July 2017

### NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

### **July Services**

July 2

### Church & State Rev. Don Garrett

We'll take a look at what our Founders intended.

July 9

# 12 Laws of Karma That Will Change Your Life Sue Weber

Karma is the law of cause and effect. Your actions create your future. Life gives you chances, come hear more.

July 16

## In Praise of Weeds Marie Tweed

What is a weed? We'll explore the role of weeds and consider how they offer insight to how we see our world.

July 23

## Are You Convictable? Richard Speck

I was asked by a person I respect s: if you were arrested for being a Unitarian Universalist, would there be enough evidence to convict you? We will explore this fascinating question. Rev. Dr. Richard Speck is the retired District Executive of the Joseph Priestley District. He continues to be active preaching and conducting rites of passage.

July 30

## Nature of a System Tara Stephenson

Most of us think of ourselves as independent individuals, making our own choices. But, there have long been credible voices telling us that the communities we belong to form us far more than we're aware of.

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

### Laughter

Rev. Garrett is on vacation this month. Enjoy this column by SoulMatters founder Rev. Scott Taylor

It's not the call I was expecting. Kaaren, my wife, was taking her dad on one of his first trips for chemo treatment. The day started off anxious, heavy, sad. This kind of thing is hard stuff. I asked her to check in mid-day to let me know how things were going. She called a bit after lunch. I said hello. There was silence on the other end of the phone. She couldn't speak. It was clear she was trying to find her breath. I worried. Then... she laughed! Couldn't stop laughing actually.

In between gasps of laughter, she explained: "We...[deep breath]... are... [deep breath]... reading... David... Sedaris... The... one... about... him... not... being... able... to... flush... the... toilet... at... the... fancy... dinner... party... and... not... being... able... to... leave... the... restroom... because... of... it!"

Ok, that's all I am going to give you. Leave it to say that David Sadaris is one of the funniest writers you will ever read. "Milk out your nose funny," as one of my friends says. "I know it's gross," Kaaren went on, " but we don't care. We've been laughing for a half hour straight! And, god, does it feel good to laugh together."

God, does it feel good to laugh together. Amen to that. Especially in the midst of pain, worry or fear.

Kaaren and I talked about it later. "I love laughing with my dad," she said. "I just feel so close to him when we are laughing." But she also talked about distance. And how laughter somehow helps us step back--get a slightly different view. There's nothing funny about cancer, but the laughter helped them see that the cancer isn't the only thing there. In addition to the illness, there's also a daughter who loves her father very much. And a father that loves his daughter very much. And they enjoy each other. Which is no small thing. And they get some more days to laugh and connect. Which is also no small thing. Laughter says look at that. Laughter says, how dare you let that gift out of your sight! (continued on page 2)

#### **Pastoral Care Hotline**

In order to better serve our members and friends, the Rev. Robin Capoor has volunteered to serve as a clearinghouse for pastoral care concerns. She will work with Rev. Garrett and others to ensure that every need is cared for. Just give her a call at 973-632-3211 or email her at <a href="mailto:robincapoor@msn.com">robincapoor@msn.com</a>.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



#### The Start of a New Year

Our coming year is full of very interesting and challenging opportunities. Some of them include:

<u>Our New Web Site</u> – Eric Lee has spent many, many hours developing our new

site. The website is the 'Front Door' to our church. Take a look at <a href="https://www.uuclvpawp.sit/wp/">www.uuclvpawp.sit/wp/</a>.

Planning for the Future – The Transformational Planning Team, who initiated our drive towards becoming a "Healthy Congregation", has now relinquished ongoing activities to the Church Planning Committee. Initial committee activities will be to conduct a congregational survey, to develop small group ministries, and to contact and visit growing UU churches to learn from thriving congregations. Committee recommendations will be reviewed by the Board for implementation. UU consultant Mark Bernstein, who is already familiar with our church will assist our efforts.

The Board Of Trustees – In the past, our Board has spent much of its time on church operational issues and not on strategic planning. In the future, most of the issues associated with church operations will be handled by the Program Council. The Board will concentrate on developing policies and procedures for running the church and future planning, such as where we want to be in 5 years and how we get there.

<u>The Program Council</u> – We are working to make the P.C. responsible for church operations. I hope that, eventually, the P.C. will relieve the Board of all routine operational responsibilities.

