
SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, Feb. 5, 10:00 a.m.

*Beloved Community:
Morality and the Economy*

How do we live our values within an immoral economic reality? What is the purpose and effectiveness of the “Occupy Movement”? **Rev. Lynn Strauss** will reflect on these questions in light of our commitment to build a Beloved Community. Sue Richards, Celtic harp, will offer music.

Preschool-fifth grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children’s Worship. Sixth grade-Sr. High will gather in the lower level of Building 5 for Youth Worship.

Sunday, Feb. 12, 10:00 a.m.

*Compassion and Mercy for
Those on the Boundaries*

Rev. Lynn Strauss will explore the problem of immigration reform and the future of the DREAM Act in Maryland. What are we called to do as a community of faith committed to equality and justice? The Adult Choir will sing.

There will be a discussion following the service. Please bring your coffee and return to the Sanctuary.

Preschool-fifth grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children’s Worship. Sixth grade-Sr. High will gather in the lower level of Building 5 for Youth Worship.

(continued on page 2)

Quest

*The Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Rockville, Maryland:
A Welcoming Congregation*

Spiritual Freedom Beloved Community Social Responsibility

Volume LV, Number 10
February 1, 2012

Editor: Beth Irikura
Desktop Publisher: Nancy Gregory

The Fellowship Dinner is Fast Approaching – Saturday, March 10

by Karen Pittleman

Our annual Fellowship Dinner, the kick-off event of our 2012-2013 operating fund pledge drive, is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, at UUCR. This free dinner, with an emphasis on fellowship, begins with a social hour (light snacks, with wine and beer on sale) at 5:00 p.m., followed by a pot-luck dinner. This all-church event is a wonderful chance to meet new UUCR members, catch up with old friends and have a relaxing and entertaining evening together. This year’s canvass theme is “Pass on the Light.”



Table hosts will soon begin to contact all UUCR members and friends, with the hope of getting 100% participation. There will be a sign-up table in Davies Fellowship Hall after worship services in February. In addition, we are hoping to make the process of signing up for the dinner and assigning tables even easier by sending out an email invitation in the form of an online survey. Please respond to this even if you are **not** planning on coming, because it will decrease the number of calls our hosts need to make. Or, **you may sign up now** by going to the online survey at <http://goo.gl/zcnKO>. The survey allows you to identify your food and family needs and provides some logistical information for our planning. Childcare will be available, but you must sign up in advance either with your table host, at the table on Sunday mornings or via the online survey.

If you are not contacted by a table host by February 20, please contact Fellowship Dinner coordinator, **Barbara Weis** (301-649-4148 or dye2tie@verizon.net). If you would like to be a table host or are available to help with set-up or clean-up, please contact Barbara as well. We hope to see **everyone** at this enjoyable annual event!

Quest deadline: Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on February 22, 2012.

Email to Alberta Maschal: amaschal@gmail.com

Quest

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Sunday Worship (continued from page 1)

Sunday, February 19, 10:00 a.m.

Building Beloved Community

On the Sunday before Mardi Gras, our intern minister, **Nathan Ryan**, will reflect on how spiritual practice can help build the world we dream of.

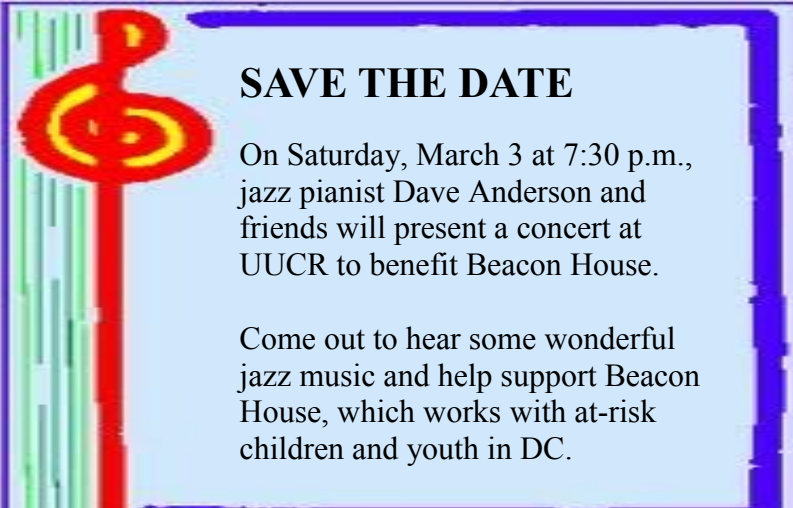
First Fifteen — Preschool-Sr. High, teachers and helpers will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service.

