



# THE UU-LINK

March 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

## March Services

March 5

### **Kill Them With Kindness**

Youth Service

March 12

### **Making Dreams Come True**

Rev. Don Garrett

Every movement needs a sense of identity - to know who we are, to bind us together in solidarity, But identity, when too sharply defined, can become limiting rather than empowering, and leave potential allies on the outside of our carefully drawn lines.

March 19

### **Happiness vs. Comfort**

Jansen Wendell

In these unsettling times, being comfortable can clash with being happy. Financial success, a comfortable life may have been our goals. Now they seem hollow while democratic institutions are threatened and civil rights stripped away. We need a new perspective on what it means to be happy. Activism is crucial, but we also need strategies to be calm, focused, grounded - and happy.

March 26

### **Justice Sunday**

Rev. Don Garrett

When those in power do not protect vulnerable communities and portray them as the threat rather than the threatened, we need to come together in support and action.

## **Don Sense** - by Rev. Don Garrett

### **Mini-Sabbatical Thank You!**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for my recent mini-sabbatical during the past two months. Unlike last summer's I didn't focus on one big trip and adventure, but it was more a time for inward looking, contemplation, reading, and research. I played a lot of music, too! But my biggest take-away was the time I spent studying with a Tai Chi master in North Carolina. Daily lessons, and multiple group classes have begun a profound reconnection with Taoist teachings and wisdom, which I will be able to share with you in upcoming sermons and classes. But now I'm back, grateful, rested and ready, happy to be with you again!

See you in church.

- Don

### **Our Theme for March: What Does It Mean to Be Community of Risk?**

**To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger.**

~James Baldwin

Risk is usually associated with the dare devils and thrill seekers. The real danger, we're told, is a life of boredom. The battle is between the bland and the bold.

Yet, as James Baldwin reminds us, it's not quite that simple. He places commitment, not thrills, at the center of the game. For him, the ones to be admired are not so much the dare devils as the dedicated ones. And that Holy Grail? Well, he suggests, maybe it's not "the exciting life" as we've been told. Maybe it's the faithful life.

And that turns everything wonderfully on its head.

From this perspective, the important question about risk (and about life) is not "Are you willing to jump off?" but "Are you willing to jump in?" Not "Are you willing to put yourself in danger?" but "Are you willing to give yourself to something bigger?" Not "Will you be daring?" but "Will you stay true?"

And the message changes too. Suddenly, it's not "Run to what's thrilling!" but "Don't run away!"

It's all about remembering not to let the thrilling trump the faithful. As exciting as roller coasters and jumping out of planes might be, let's remember to remind each other that the most deeply rewarding risks are the ones that involve jumping into causes and putting our hearts in the hands of others. As the poet David Whyte puts it: "We are here essentially to risk ourselves in the world. We are meant to hazard ourselves for the right thing, for the right woman or the right man, for a son or a daughter, for the right work or for a gift given against all the odds." Bob Marley's take is equally compelling. He writes, "The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for."

And here's the twist: It's not just Baldwin's dangers, Whyte's hazards and Marley's suffering that come at us when we take the risk of living faithfully. Grace and gifts slip in there too! As the Scottish writer W.H. Murray explains, (*continued Page 2*)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Here we are – the time of the year when we begin to think about next year, what we want to accomplish, what resources those accomplishments will require, and what we, as individuals can contribute to our aspirations monetarily. The campaign

theme is ***Making Dreams Come True***. In the upcoming campaign, we will support our congregation as we continue to enrich our spiritual lives. However, our financial support can move beyond salaries and maintenance.

The 2017-2018 campaign will strive to move beyond ourselves to offer benefits and sustenance to the community of which we are a part. We hope to strengthen our well-known outreaches in social needs, justice for all, environmental concerns, and other issues that cement the UUCLV as a pillar of liberal concerns in the Lehigh Valley.

The shortfall in our 2016-2017 budget forced us to make some very difficult financial decisions. We still hope that, perhaps, we can come close to a balanced spending plan, if some expenses are less than anticipated. You will soon hear a plea for resources to fill three critical gaps in our current budget: the annual UUA contribution, Rev. Don's ministerial expenses, and the monthly plate sharing.

However, we must not let our current financial situation in any way diminish our commitment to move forward, keeping the light of Unitarian-Universalism shining brightly in the Lehigh Valley! As part of your individual effort to keep our congregation strong, please increase your pledge for 2017-2018 as much as you are able.