We will soon have charters for each committee. The key reasons for the charters are to eliminate overlaps or gaps in church functions and to provide new chairs with a guideline for operating the committees.

We have so many committees that we often can't find enough people to fill the vacancies. A joint task force of Board and P.C. will be formed to address the problem.

I hope that each of you will consider joining a committee and help us run our beloved church. My deepest appreciation to all of our volunteers. You make our church the vibrant place which we all love.

There's some exciting times ahead. Come join in the fun!

### **DonSense** (from page 1)

It makes me think of a joke that a friend of my mine told me close to the end of his days:

Three clergy were discussing death, and one of them said if you were in your casket, and friends and family were gathered, what would you like to hear them say?

The Baptist preacher said, "I would like to hear them say that I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

The Catholic priest said, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful teacher and a servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

The Unitarian Universalist minister said, "I would like to hear them say, 'Look, he's moving!'

Never stop expecting surprises. That was the point of the joke according to my friend. So, friends, let this be a month of play, silliness and hopefully a few good practical jokes. But let's also make it a month of sight and seeing. There is so much that is still moving. Even in the midst of worry and loss, life still slips in wonderful surprises. Let's be sure we're in on that joke!

See you in August.

- Don

### 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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We're on the web at www. uuclvpa.org

### **CARDS AND LETTERS**

### To and From Church Family, Via You...

"Church Family" has been gifted with a plethora (a bunch) of beautiful note cards, thanks to the generosity of such folks as Elizabeth Griner, Ginny Schimmel, and others whose names we did not capture. We have collected and sorted them into colorful boxes, for easy access when you want or need to send a note to any member of the Congregation. No need to wait for permission. Please help yourself and write a note.

We have put the cards into different colored boxes, located on the shelves to the far left, under the mug cupboard, next to the handicapped rest room off of the Community Room. The cards fall roughly into the following categories [box colors in ( )]:

- Birthday (Yellow Top with Blue Polka Dots, Blue Box)
- Get Well (Yellow Top, Two Tone Yellow Stripe Box)
- Sympathy (Black)
- Thank you (Black Box and Top, with White Polka Dots)
- Thinking of you/Friends/ Wishes (Green Top, White, Yellow, Green Striped Box)
- Blank Cards (two [2] White boxes)

A brown accordion folder, containing such specific topics as "Baby," "Anniversary," "Easter" greeting cards, blank stationery, envelopes, stickers, the Directory of Congregants, pens, colored crayons and markers and other festive items, as well as a straw basket full of ball point pens is located in the same area, and you are welcome to help yourself and use those, as well.

The cards represent 54 different entities or charitable organizations. They are the ones we tend to get in the mail from organizations we support with monetary contributions. We have listed them separately, in case you are curious.

For those whose interest is in numbers, at this moment we have counted 124 Birthday Cards, 67 Get Well Cards, 9 Sympathy, 27 Thank you Cards and 365 Blanks.

Do we need more cards? What we really need is for you to send some. And if you see fit to donate a roll of stamps or even just a few, please do. Govern yourself accordingly.

### JULY BREAKFAST FORUM

July 2

## Silicon Valley's Quest to Live Forever

Frank Stone, Presenter

That somewhat whimsical title heads a recent article by Tad Friend in The New Yorker exploring the latest work in the field of extending human lifespan or at least extending the number of healthy years a human can enjoy. We'll look at a bit of the work, which is fascinating and thought-provoking, but which also raises some serious ethical and philosophical questions. Part 1 of 2.

July 9

## **Earth Divine - Mysteries of Life on Planet Earth**

Robin Reichert, Presenter

Throughout her life, people have shared their experiences of the unexplainable with Robin. She will discuss some basics about mysticism and how faith, her own form of conversational prayer, and interconnection with the Divine have played out in her life, mixed with stories depicting her own mysterious happenings. Robin's books and new CD "Mystic" are available for purchase.

July 16

### Facing Shakespeare

June Schlueter, Presenter

While we all recognize Shakespeare's image in books or on T-shirts, no one knows for sure what he looked like. In this lecture/slide show, Shakespeare scholar and Lafayette English professor June Schlueter examines six portraits, an engraving, a funeral bust, and a death mask in search of the real Shakespeare. Her next book, due out in January, is on a previously unknown manuscript that was a source for Shakespeare's plays.