Sunday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.

My Religion is Kindness

How do we practice the virtue of kindness? Why is kindness so often missing from our civic dialogue and many social interactions? **Rev. Lynn Strauss** will speak of the role of virtue in our faith tradition and our congregation.

First Fifteen — Preschool-Sr. High, teachers and helpers will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service.



SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m., jazz pianist Dave Anderson and friends will present a concert at UUCR to benefit Beacon House.

Come out to hear some wonderful jazz music and help support Beacon House, which works with at-risk children and youth in DC.

For the most current information on upcoming events, visit the UUCR church calendar online at www.uucr.org. At the top of the home page, click on the tab labeled "For Members." Click on the link labeled "Room Schedule Calendar" and you'll be taken to another website where you can view the entire UUCR calendar of events.



DeLynnations

A Firm Foundation

As a Methodist child, I was taught it unwise to build a house upon the sand. As a child of working class parents, I was taught to wash and paint our rented walls every spring. As a teenager asking questions and making decisions about my future, I was taught that my loving church would bless me and keep me—no matter what.

I am thankful for such useful life lessons. They have guided me well.

Unitarian Universalism is an old faith built on the foundation of reason and conscience. Each person of our free faith must seek the wisdom that will see them through, hold them up, make them strong. To live as a faithful Unitarian Universalist, we need our congregation of wise elders and teachers. We need the joy and play of our children and youth. We need the support of our congregational peers to bless us and keep us as we discover life's meanings and our true place in the web.

The firm foundation of UUCR is our shared values, particularly our hope for justice and equality and peace—but also for kindness and compassion and trust. Our presence together on Sundays and throughout the week is reassurance of the values we share.

As our annual pledge canvass picks up steam, I hope you will make a pledge larger than the one you made last year. Consider how many times you turn to UUCR for wisdom, support, joy, and a place to belong. Please give enough to keep our foundation firm for those who need us now and those we will never see.

Blessings,

Lynn

Immigration: The DREAM Act and Preparing for the Phoenix General Assembly

by Adrianna Brigatti and the UUCR Immigration Task Force

On Sunday, February 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., following Rev. Strauss's sermon, *Compassion and Mercy for Those on the Boundaries*, we will have a forum on issues related to the Maryland DREAM Act, which is in danger of repeal in the November election.

We'll view and discuss the documentary, *Papers*, which focuses on the plight of youth who live in fear of deportation and who are denied in-state college tuition. The documentary features youth activists and their stories.

Please bring a bag lunch and join us. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Internal Musings

Basically, everyone exists in the very nature of suffering, so to abuse or mistreat each other is futile. The foundation of all spiritual practice is love. That you practice this well is my only request.

— His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Carnival season starts on Epiphany, January 6, and lasts until Ash Wednesday. In Louisiana, this is a time of celebration that culminates in Mardi Gras. I'm excited to share some of this religious and cultural heritage with you. On February 18, we will have a Mardi Gras Vespers. There will be much to celebrate at 4:30 p.m. Following the worship, we will eat together at an all-church potluck. Please come and bring your favorite meal.

Directly following Mardi Gras is Lent—a time of devout spiritual practice, humility, and acknowledgement of our own finality. This year for Lent, starting on February 22, Ash Wednesday, I plan to begin a 40-day spiritual practice. I'd like to invite you to try it with me.

The questions I always ask before I begin my Lenten spiritual practice are: Who do I want to be? What do I want the world to look like? How can I change?

From these answers I discern what I need to give up or take on to make the world a holier, healthier place. And I always remind myself that it's called practice for a reason.

Won't you join me?

Nathan

SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday Evening Vespers Services
and All Church Potlucks**

Vespers begin at 4:30 p.m.
Potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m.

February 18
March 17
April 7
May 12

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reflections

Sunday morning began in pre-dawn quiet, in the small area of light in our tiny kitchen with the smell of fresh garlic and ginger. I was quadrupling the recipe so, of necessity, was working with a slower pace. Quiet and an atmosphere and pace conducive to mindfulness, memory, and reflection.

Barbara Eldridge gave me the cookbook with the recipe for Noodles with Bean Sauce, the dish I was preparing for our Lunar New Year potluck and celebration, just before she moved from Rockville (and our congregation) to North Carolina. As the water boiled for the noodles and the fragrant garlic and ginger simmered, I remembered her enthusiasm for life—Asian food, fellowship, social justice—and her many kindnesses to others.

