



# THE UU-LINK

August 2017

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

## August Services

August 6

### What Is Religion For?

Rev. Don Garrett

Religion means different things to different people. Could there actually be a "there" there?

August 13

### What Is Church For?

Rev. Don Garrett

Church means different things to different people. Could there actually be a "there" there?

August 20

### What is This Church For?

Rev. Don Garrett

Is it possible to share a consensus as to what we're doing here? Would that even be a good idea?

August 27

### Come Sing a Song With Me

Salli Wood

Join in this adventure in worshipping through music

## Don Sense – by Rev. Don Garrett

### What's Old Is New Again

It's now the height of summer vacation – sunshine, rain showers, beach and mountain explorations. In the midst of all this, I remember just how wonderful and miraculous summer vacations seemed when I was a child. Two-and-a-half whole months without school! What an incredible gift that was. I can now recognize just how much that youthful view of summer vacation still affects how I experience things to this day. The overwhelming message is that summer is a special time for experiencing life with neither discipline or order – a child's dream come true.

Sometimes the past returns as memory, sometimes as nostalgia. Sometimes it returns as a judgment, other times it returns in the form of a long-forgotten memory of trust and hope. This month, I've found myself reflecting on a series of three sermons I delivered over five years ago as we began the process of what turned out to be our congregational statement of core values: "We are a compassionate community, nurturing personal growth and working for justice."

Those sermons formed the theoretical basis for that group process and I think most were pleased with the result. But as we continue the adventure of what's been called "transformational planning," we're about to encounter some of these ideas in a new form. This September we'll begin an exploration of "transformational worship" as one of the next stages in our journey together.

I think it would be a great idea to revisit these sermons from the past, "What Is Religion For?" "What Is Church For?" and "What Is This Church For?" as an introduction to our next steps together. They'll be updated and revised, of course, but the questions endure. Five years ago, they may have provided signposts for our quest for core values, but they may be even more relevant now as we begin to ask, "What is it that church asks of us?"

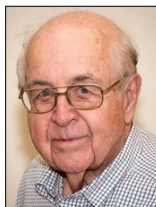
See you in church.

– Don

### 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 [robincapoor@msn.com](mailto:robincapoor@msn.com).

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**



### **Where Are We?**

It's been an interesting month for your new president. Lots of good things are happening. The objective of all these activities has been towards making our church stronger and healthier.

The Long Range Planning Committee is working on a plan to develop a Pastoral Care Task Force to strengthen our outreach to members and friends that are having problems. This will include conferring with other churches on how they handle this issue and come up with a plan for our church.

Also on the docket will be a congregational survey to determine the demographics of our membership and what you all find exciting and/or have issues with our church family. It will be interesting and informative and provide guidance for our future activities. Our last congregational survey, about 7 years ago, emphasized the need for a more diversified music program and more emphasis on outreach. It will be interesting to see what you all come up with this time. Your input is important so please respond when asked.

And finally the Long Range Planning committee is planning the development of small reading/discussion groups who will review books on church growth and help develop strategies to make our church stronger and healthier and more appealing to potential new members.

The Board is also been active. If you read this Link and the recent e-news, the congregation (through the Board) has approved the UUA Declaration of Conscience and charges the congregation to get involved as much as possible concerning these principles. With a federal government's lack of concern for basic human rights, we need to do whatever possible to redirect these concerns. Please read and sign this Declaration and do whatever you can to correct these injustices.

The Board is also working on several financial policies which will set our future financial path and has established a Church Visit Taskforce to visit two or more successful UU churches to find out how they have become so successful and see if we can learn from them.

There are a lot of thing going on in our church. Please volunteer to join a committee of your choice and join in the fun.

-- **Cease**

## **LEGACY GIFT CHALLENGE**

"Wake Now Our Vision" is a new project to increase legacy bequests. The Shelter Rock Congregation with match 10% of the first \$10,000 of each new legacy gift. This can be given to many UU organizations including individual churches and fellowships. The form is available at [Wakenowourvision.org](http://Wakenowourvision.org). For more information, contact Chris Davis or Cease Blocker.

## **CHURCH CALENDAR INFO**

Just a reminder that as our church year draws to an end, so does our church calendar. To make sure that the calendar info we have is up-to-date and accurate, we start fresh each 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 [uucv@uucvpa.org](mailto:uucv@uucvpa.org).

## **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**

424 Center Street, Bethlehem PA 18018  
Office Phone: 610-866-7652

The Minister: [minister@uucvpa.org](mailto:minister@uucvpa.org)  
Office Email: [uucv@uucvpa.org](mailto:uucv@uucvpa.org)  
The Sexton: [sexton@uucvpa.org](mailto:sexton@uucvpa.org)  
Cleaning: [sparkle@uucvpa.org](mailto:sparkle@uucvpa.org)  
Religious Educ: [lec@uucvpa.org](mailto:lec@uucvpa.org)  
The Link email: [thelink@uucvpa.org](mailto:thelink@uucvpa.org)  
The eNews: [uucvnews@uucvpa.org](mailto:uucvnews@uucvpa.org)  
Sunday Bulletin & OOS: [sunday@uucvpa.org](mailto:sunday@uucvpa.org)