As you contemplate you pledge for next year, please think seriously about the UUCLV's place in your life. Think about the spiritual enrichment you receive from being a loving part of our congregation and from the friendships and activities you enjoy. The UUCLV is a vital part of your life and needs you now more than ever. As our campaign for ***Making Dreams Come True*** begins, let us all dare to ***Dream Big!!***

Peace and Love, **Bob**

## DonSense *(continued from Page 1)*

“Concerning all acts of creation, there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no one could have dreamt would have come their way.”

How thrilling is that?!

## A CELEBRATION OF BOB COHEN'S LIFE - SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Please save the date and join us for *A Celebration of Bob Cohen's Life* on Saturday, March 25th, 2017.

The UUCLV doors will open at 9:30 AM that morning so that you can enjoy all of the multi-media displays showcasing Bob's creations, life and adventures in the Community Room. (This display will also be available after the service, as well).

The service will be at 11 AM in the Sanctuary, with a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Please contact Sue Phillips if you can help out!

## THE UU-LINK

*The UU-Link is published and mailed monthly, and is also available on our website.*

### The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

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Religious Educ: lec@uucvpa.org  
The Link email: thelink@uucvpa.org  
The eNews: uucvnews@uucvpa.org  
Sunday Bulletin & OOS: sunday@uucvpa.org

**We're on the web at [www.uucvpa.org](http://www.uucvpa.org)**

## KEEPING OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY SAFE...

### A REQUEST TO THE CONGREGATION

Our church is more than a Sunday venue, it is in use every day of the week. We have long-term tenants and one-time rentals as well as numerous meetings, day and night. One of our long-term tenants is Head Start, a preschool program.

It is important that we maintain building security not only for the children we host, but for all of us. Our building has many entryways, and we do not have 24/7 security. Many congregants and tenants have the codes for opening lockboxes and accessing the areas they need to use. That is both necessary and risky. It is not unusual to find the Wall St. door unlocked when staff arrive in the morning.

Recently, there was a major theft from a room on the 3rd floor that George Miller uses as his studio. Someone unlocked the door, and stole his specialty woodworking and jewelry making tools. Unfortunately, the open door and theft went undetected/for over a week.

One thing we can all do is to be aware of any unusual activity or unlocked doors. Folks who open the building for meetings should lock the access door (usually Wall St.) when their attendees have arrived, so no one slips into the building. The double doors on the 2nd and 3rd floor hallways should remain locked; there are bells to signal the rooms when someone needs entry.

Please be aware and alert: if you *see* something, *say* something. Fill out an Incident Report Form. Call or text the office, if you think someone is in the building is unauthorized, or call the Bethlehem Police. We don't want harm to come to anyone who uses our facility.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER & FAMILY GAMES NIGHT IS MARCH 18!

Join us for the 27th annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 18 in the gym. Dinner is from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Following the dinner, stay for the games night. Bring your favorite board or card games, or your own professional ping pong paddle. Tickets in advance are \$8 for adults; \$4 for children and \$10/5 at the door. Sponsored by the Men's Group. Contact Brian Hartlaub to volunteer to help or to let him know what dish you are bringing (brianhartlaub76@gmail.com)

## MARCH BREAKFAST FORUM

March 5

### Monthly Worship Theme: Risk

Rev. Don Garrett, Facilitator

*There will be a brief presentation, followed by a small-group discussion format and a reuniting later to share what we've learned on the theme, "Risk." Join in this adventure in speaking, listening, thinking, reflecting and sharing together in a new way; another way to live our values of compassion, nurture, and justice in our beloved community.*

March 12

### UUCLV Turning 70: Being All That We Can Be!

Bob Kriebel, Rev. Don Garrett, and Janice Lovegrove, Presenters

*Why does UUCLV exist? What are our highest aspirations for these times? Join members of the Transformational Planning Team in learning more about this new journey and the key roles congregants will play in shaping strategic priorities for the next 3-5 years — ways we plan to grow in wisdom, strength, action, and membership to become the beacon of change we seek to be.*

March 19

### Joy in The Journey: Experiencing UUA General Assembly

Tom Repasch, Presenter

*The General Assembly brings together thousands of UU's from all over the world for five days of fellowship, worship, beautiful music, governance, social justice, and fun. Presenters will share their experiences at previous Assemblies and invite you to attend this year's gathering in New Orleans.*

March 26

### The History of the Development of UUism – Part I

Cease Blocker, Facilitator

*Part I, "In the Beginning", of a six part series which follows the development of Christianity from 100 A.D. to the birth of Unitarianism focusing on various Christian sects, humanism and corruption of the Jesus story. – DVD*



## FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

March is an exciting month in the RE program. We start out on the 5th with the youth-led service. This year's youth service, the theme is Kindness. Expect a thoughtful, funny, unusual service.