Barbara gave me my favorite Asian cookbook but my friend, Becky, in seminary is the first person who gave me an appreciation for Asian food, and served me my first tofu dish. I was tempted to add tofu to the noodle dish, even though the recipe didn't call for it, in honor of and gratitude for conversations and meals with Becky that broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding.

While adding soy sauce and bean sauce to the garlic and ginger, I remembered helping my mother prepare for church potlucks when I was growing up—though the food was different, the fellowship and meaningful relationships in faith community are the same.

The smell of the cucumber as I peeled it brought a flood of memories of different meals that included cucumber—here was the common food link between my past and present, between different cultures. We are all one!

Participating in this ancient and universal custom of preparing food for one another (whether it includes the unexpected gift of an early Sunday morning meditation or purchasing something to bring—which I've done plenty of times) and eating together in multi-age community and fellowship is still a deeply meaningful practice.

We rejoice in our Lunar New Year potluck and celebration and offer a special thank you to **Doris Lee's** mother who came early to church and cooked 50 egg rolls for us! And, invite you to participate in the upcoming potlucks following the monthly Saturday Evening Vespers Services (vespers at 4:30 p.m., potlucks at 5:30 p.m.) and especially encourage you to attend our biggest potluck, the Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, March 10. A fun and delightful evening for adults and senior highers at hosted tables in the Sanctuary, a brown bag dinner and childcare for children in the lower level of Building 5, and a pizza party for junior highers also in the lower level.

Blessings,

Deborah

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Education and Enrichment Programs

Sponsored by UUCR's Adult Education and Enrichment Committee

All are welcome! Child care is available with one-week advance request.

Worship Theme for the Month—Beloved Community

As you attend this month's adult education programs, you are invited to consider the question, "How does what I am learning expand my understanding of and deepen my commitment to building the Beloved Community?"

February 12 (Sunday) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 51 — *UU History Rocks: William Ellery Channing*, led by **Deborah Kahn**, Director of Religious Education. William Ellery Channing has been called the "single most important figure in the history of American Unitarianism." He was known abroad as well as throughout America. He was influential in Transcendentalism and in the emergence of Unitarianism as a new religious tradition. He spoke out against slavery as early as 1825 and fostered social reform in free speech, education, peace, and relief for the poor.

February 15 (Wednesday) from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in Founders Hall — *Query As Spiritual Discipline*, led by **Deborah Kahn**. Queries are intended as questions to live with and into; query is one of the core spiritual practices of Quakers. Deborah was first introduced to this practice in seminary and it is the spiritual discipline she has most consistently practiced since. Query is a relevant spiritual discipline to consider as we explore this month's theme, Beloved Community.

February 19 (Sunday) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Room 51 — *UU History Rocks: Whitney Moore Young, Jr.*, led by **Alonzo Smith**. Whitney Moore Young, Jr. was an American civil rights leader and a Unitarian Universalist. He strove to bridge the deep division between black separatists and integrationists and made the Urban League a full partner in the civil rights movement.

February 22 (Wednesday) from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in Founders Hall — *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*, **Anthony S. Pitch**, Guest Speaker. The assassination of Abraham Lincoln, coming shortly after the end of the Civil War, was a singular event. Anthony Pitch, author of *They Have Killed Papa Dead! –The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*, unearthed new material in his relentless search for diaries, letters, journals and other original documents. This gifted speaker conveys the human drama of a story he believes to be the saddest in American history.

February 26 (Sunday) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 51 — *UU History Rocks: Sophia Lyon Fahs*, led by **Nathan Ryan**, Intern Minister. Sophia Lyon Fahs was one of the creators of modern American theological liberalism and a progenitor of American Unitarian religious education. She revolutionized liberal, systematic theology and was ordained at the age of 82 by the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda.

February 29 (Wednesday) from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Founders Hall — *Solar for UUCR?* (Program rescheduled from February 11.) What is the feasibility of installing solar panels on the roof at UUCR? Elise Rudt from Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists will explain their project to locate a suitable community solar project and their offer to help to raise the funds necessary. See the article on page 8 for more information.

CHURCH WORKS

Canvass 2012: Pass on the Light of UUCR's Vision

by Marie Reed, President, Board of Trustees

Every spring, UUCR members and friends make a pledge of their intention to support UUCR financially in the coming church year (July 1 to June 30). The pledges give your Board of Trustees the ability to develop a financial plan to support UUCR's programs and operations and pass on the light of our shared vision to a new generation of UUs.



