if they can now see us as we scurry past!

We mice are also feeling a great amount of empathy for poor Ron Wike who has spent much time and energy setting up the new door hardware for the sanctuary needs to be replaced again. Guess we are hoping with you all that the new handle mechanism will do what needs to be done!

The past weeks have been fun for our mouse kiddos because there has been a ton of activity up in the REE spaces. First, Elizabeth moved everything out of the art closet to let the electrical professionals have access to the attic. So all that stuff went into the teen room, (the Borah Room.) Then so that Bob Goetsch could put new shelves in the old “Murphy Bed” closet in the Teton Room, Elizabeth needed to take everything out of that space. So she put more things in the Borah Room. And all of that has been happening while the REE committee and others were pulling together the props and sets and costumes for this year’s Holiday Pageant!

What fun - because it means we mice have tons of new places to explore!

A couple of us were in the garage on Sunday when Karen Schaefer brought in the “washtub bass” that husband her Bob crafted for the pageant. Wow - now we are wondering who will master playing that after the pageant? And that special “Otter family” toolbox is just perfect - shows real quality crafting. With those two props and the set pieces the REE kids have been painting and constructing and everyone who is helping, this year’s pageant is sure to be a smash hit!

And of course last Sunday we again observed (and stayed out of the way) during the huge undertaking that holiday decorating always is! Rev. Lyn is again most thankful to John and Craig Tanner for their yearly good work putting the lights up in the sanctuary. And she also thanks Marie Wallaker, who helped them. They stuck it out until the very last - it might have been nearly 3pm! Poor Molly was looking everywhere to find the right wreaths. Other folks dragged greenery and lights around adding to the confusion and festivities.

And there is this, (we church mice always love a good story.) For several years Rev. Lyn has been trying to get rid of the big old heavy and dilapidated Christmas “Mitten” Tree. But every year it somehow continued to be dragged in and put up! It was so damaged that last year it actually fell over! Elizabeth warned her that people would miss it and sure enough, when folks learned that there would be no big Christmas tree this year we heard there was a minor rebellion! So Rob and Jeremy headed for the garage and inspected the remains and finally declared that the old tree really was beyond repair. But then, (bless their hearts) they went home and brought back a huge beautiful stable and sturdy tree complete with colored lights! They even set the whole thing up! Now the sanctuary is looking fine and festive. And now, our mouse family are again enjoying the change and looking forward to this holiday pageant that so many people are helping to make happen. So, “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.”

## Call Out for Annual Pageant Dec. 10

It’s a favorite each year! Sat. Dec. 9, we rehearse and on Sunday Dec. 10 the congregation enjoys our annual “UUCIF Holiday Pageant.” It’s fun, we get to be creative, we laugh and we learn together. Our UU holiday recognize that the wisdom and compassion that define “The Spirit of Christmas” is found in many cultures and stories and traditions. This year our tale features animal friends in a contemporary version of “The Gift of the Magi.”

Please mark your calendar and volunteer to help to make this year’s pageant another memorable success. There’s plenty to do; the set, costumes and props, and we will need musicians, and lots of actors; both young people and adults. (Our pageant is done in the style of “readers’ theatre” where actors read from their scripts!)

Our one rehearsal will be Dec. 9, from 9:30am -12 noon. Please let Elizabeth or Rev. Lyn know if you have a special interest or skill because they will be happy to incorporate everyone!!



# Around UUCIF

## UUCIF's Annual Meeting Jan. 14

Mark it on your calendar now so you don't forget! UUCIF's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 14, following our Second Sunday Shared meal. We will be electing Executive Board members and voting on the proposed 2018 budget. Only UUCIF members may vote so now its the time to sign the membership book if you want to vote in January.

If you are a UUCIF member but cannot attend the Jan. 14 meeting you can still vote via proxy. Contact the office for more information.

### **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

## Thank You for Your Generosity Good People of UUCIF

As we have done for the past several years, this congregation welcomed the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul's Christmas gift tag program again this year. Each year this popular program meets the needs of many families who might not otherwise have much of a holiday celebration. The program fills a food basket for each family and donors, like the members of this congregation graciously take a tag and agree to shop for their children. Thanks to all of you who took tags and shopped! Our UU community provided gifts for the wishes and needs for 17 children and young people!

We also again hosted the Winter Coat drive sponsored by the Mercury Computers, filling the large box with coats and jackets and other winter items. Thank you all.

## UUCIF's Men's & Women's Groups Meet Friday, Dec. 8

UUCIF's Men's and Women's groups will meet Friday, Dec. 8, at 5:30pm. The Women's group will meet at the Brinkerhof residence. You can contact Molly at (208) 528-6936 for directions and Robie Cartmell at (208) 523-5250 to coordinate potluck items.

Bob Goetsch will host the Men's group. You can contact Bob at (208) 523-5250 for directions to his home. Contact Jim Sathe at (303) 638-9151 to coordinate potluck items.

Both groups are open to all and would love to see you there!

## Ice Closes E Street Entrance

Due to the constant icy conditions the E Street entrance is closed until the weather warms back up. As that entrance faces north it is very difficult to keep the stairs clear of ice. So to prevent slips and falls everyone is encouraged to use the east entrance into the sanctuary. Thank you!

## **“Navigating our Future” Canvass and Pledge Drive**

“Please, please, please...if you haven’t sent in your pledges for 2018 yet, do so as soon as possible to enable us to establish next year’s budget. Gracias!” Please call or email me if you have questions.