For a night of merriment and good food, plan on coming to the Spaghetti Dinner and Games Night, sponsored by the UUCLV Men's Group, on Saturday evening, March 18.

On the 19th is Religious Education Sunday. The theme is Happiness vs. Comfort. In these unsettling and stressful times, being comfortable can clash with being happy (*see the front page for a full description*).

The Our Whole Lives class will lead us in an exercise; the 5-6th grade class (Amazing Grace) will share a skit designed to provoke us to think about ethical choices. The Elementary grade class will share about their Holidays and Holy Days and lead us in a Buddhist meditation.

In faith, **Jansen Wendell**,  
*Director of Lifespan Religious Education*  
(lec@uuclvpa.org)

### **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

#### **SUNDAY MORNING FAITH EXPLORATION CLASS: What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists**

*(Sundays at 9:00 in the RE library)*

We believe the measure of our religion is the way we live our faith in our day-to-day lives. But how do we decide what course of action to follow when a situation is complex and the moral course is unclear? Where do we turn for guidance that will help us fulfill our own wish to live a moral life? This program invites participants to focus attention on the moral and ethical questions that arise or have arisen in their lives.

#### **MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP**

*(Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30pm, the Community Room)*

With the help of conscious breathing, we are able to touch and be nourished by the peace and joy that are available within and around us, in the here and now.

With continued practice, we shall touch and understand the roots of the pain that lie deep within us, such as fear, anger, despair, thus making transformation and healing possible. Contact Rev. Don Garrett at [minister@uuclvpa.org](mailto:minister@uuclvpa.org), or Janice Lovegrove, co-leader 610-882-1136, for more information.

#### **LONG STRANGE TRIP: 2000 YEARS OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY** (DVD series):

This 6 DVD set traces the history and evolution of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the merger of the two into today's Unitarian Universalism. If you want to find out how our "Uncommon Denomination" came to be what it is today, from roots in the Reformation, to the American Revolution to the Civil War to the Transcendentalist Movement to the present, these movies are entertaining and captivating. Contact Jansen Wendell to arrange to borrow DVD's.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR: FEBRUARY & MARCH 2017**

March 5: Multi-generational youth-led worship service

March 12: Story for all ages followed by regular RE classes – prep for RE Sunday; RE Committee meeting at 9:00am in room 212

March 18 (Saturday): Spaghetti Dinner and Games Night in the gym

March 19: Multi-generational service - Religious Education Sunday

March 26: Story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

April 2: Story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

April 9: Story for all ages followed by regular RE classes

April 16: Multi-generational service - Easter

April 23: Children's worship service – Earth Day

April 30: Story for all ages followed by regular RE classes followed by Ice Cream Sunday

### **UUCLV TOWN HALL: MARCH 5**

There will be a UUCLV Town Hall Meeting at 12 noon in the Community Room following the service next **Sunday, March 5**. The purpose of this Town Hall meeting is to provide an update on the handicapped access project. It's also a great opportunity for new members to meet our Board!



## MARCH HOSPITALITY

Spring is almost here! Hospitality for the month of March will be provided by the West group led by their substitute facilitator, Margo Dixon. Thank you, Margo! If you live in zip codes 18011, 18053, 18078, 18102, 18103, 18104, 18106, 18106, or 18109, please sign up to be a greeter, usher, flower provider or snack provider. All snacks are welcome, both homemade and store bought alike. Your invitation to participate will be arriving in your email soon. There is also a calendar on the hospitality board in the community room, if you prefer to sign up by pen and paper. Thank you for helping to make our Sunday mornings welcoming for members and visitors.

Your children are most welcome to join you as greeters or ushers. If you do not live in any of the zip codes above, but want to help out in March, please email [hospitality\\_west@uuclvpa.org](mailto:hospitality_west@uuclvpa.org) and Margo will happily put you on the schedule.