Our programs and operations are guided by our shared vision of UUCR as “a strong, vibrant, and loving religious community actively engaged in nurturing spiritual freedom and working for social justice.” We strive to bring our vision to today's realities. By doing so, we aim to create a more compassionate and just world.

This coming year, our budget will be guided by our Strategic Plan, as we put into place staffing and activities to grow and diversify our membership, strengthen and enhance practices that support and connect us all, and actively nurture our desire to be a leader and partner in social change.

We will be asking for your financial pledge on Sunday, March 11. Each and every pledge, large and small, helps us pass on the light of UUCR's vision. If you are in a position to increase your pledge substantially, please consider doing so, as life circumstances have caused several of our biggest supporters to reduce their pledges. And if you can contribute your “fair share” as defined by the Unitarian Universalist Association (3 to 5% of income for many of us), our light will be able to shine even brighter as we make our vision a reality.

Capt. Edward Murphy and You

by Sherry Dittmann, Chair, Planned Giving Committee

What does Edward Murphy have to do with your decision on who will care for your children if you can't? Or, what does he have to do with your IRA or 401(k) balance?

Edward Murphy was a military engineer who is immortalized by his inadvertent declaration of Murphy's Law – *If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong!* Murphy was not a cynic, in fact, quite the opposite. Murphy's Law was established as a standard for planning complex systems—before you build it, know what can go wrong and build in protections against those wrong outcomes.

Planning your estate—which means planning for the guardianship of minor children and the distribution of your material assets—is a very complex process in which much can and often does go wrong. On Sunday, February 5, the Planned Giving Committee will present a program on avoiding mistakes to make sure that your intentions are carried out to take care of your family.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



New Date for Solar for UUCR Presentation

by Mary Lanigan, Co-Chair, Green Sanctuary Team

The presentation on Solar for UUCR, originally scheduled for Saturday, February 11, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 29 at 7:30 p.m., due to a scheduling conflict that arose with one of the presenters.

What is the feasibility of installing solar panels on the roof at UUCR? Elise Rudt from Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists will explain their project to locate a suitable community solar project and their offer to help to raise the funds necessary. Anya Schoolman, leader of the Mount Pleasant Solar Cooperative, will explain the technical and business details of installing solar for nonprofits and churches. The most complicated part is the business and financing aspect. Generally a congregation does not own the solar panels. As part of the Green Sanctuary process, we want to explore solar energy since our roof and site is a good candidate. It is exciting that a group of student environmental activists has asked us to consider the possibility and will help with fundraising, if they choose UUCR as their project

New Montgomery County Green Website

by Terrie Barr, Co-Chair, Green Sanctuary Team

The Green Sanctuary Team is proud to share a new Montgomery County website where we can go to get all the information needed to green our lifestyles and save money: MyGreenMontgomery.org! This site directs users to county, state, federal and utility programs and incentives that make “going green” a no-brainer. Additional resources and information from local organizations and community groups is interesting and relevant to county residents. Through www.myGreenMontgomery.org, anyone can create a personalized Green Plan, add an event to the calendar, comment or ask a question about specific Green Projects, or share their own success story. This site not only directs users to accurate information and resources, it also serves as a platform for residents to engage in green topics.

Partner Church Update

by Louise Friedenberg

Our recent emails from our interim minister at our partner church in Magyarzsakod, Transylvania have included some wonderful photos.

The first group is of the worship service on Christmas Day. The children are all bundled up in their heavy jackets and colorful knit hats. It is very cold in the church during the winter. The second group of photos shows the new fence that was built to enclose the cemetery, which is adjacent to the church and pictured here. This is a project that UUCR helped to support last year.



SHARING THE MINISTRY

UUCR Hosts the JPD Worship Arts Festival on February 24-25

by Jennifer Rodgers Beach, Director of Music

Our congregation is the host for this year's Worship Arts Festival, a conference of the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) that provides personal and professional development for all those who make Sunday mornings happen! This year's theme is "Reframing Hope" and special emphasis is given to the development of lay leadership.

A Friday evening event (6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on February 24) has been added specifically with this focus, providing workshops on "Shaping the Service" and "Speech Coaching." The conference continues all day on Saturday with workshops spanning a gamut of topics. A select list includes: Writing Spoken Words for Worship (led by our own **Lynn Strauss**), Vocal Technique: Myths and Tools (led by **Jen Rodgers Beach**), Path to Membership, Multigenerational Services, Choosing Monthly Themes for Worship, Drumming Meditation, Dances of Universal Peace, and a Choral Reading Session. The featured presenter is Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, author of *Tribal Church - Ministering to the Missing Generation* and *Reframing Hope - Vital Ministry in a New Generation*.