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

## UUCLV LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our Board officers, trustees and committee chairs who were elected at our Annual Meeting in June, and thank you to all our 2017-18 leadership, listed below, for their willingness to serve.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President Cease Blocker  
 Vice President Cecilia Eberhard  
 Past President Bob Kriebel  
 Trustee Robin Capoor  
 Trustee Sharon Beckhard  
 Trustee Barbara Diamant  
 Trustee Sarah Carlson Summer  
 Trustee Diana Lormand  
 Trustee Tom Repasch  
 Clerk Chris Davis  
 Youth Representative Taneisha Lormand  
 Ex-officio Rev. Don Garrett

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Church/Long Range Planning:** Janice Lovegrove/  
 Tom Zimmerman  
**Ministry:** Sarah Johnson  
**Finance:** Allen Zinnes  
**Stewardship:** Dorothy Cockrell/Karen West  
**Membership:** Cari Poole  
**Communications:** Jane Benning  
**Youth Religious Education:** Laura Elmore/Jeanine  
 Burd  
**Property:** Dora Davenport  
**Worship:** Sarah Carlson Summer  
**Music:** Janice Galassi  
**Social Action:** Cari Poole/Beth Taylor  
**Nominating:** Anthony Gazzillo, John Kennedy,  
 Michael Benning, Ann Peaslee, Sue Weber  
**Church Family:** Margo Dixon/Beth Taylor  
**Denominational Affairs:** Chris Davis/Tom Repasch  
**Hospitality:** Kerri Finkle  
**Breakfast Forum:** Cari Poole  
**Personnel:** Open

In addition at the July Board meeting, the Board appointed Jan Phillips, Treasurer, and Don Davis, Assistant Treasurer, for Church Year 2017-18, and thanked them for their continued excellent service in this capacity.

## AUGUST BREAKFAST FORUM

August 6

### Archetypes

Jim Skelton, Presenter

*Animals have instincts; humans have archetypes. They are passage ways from the unconscious, where most of the action takes place. Dreams, symbols, creativity, synchronicity, etc. all point to meaning coming from beyond immediate awareness. Interpretation provides a vast picture of how the unconscious acquires solidity, influence and eventual consciousness in the encounter with empirical facts.*

August 13

### Power and Control, the Damaging Effects of Abuse

Miriam Rivera, Turning Point of the LV

*This presentation consists of explaining how a person takes power and control over the life of another. It is done by exhibiting abusive behaviors and actions such as coercion and threats and then offering hope that things will change. The effects can rob a person's identity and damage their connection to a higher power. Turning Point's services and support to the community will also be highlighted.*

August 20

### Building Bridges Across Difference - Race, Politics & the New American Majority

Rev. Dr. Gregory Edwards, Presenter

*Dr. Edwards is a community leader and human and civil rights activist. He is founder and Senior Pastor of Resurrected Life Community Church in Allentown and understands the intersectionality of spiritual growth, educational empowerment, economic self-sufficiency and community development. He recently was inducted into the inaugural class of Martin Luther King, Jr. College of Pastoral Leadership at Morehouse College, along with Rev. Dr. William Barber and many other distinguished faith leaders.*

August 27

### Unitarian Universalism

Cease Blocker, Presenter

*We explore how Unitarians and Universalists merged together 50 years ago noting how Humanism helped bring the two movements closer together. It then follows Unitarian Universalism from the 60's onward and ends with personal comments on what its future might hold. Part 6 of 6 DVD Series.*



## FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

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

The Religious Education Committee met for our summer retreat on July 16th. We reviewed our covenant, mission statement and charter. We picked dates for a few important events and most important, reviewed our progress in recruiting teachers and assistants for the fall. To fully staff all the classes so that no volunteer has to commit to more than 2 Sundays a month, we need about 30 teachers, assistants and advisors. As of this article, every class has at least two lead teachers and some have additional helpers. We are about two thirds of the way there, so if we get just ten more volunteers, the workload will be greatly reduced for everyone. If you have never taught, you don't know what you are missing. Our children and youth are friendly, considerate, thoughtful and fun to be with. Making a difference in their lives by mentoring them as they travel on their religious journey is about as rewarding as it gets. The RE committee has committed to providing more support to the teaching teams through the use of weekly feedback from teachers that will be shared with their colleagues. Contact Jansen Wendell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education at [lec@uuclvpa.org](mailto:lec@uuclvpa.org) to volunteer.

The committee also needs more members. We meet on most months on the second Sunday of the month at 9:00 am in room 212. In addition to the monthly meetings, committee members help out in classrooms and with special events such as the pageant, games nights and barn dance.

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

Our summer RE program for elementary students has been wildly popular. We look forward to continuing the summer fun of Harry Potter magic and learning. Each class, we'll view a snippet of one of the Harry Potter films that relates to a UU principle. We will complete the program at the end of this month.

In faith, **Jansen Wendell**,  
Director of Lifespan Religious Education  
([lec@uuclvpa.org](mailto: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](mailto:lec@uuclvpa.org)) or Rev. Robin Capoor ([robin Kapoor@msn.com](mailto:robin Kapoor@msn.com)) if you're interested.