July 23

## Silicon Valley's Quest to Live Forever

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July 30

#### Universalism 1600-1860

Cease Blocker, Presenter

We explore how both Unitarianism and Universalism evolve to our present-day creedal movement during the backdrop of Darwin's new theory of evolution, Civil War, Suffrage and Social Gospel. Julie Ward Howe, Clarence Skinner, Olympia Brown and others are noted as significant players. Part 4 of 6 DVD Series.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

This is going to be a summer of Sunday fun at UUCLV. Jeannie Burd is a self-described Harry Potter freak, so when we decided to offer Hogwarts Summer School, she was all in. The classroom is decorated with many items from her home collection including banners, books, costumes and more. She had fun creating the fireplace flu through which the children enter Hogwarts, as well as the "Platform 9 3/4" train station sign. The classroom has really been transformed. Visit our Facebook page for a video tour of the classroom.

## Summer Magic: Hogwarts Sunday School Program Using UU Principles

Each class, we'll view a snippet of one of the Harry Potter films that relates to a UU principle. In lesson 1, children will travel to Diagon Alley, The wizards' version of a "shopping mall". Instead of buying their magic supplies, they will make them. Each child will decorate their own wand, cape, book and quill. Lesson 2 uses the sorting ceremony to teach about the Inherent Worth and Dignity of all people. The RE committee looks forward to a fun summer of Harry Potter magic and learning.

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

### **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

## INSPIRING OUR ETHICAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE: AN EXAMINATION OF WORLD RELIGIONS

During our 2017-2018 year, our adult religious education class will be examining the religions of the world that give us inspiration to build our ethical and spiritual lives. This class will examine the traditions of Egypt, Iran, India, China, Israel, Arabia and European Christianity. Loosely based on Neighboring Faiths, a UUA curriculum for fifth and sixth graders, Rev. Capoor will be presenting new material from all of these areas. There will be speakers from many of the faith traditions and field trips to their worship services within the Lehigh Valley. The class begins on Sunday, **September 17th** at 9am in the RE Library. Please tell

Jansen Wendell (lec@uuclvpa.org) or Rev. Robin Capoor (robincapoor@msn.com) if you're interested.

#### MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP

(Summer Schedule: June 13 and June 27, July 11 and 25, August 8 and 22. 7:00 pm in 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. For more information, contact Janice Lovegrove at <a href="mailto:lvjspirit@aol.com">lvjspirit@aol.com</a>.

### LONG STRANGE TRIP: 2000 YEARS OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY

This set of 6 DVDs is available for loan (limit 2 discs at a time). It traces the history and evolution of Unitarianism, Universalism, and the merger of the two faiths into today's Unitarian Universalism. Find out about how our "Uncommon Denomination", from its roots in the Reformation to the American Revolution to the Civil War to the Transcendentalist Movement to the present. Contact Jansen Wendell to borrow one of them.

## RE CALENDAR: SUMMER 2017 July 2 – Aug 27: Summer RE continues



Our three bridging high school seniors: Haley, Maya and Carolyn.

# HANDICAPPED ACCESS ELEVATOR PROJECT TO PROCEED

At the May meeting, the UUCLV Board approved a proposal from the Capital Projects Committee to build a Limited Use/Limited Access (LULA) elevator to provide handicapped accessibility to three levels of the church: the Community Room, the Sanctuary, and the RE/Administrative level. The proposed solution also provides the capability to offer access to the gym level when funds are available.

A LULA is a hybrid between and full-sized commercial elevator and a wheelchair lift. It looks and rides like a standard elevator. The sole purpose of a LULA is to provide barrier-free access.

The cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$194,000. The amount of capital funding currently available is \$157,000, which includes a \$20,000 Chalice Lighter grant from Joseph Priestly District. The Finance Committee and Board approved a supplemental capital fund raising campaign to raise additional funds to address the shortfall.

The project is expected to start in late summer and take approximately four weeks to complete.

### FOURTH FRIDAY FILM SERIES

The 2017 FFF Series is presented by the UUCLV Social Action Committee at 7:15 PM in our community room! FFF promotes the common good as it relates to saving our environment, reversing economic inequality, and repairing our democracy so it works for everyone. The website is **www.FFFInfo.blogspot.com**.