We would love to have a big turn-out from our own congregation to join the lay leaders, musicians, ministers and congregants who come to this festival from all over our district. Registration is \$25 for Friday, \$40 for Saturday and \$60 for the combined registration. All the details plus the registration forms can be found on the JPD website. Go to jpd.uua.org and search for "Worship Arts Festival." If you do register to attend, please send an email to **Phil Lowe** at palowe@aol.com. He is tracking the UUCR registrations for us in order to offer bonus registrations to our volunteers and folks who are in need of assistance.

Come show the district what a wonderful community we have at UUCR and enrich your own path at the same time!



Tuxedo Junction - An Evening of Broadway to Support UUCR's Music Program

by Jennifer Rodgers Beach

This Saturday, February 4, is our annual Tuxedo Junction — the once-a-year fundraiser for UUCR's Ethier Fund for Special Music. This year, our UUCR singers take us to the **Great White Way – Broadway!** The event will feature gourmet fare by **Greg Yoder**. Hors d'oeuvres will start at 7:00 p.m. and the program at 7:30, in a beautifully-decorated Sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$25 and tickets will be on sale at the door.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

2012 Habitat for Humanity Work Camp — Information Table and Meeting

by Karen Pittleman



We are beginning to make plans for our Summer 2012 Habitat for Humanity (HFH) Work Camp trip to Garrett County, Maryland.

This year, we will travel to Garrett County on Sunday, July 29 and return home on Friday, August 3. The opportunity is open to 30 UUCR members and friends who are 16 years and older. We're hoping both youth and adults will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Work varies every year and our group has laid flooring, hung cabinets, attached siding, painted, built sheds and landscaped.

The fee is \$145 per person and scholarships are available. Information will be available at a table in Davies Fellowship Hall after the worship service each Sunday in February and we will hold our first informational meeting in March (date to be determined). For additional information, please contact **Karen Pittleman** at 301-977-6812 or karen@pittleman.net.

Pastoral Care Team Welcomes New Member

by Paulette Campbell

The Pastoral Care Team met on a Friday before the Christmas holiday and we are pleased that several new members of UUCR have decided to join our team. We welcome **Gaynelle Campbell, Sue Thomas** and **Sue Henry**. Joining as well is **Marialyce Sherr**. **Jane Klag** and **Paulette Campbell** are pleased to have a good working team to support the needs of our church community. You may, however, be called on to make visits or provide rides to doctor's appointments as well as rides to church, and we hope that you will accept this service to our community. If you know of a member in need, please bring that person to our attention or to the attention of **Rev. Lynn Strauss**.

Occupy Program Presented by UUs for Social Justice

by Terrie Barr

What do you know about the Occupy Movement? They have raised issues that we all need to know about. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice presents: *Growing Inequality in Wealth, the Corruption of the Democratic Process and Resulting Social Injustice* on Saturday, February 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA. Featured speakers will include Kevin Zeese of the Occupy Movement and Aquene Freechild of Public Citizen. You may reserve your space at www.uusj.org and contact **Ken Sandin** at ksandin@verizon.net for carpool information.

THINKING OF YOU

Thinking of You

Coordinated by Ethel Gilbert and the Caring Committee

Irene Koch died unexpectedly at home on Sunday night, January 22. Irene, daughter of **Audrey Koch**, and her sisters, Deborah and Nina, grew up at UUCR. A celebration of Irene's life was held on Sunday, January 29.

Larry Brandt has been in Georgetown Hospital for evaluation and treatment. Cards are always welcome. Send them to his home address.

Carole Danielson is recovering from a leg fracture and is house-bound for about six weeks. Cards, emails, and phone calls are welcome.

We hold in our hearts all the joys and sorrows of our Beloved Community.

Please contact **Ethel Gilbert** with any joys, concerns or accomplishments you'd like to share in this column.

From the Editors . . .

When writing your article for *Quest*, please:

- (1) give it a title/headline;
- (2) include your name, telephone number and email address;
- (3) write in simple, clear sentences;
- (4) keep your article **brief**, no more than about **250** words;
- (5) use **Times New Roman**, 12; set your page layout as **Format: Paragraph: Line Spacing Before and After at 0; Line Spacing at Single**. If you wish to have a special format for your article, so indicate in a note at the beginning of the article;
- (6) the subject line of your email should include the words *For Quest* and the title of your article so that we know it is an article.



Quest

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DATED MATERIAL

Our Vision

The vision of the Unitarian Universalist Church 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 Church 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.