We are in search of a new facilitator for the West group. If you would be interested in meeting some more of the people in your neighborhood and organizing a few weeks of hospitality per year, we would love your help. Please email [hospitality@uuclvpa.org](mailto:hospitality@uuclvpa.org) or speak with Kerri Finkle for more information.

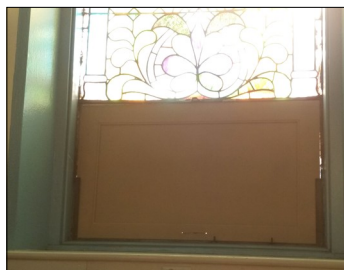
## MARCH BOOK DISCUSSION

The book we are reading for March is **The Book of the Unknown Americans: A Novel** by Cristina Henriquez. This is a story of a family who lives in Mexico and wants to come to the United States to live a better life. Stories of other immigrants are intertwined in the tale. We will meet on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in the RE Library. Contact [bookdiscussion@uuclvpa.org](mailto:bookdiscussion@uuclvpa.org) for further information.

## JOIN US FOR A LINK PIZZA PARTY!

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Pizza & Mailing Party! Every month, volunteers meet in the FM kitchen at 12 noon on the 2nd Wednesday after the 3rd Sunday of the month for Link-folding, labeling, socializing and fresh, delicious pizza from Lehigh Pizza. If you'd like to join in the fun and help out, just RSVP to the office at [uuclv@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclv@uuclvpa.org).

## WINDOWS UNDER REPAIR



Temporary fix for a Sanctuary window

FYI – the stain glass ventilator window (sanctuary south side) is under repair at the shop of Ray Cole, NEFF-CHATTOE, Co. The major concern for repair was that the glass is falling out, and the ventilator was not completely closing.

The temporary wooden sash was kindly made and donated by our skilled woodworker, John Williamson. Thank you John for your support.

This one ventilator is 1 of 5 that needs major repairs. There were remaining funds from our adopt-a-window project that covers only the cost of this one stain glass ventilator. It is our hope that the other four will be repaired soon.

-- The Property Committee

## GETTING THE WORD OUT!

Sharing information is very important to our church family. That's why it is so important to know where to send your announcements. Please follow these guidelines when submitting your information.

**Information sent to the wrong place won't be re-routed.**

### THE LINK

Send all material to [thelink@uuclvpa.org](mailto:thelink@uuclvpa.org)

Deadline is the 3rd Sunday of the prior month.

### THE ENEWS

Send articles to [uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org) only.

The eNews is published once a week on Wednesday or Thursday, with an occasional weekend reminder.

### ORDER OF SERVICE & SUNDAY BULLETIN

Send all announcements and info to [sunday@uuclvpa.org](mailto:sunday@uuclvpa.org).

Deadline is Thursday at noon.

## **COME ONE, COME ALL TO P.T. BARNUM: MASTER SHOWMAN!**

**7pm on April 1, 2017  
Community Room of UUCLV**

Neill Hartley portrays master showman P.T. Barnum in this exciting and entertaining look at one of the most colorful and well-known personalities of all time, who brought high and low culture to all of America.



A brilliant and shameless promoter, Barnum gave the wise public of the 19th century shameless hucksterism, peerless spectacle, and everything in between -- enough entertainment to earn the title "master showman" a dozen times over. Barnum weathered accusations of fraud with the attitude that there was no such thing as bad press,

and he became one of the richest men in America.

Audiences will watch his fame grow with a parade of freaks and oddities from "The Fejee Mermaid", the tiny General Tom Thumb to Jumbo the elephant and then share his crowning success: The Greatest Show on Earth!

Following the performance, there is a short informational section about the history of the circus, and of P.T Barnum's life outside of the entertainment world, including a short reading from his book "The Art of Money Getting". A Q&A will conclude the presentation. Neill Hartley is a professional actor who has performed with many local and regional theaters and is on the theater faculty of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA

Refreshments will be served. Robin Capoor will have tickets available during Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for \$15.00 each and \$20.00 at the door.

## **MARCH MEN'S GROUP**

The next meeting of the UUCLV Men's Group is 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 6 in the FM kitchen. The topic will be Why Do We Volunteer? What do we hope to accomplish?

The Men's Group is open to all men affiliated with the UUCLV and their male friends. Please bring food and/or beverage to be shared. For more information, contact [men@uuclvpa.org](mailto:men@uuclvpa.org).