We invite organizations to join us by co-sponsoring one or more of the presentations . We hope local educators will connect with FFF programs that align with their curricula and/or interest. Contact **Tom Ulrich** at 610-882-1136 or *tomulrich@gmail.com* for information.

## July 28, 7:15 PM SHELL SHOCKED

is a documentary about violence in New Orleans. With one of the highest per capita murder rates in the US, and with more shootings per capita that Chicago in 2016, what happens in this city has profound implications for the issues of violence and crime. This award-winning film focuses on young New Orleanians' depressing adaptation to rampant gun violence and suggests the

possibilities that mentoring and advocacy programs can have on more positive outcomes to conflict. After the film there will be a brief presentation/discussion led by Fritz Walker (board member of CeaseFirePA).

August 25, 7:15 PM

Program on Public Education: Problems and Possibilities.

### SPRING FORWARD TO UUMAC

Wondering where to go this summer for a respite from the chaos? Come to the UU Mid-Atlantic Community to recharge and relax with UUs from New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and beyond. Spend a week on a beautiful university campus in southeast PA, July 9-15. For more details, see <a href="mailto:uumac.org"><u>uumac.org</u></a>, or call Doug Belling 202-420-1969, UUMAC Board Member.

### JULY HOSPITALITY

C'mon in out of the sun and enjoy some Sunday Hospitality in the month of July courtesy of the East (Green) group led by Margo Dixon. If you live in zip codes 07016, 08848, 08865, 18013, 18020, 18040, 18042, 18045, or 18064 please sign up to be a greeter, usher, donate flowers or provide some snacks. We would love to have your children join you as greeters or ushers. Snacks do not need to be homemade, store bought is just fine. Thank you for helping to make our Sunday morning welcoming for members and visitors.

If you do not live in those zip codes, but would like to serve the community in July, please email <a href="mailto:hospitality east@uuclvpa.org">hospitality east@uuclvpa.org</a> and let Margo know which week you can help out.

### JULY MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the UUCLV Men's Group will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 10 at the home of Allen Zinnes, 220 W. Langhorne Ave., Bethlehem. No topic has been determined. Because Langhorne Ave. is quite narrow, you may want to park on Moreland Ave., which runs perpendicular to Langhorne a few yards up from Allen's home. The Men's Group is open to all UUCLV members and friends **regardless of gender.** Please bring food and/or beverage to be shared.

### SHARED PLATE FOR JULY

Our UUCLV Sunday plate offering during the month of July will be shared with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light, a faith-based organization which is responding to climate change as a moral issue, through advocacy, energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable energy.

### **UUCLV OFFICE NOTES**

The deadline for the **August issue** of The UU-Link is, as always, the 3rd Sunday of the month: **July 16.** Please submit all text info as Word files to **thelink@uuclvpa.org** by Sunday evening. Submissions may be edited for length, format, etc.

Please remember to share all your **changes in address, contact info**, etc with the UUCLV Membership Committee at membership@uuclvpa.org, and then to copy the church office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org. This insures that our Church Windows database will be kept up to date.

The church offices will be closed for the July 4th holiday. UUCLV Staff will be taking vacation time during the summer; be sure to give them plenty of notice for any needs you might have.



### WATCH THIS SPACE



"Watch This Space" is presented by UUCLV's **Property Committee** for the 2017-2018 year. Starting off, we want you to know that the gym kitchen floor and cabinets will be transformed from their current condition to create new, aesthetically pleasing workspace.

This will start in July 2017. The funding for this project was set aside by the finance committee from a portion

of the rental fee of the Montessori school that rented the third floor in 2016. Throughout this church year, there will be other "Watch This Space"



articles and pictures of the improvements to our church facility. Keep your eyes open. Our church is being transformed.

-- The Property Committee

# Annual Meeting for the Conference of Churches

Elizabeth Johnson attended the June 2 Annual Meeting of the Lehigh Conference of Churches in Allentown, representing the UUCLV. Members approved a \$5.3 million budget for 2017-18 with programs projected to cost \$2.5 million with \$2.6 million in revenue from Lehigh County and \$1 million in Federal funds, among other funding mechanism.

In February, the Conference, serving the poor in Lehigh County, opened a Bethlehem office to serve Northampton County residents in need of low income housing. Another achievement, saluted by Rev. Larry D. Pickens, ecumenical director, was the writing of an interfaith statement against bullying in response to incidents of intolerance in area high schools. The statement was a collaboration of religious leaders in the membership. Dr. Jack Felch, executive director, reported on plans for savings in the Lazarus Houses program which serves released prisoners with housing for which they pay.