Arthur Kull, UUCIF Board President Home/Office: +1 (208) 528-8002  
Mobile: +1 (208) 680-0680

## **December Worship Calendar**

**Continued from page 1**

**December 24**

**“Merry Christmas Everyone!”**

We believe that every birth is a holy one. We believe that no matter what your personal theology that Christmas can be a time for all to celebrate. This will be a “family friendly” Christmas Celebration featuring carols and a UU version of the Biblical story of the birth of Jesus.

**December 31**

**“The Burning Bowl”**

UUCIF Worship Associate, Annette Lovell returns to host a favorite service for the beginning of New Year 2018. It will be an opportunity to let go of the past year and a time to welcome hopes and dreams for 2018!

**January 7**

**“Return To, What Moves Us?”**

It’s been a few weeks since we asked “Why are you here?” and wondered if there might be a correlation between those things that cause us to feel or to think and the choices and actions that follow. This week we begin by asking, “What makes a difference?”



“Our REE program is a cooperative program...”

**Contact DREE**

**Phone**

(208) 403-1306

**Email**

dree.uucif@gmail . com

**DREE Office**

**Hours**

Thursdays  
8:30 - 11am

## What is the Religious Education and Exploration Program and How Does it Work?

Religious Education & Exploration (REE) is the system of Sunday morning classes and other children's programs here at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls (UUCIF). The program is overseen by a director (DREE), but the classes and other events all happen because of volunteers from the congregation.

Our REE program is a cooperative program, meaning that adult family members of children in the program (usually parents, but not always) are asked to help out with the program. We also want to cultivate a multi-generational community, with people of all ages working and learning together. Many parents do volunteer as teachers, as the Sunday classes are all taught by volunteers, but there are many other ways to help out with the program, including making posters, putting up bulletin board arrangements, helping with the Winter Pageant (including stage manager, providing props and costumes, creating sets, prompter, and more), helping with the Easter egg hunt, providing materials for classes, being a one-time guest in a class, to share about your work or a special skill or talent you have, or helping with the maintenance of the REE space.

The important thing is not the amount of time spent, or the quantity of materials loaned or donated, but the quality of time shared with the young ones of our congregation, time spent learning and growing together; learning about our world, the way it is and the way we would like it to be, and growing as thoughtful, caring people ready to make a difference in the world.

### What makes a good REE teacher?

The essential qualities of a good (REE) teacher are a love of children, a sense of wonder about life, empathy and the ability to listen, and a willingness ... to share who you are (more) than what you know.

### Why teach REE?

Religion, is not, fundamentally, about anything.

Religion is life. Or as Emerson put it, religion is neither doctrines nor rituals; "it is not something else to be got, to be added, but it is a new life of the faculties which you have."

If it is about anything, it is about being alive and engaged in the world. It is about enchantment and compassion. And it is about transformation and self-renewal. "The great end in religious instruction is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life. (Our task) is . . . to inspire a fervent love of truth; . . . not to form an outward regularity but to touch inward springs." --William Ellery Channing  
"Teaching the young, then, is not about filling their heads but expanding their horizons; it is not about charting a course for them, but about being companions with them on their own journey in life."

--Elizabeth Cogliati Director of REE, UUCIF

## A Special Issue of Horizons

This issue of our Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls monthly newsletter is special in a couple of ways. First, contemporary software has allowed us to see that our monthly publication appears to be opened and read by fewer people even as our weekly update appears to be more closely monitored. Therefore, this will be our last “monthly” Horizons.

Beginning in January the “UUCIF Horizons” newsletter will become a **quarterly** publication with issues in January, April, July, and October. We hope this will enable the Horizons to become a more reflective and perhaps more deeply connected to the inner life of the congregation publication. We hope that the regular minister column “Rev-Flections” will be accompanied by thoughts from members of our lay community. that we will be able to share deeply and thoughtfully, and that we may better explore the direction and focus of what it means to be human and UU in the context of this congregation.

Meanwhile we anticipate that the weekly Mid-week Updates that bring “news events and activities ” sent from UUCIF each Wednesday will expand to meet the needs of our fast moving society and congregation. We will also keep everyone up to date on our UUCIF Face Book page and on [www.idahofallsuu.org](http://www.idahofallsuu.org), our UUCIF website. And, of course when important changes and events occur we will continue to send out news and summaries of those changes or events.

The goal of everything published and every change made in the way our meeting and storage spaces are used or procedures observed is always to better serve this congregation. Our desire is to encourage better relationships and more spiritual growth and more fun within this community. Suggestions are always welcome. Thank you for your feedback and your patience.

## Are You Interested in Exploring and Discussing Philosophy?

The next meeting of the Philosophical Society is Thursday, December 7, at 6:30.

The quotation is meant to stimulate some conversation about reason, truth, progress and who knows what else? The link is to a site that gives a quick overview of philosophical thought over time and may yield some interesting discussion as well.

“...in respect of the supersensible [a god-like intelligence] absolutely nothing can be theoretically determined (except mere negations); or else that our Reason contains in itself a yet unused mine of cognitions, reaching no one knows how far, stored up for ourselves and our posterity.” Immanuel Kant, *The Critique of Judgement*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human\\_nature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_nature)

See you next Thursday, for more information, call Katharine Giovanna.

## Hospitality Notes

(This is not intended to be prescriptive but rather describes present Sunday Social Hour (Coffee Hour) and Second Sunday Shared Meal Practices. )

*On First, Fourth and Fifth Sundays the congregation enjoys a “social hour” of beverages and cookies or other “napkins only type finger snacks ” in the Willard and First Floor Meeting areas*

*On the Second Sunday of every month from September through June the congregation gathers in the basement meeting room for a “Shared Meal” potluck luncheon. An assortment of foods are welcome and we ask that people label them as to ingredients.*

On Third Sundays the congregation again gathers in the basement for a Social Hour.

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