## **FOURTH FRIDAY FILM SERIES**

March 24, 7:15 PM

### **Program on Democracy in the 21st Century: Is Everyone Represented?**

Using short videos, we discuss gerrymandering reform, how to get more involved in elections/voting, and minimizing the role of money in politics.

April 28, 7:15 PM

### **13th**

Documentary by award winning director Ava Duvernay about racial injustice and mass incarceration.

May 26, 7:15 PM

### **Program on Gender Equality and Women's Issues**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE NATIVE PLANT SALE!**

Want to get those mother day plants? Want to replace last year's non-natives with natives? Did you know that native plants need a lot less watering? The spring native perennial plant sale will be this year on Saturdays and Sundays May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 0 to 3pm at 424 Center Street Bethlehem, the UU church side yard. Come early for best selection.

-- The Green Committee: [nativeplants@uuclvpa.org](mailto:nativeplants@uuclvpa.org)

## **SHARED PLATE FOR MARCH**

The Shared Plate for March benefits **Planned Parenthood**. As a trusted health care provider now in their 100th year, Planned Parenthood delivers reproductive health care and information so that women live strong and healthy lives .

## **SHAKUHACHI SPRING**

Don't miss this special concert featuring Nora Nohraku Suggs on shakuhachi (Japanese flute) and John Arnold on guitar, at the UUCLV on Sunday, April 2 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. Bamboo and breath combine with the guitar's beauty - music from across the centuries and around the globe; an afternoon of peace and reflection to welcome spring. Admission is a free will offering, with a portion of funds collected donated to the UUCLV Second Sunday Concert Series.



**Jazz at the UUCLV – March 12, 2017**

We have a “first” for you at the March Second Sunday jazz concert – the featured artist is Neil Wetzel, a jazz saxophonist. He will be accompanied by Tom Lawton, piano, and Paul Rostock, bass. Paul may be familiar to you as Dave Roper’s bass player of choice.

They will play original jazz compositions and selections from Wetzel’s last two releases, *Misunderestimated* and *Cowboys in Capes*. Wetzel infuses country Western classics with bebop and post-bop jazz sensibility, to create new and distinct sounds and colors – this sounds like a concert that appeals to the whole family!

Join your fellow concert-goers and chat with our artists at our wonderful post-concert reception. \$15

general admission; **students are free**. Sunday, March 12, 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door, or may be purchased on-line at [www.concertseries.uuclvpa.org](http://www.concertseries.uuclvpa.org).

**NEWS UPDATE FROM THE UUCLV TRANSFORMATIONAL PLANNING TEAM**

On February 4, 8 members of our church, including members of the Board and Transformational Planning Team, went to the UU church in Lancaster for a Strategic Board Workshop sponsored by the Central East Region and conducted by the Rev. David Pyle. Among other things, we discussed cultural v. structural change in our congregations, different models for church governance, vision and mission discernment, and the tasks of strategic boards. We are using these tools to broaden our understanding of the kind of culture and structure that can best support us as we plan and work towards a strengthened vision and mission for the UUCLV.



**Joanna  
Taczanlowsky**





**Rich & Beth Taylor**



**Alison Niblick &  
Shamell Brandon**



**Ann Sheridan**



**Mary & Steve  
Van Sciver**

**Welcome  
New Members  
- February 2017 -**



**Barb Baker**



**Donna Novak**



**Christine Loch**



**Mike Delgado**



**Victor Madeja**

UUCLV  
The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley  
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Bethlehem, PA 18018

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-- Denominational News --  
Save the Dates!

**Better Together:  
Central East Region  
Leadership Day &  
Candidates Forum**

**April 1, 2017**

(Saturday)

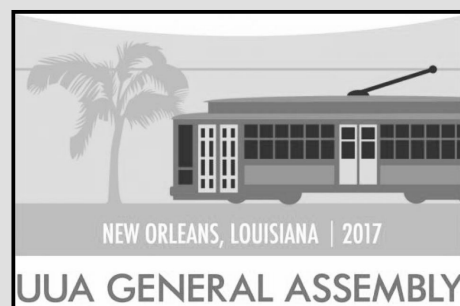
Cedar Lane UU Congregation  
Bethesda, MD



Featuring  
UUA Presidential  
Candidates Forum

For More Information, Go To  
[uua.org/central-east](http://uua.org/central-east)

-- Registration Opens March 1 --



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Worship - Music - Workshops  
Social Action - Governance - Fellowship

**June 21-25, 2017  
New Orleans, LA**

[uua.org](http://uua.org)