UUCLV, due to its shared plate donation, is among 2016-17 member organizations listed in the report.

# A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT - THE UU SERVICE COMMITTEE

The social conscience "heavy lifter" of the UU Association is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), founded in 1939 by Rev. Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha Sharp, who were sponsored by the American Unitarian Association to help refugees flee Nazi persecution.

Today, the Unitarian Universalist Service
Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian human rights
organization powered by grassroots collaboration.
UUSC has roughly 40 staff members and projects in 8
countries (some have more than one). They work
anywhere rights are threatened – by natural disasters,
armed conflicts, genocide, forced migration, and
systematic injustice.

From providing maternal and child health and family planning in Haiti to working to pass Human Right to Water legislation in the US, you will be amazed at the accomplishments of the UUSC! We hope you'll take a minute to read about all of them at <a href="http://www.uusc.org/about-uusc/">http://www.uusc.org/about-uusc/</a>.

UUSC's work around the world is guided by the values of Unitarian Universalism and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which you can find out more about by stopping by the Social Action Table during Coffee Hour.

At the UUCLV, the UUSC has been visible in varying degrees throughout the years. The Social Action Committee is currently reviewing UUSC's work with an eye to making it more visible to UUCLV members. More to come in future months!

### Join us for a Link Pizza Party!

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Pizza & Mailing Party on Wednesday, June 28th! 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 Bethlehem's own Lehigh Pizza.

The next mailing party will be on **Wednesday**, **August 30**. If you'd like to join in the fun and help out, just RSVP to the office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

# WE NEED YOUR 2017-18 CHURCH CALENDAR INFO!

Just a reminder that as our church year draws to an end, so does our church calendar. To make sure that all the calendar info we have is up-to-date and accurate, we start fresh every year on July 1, carrying nothing over.

So this is the time to send in your 2017-18 church calendar info for:

- Monthly committee meetings when and where?
- Any other regular, repeating events that you need to reserve space for.
- One-time or special events auctions, concerts, dances, sales, etc.

Send the info in ASAP to guarantee the dates and rooms of your choice!

Please use the online **Room Reservation form**. If you have any questions, please contact Kate at the office at uuclv@uuclvpa.org.

### IN MEMORIUM

At the Annual Meeting on June 11th, President Bob Kriebel announced that the UUCLV congregation had received an anonymous donation in memory of the nine members of the congregation who had passed away during the 2016-2017 church year:

Cathy Barrett
John Brennan
Rich Brooks
Bob Cohen
Ed Donley
Frank Galassi
Prad Ghia
Erol Ulucakli
Bob Williamson

Many thanks to our anonymous benefactor on behalf of the congregation.



UUCLV The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley 424 Center Street Bethlehem, PA 18018

### Address Service Requested

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 11:45 Town Hall-CR 12:10p Hospitality: FM/Brides	26 9 Local Mama: Kitchen 12p Buy The Farm: Kitchen 6:30p FIERCE: CR 7p Comm on Ministry: RE Lib 7p Long Range Planning: 308 7p LRP: 308	27 10 Buy The Farm: Kitchen 7p Mindfulness Practice: CR	28 12p Link Mailing Party-CR 7p HAVEN: Rm 100/CR	29 8 Local Mama: Kitchen 12p Zuzu: Kitchen 4p Catacalos: Kitchen	30 8 Local Mama: Kitchen 4p Catacalos: Kitchen	Jul 1 4p Santiago: CR
2 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service	3	4	5 7:15p Finance: RE Lib	6	7	8
9 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12p Church Family: Bride's Room	10	11 6:30p Advocacy Training: CR 7p Property: RE Lib 7p Mindfulness Practice: 308	12	13	14	15
16 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 New Member book signing and introc 10:30 Sunday Service 5p The UU-Link deadline	17	18	19	20 7p Worship: RE Lib	21	22
23 9 Brealfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 11:45 Town Hall-CR	24 7p Long Range Planning: 308	25 7p Mindfulness Practice: CR	26 12p Link Mailing Party-CR	27	28 7p 4th Friday Films: CR	29
30 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service	31	Aug 1	2 7:15p Finance: RE Lib	3	4	5