#### **MINDFULNESS PRACTICE GROUP**

*(Summer Schedule: 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 [lvjspirit@aol.com](mailto:lvjspirit@aol.com).

#### **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 6 – Aug 27: Summer RE continues

##### Aug 26: **Teacher orientation & Training:**

Saturday morning, August 26 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon in the community room.

## 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](http://www.FFFInfo.blogspot.com).

We invite organizations to join us by co-sponsoring one or more of the presentations. We also 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](mailto:tomulrich@gmail.com) for information.

**August 25, 7:15 PM**

### Public Education: Problems & Possibilities.

Using parts of Michael Moore's film, we discuss ideas to improve public education with professionals educators

## AUGUST HOSPITALITY

Sunday Hospitality for the month of August will be provided by the West group and their new neighborhood facilitator, Judy Aplin. Thank you, Judy, for joining the hospitality team! 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. Thank you for helping to make our Sunday mornings welcoming for members and visitors. Any questions can be directed to [hospitality@uuclvpa.org](mailto:hospitality@uuclvpa.org).

## CPR CLASSES

In light of the recent health issues faced by members of our congregation it seems a good idea for as many of us as possible to learn life-saving techniques – CPR, the Heimlich maneuver and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

If you are interested in acquiring this knowledge, Frank Claps will have a sign-up sheet during coffee hour. Or you can contact Frank through his e-mail or phone – both are in the church directory. Frank has lined up an instructor who can do both CPR and AED training.

Purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator

(AED) has been approved by the Program Council. It should be installed by September. Here is a link to an on-line video explaining the use of the Zoll AED Plus defibrillator: <https://youtu.be/AthCTidepsw>.

## BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR SERVICE AUCTION 2017



Please join me for one of two dates to “brainstorm” new possibilities for the 2017 service auction. Last year several people offered suggestions to enrich our annual major fundraising event. The time is now to bring those ideas and suggestions to the table.

Join me on August 6<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour (12 noon - 1:15pm) in the gym for this brainstorming session! AND if you are not available on August 6, how about the 13<sup>th</sup>? Same place, same time, and same agenda. Your support is greatly appreciated.

-- **Dora Davenport**, *Service Auction Chair*

## AUGUST MEN'S GROUP

The August meeting of the UUCLV Men's Group will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 7 at the home of Frank and Judy Claps, 3430 Drifting Dr., Hellertown, Pa. For directions, contact Frank at [clapsfrank@gmail.com](mailto:clapsfrank@gmail.com), Judy at [judithclaps@gmail.com](mailto:judithclaps@gmail.com) or 610-346-7629.

The topic will be : what does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? Specifically:

- What assumptions do you make when meeting someone for the first time who identifies as a UU? Why?
- What beliefs or practices unite UUs?
- What drew you to this faith? What keeps you coming back?
- Which of the seven principles appeals to you more than the others?

The UUCLV Men's Group is open to all UUCLV members and friends high school age or older **regardless of gender**. Please bring food and/or beverage to be shared. For more information, contact Frank at the above phone or [men@uuclvpa.org](mailto:men@uuclvpa.org)

## SHARED PLATE FOR AUGUST: TURNING POINT OF THE LV

Turning Point of the Lehigh valley provides a safe place and support to victims of abuse and their children. Their mission is to eliminate violence in the Lehigh Valley through empowerment, education and services.

## UUCLV OFFICE NOTES

The deadline for the **September issue** of The UU-Link is, as always, the 3rd Sunday of the month: **August 20**.

Please submit all articles and 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](mailto:membership@uuclvpa.org), and then to copy the church office at [uuclv@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclv@uuclvpa.org). This insures that our Church Windows database will be kept up to date.

The UUCLV Staff will be taking vacation time during the summer; be sure to give them plenty of notice for any needs you might have.

## NATIVE PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

Did you know that May and September are the best months to plant perennials? That is why we have the popular UUCLV Native Perennial sale in those 2 months. Look around your yard and find out what needs replacing. Once the plants are established they will need little or no watering. I do not water my yard at all it is in half shade.

If you need some special plants, just email that to [nativeplants@uuclvpa.org](mailto:nativeplants@uuclvpa.org). We will have over 60 varieties and more than 1000 plants available.

We also need volunteers to help transport, setup and sell. Please see Ilse to sign up. The Native Perennial Plant Sale will be held on **September 9 and 10** from 9-3pm at 424 Center Street in the side yard. One weekend only - spread the word!



## RESOUNDING "YES" FOR THE DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE

Promising to become bigger, bolder and better in the social justice arena is what UUCLV Trustees did in July by approving the Declaration of Conscience for the entire congregation. Trustees expressed hope that it becomes a guide post for continuing UUCLV social action.

"It's absolutely important for the life of the Church and for the world community," said Board President Cease Blocker. Board members expressed support for the work of the Social Action Committee, which has been engaged in promoting justice issues over many decades. While individuals in the congregation have personally signed the document (on line), Board approval is a vote of confidence in the justice work of the UUA, the Service Committee and the UUCLV Social Action Committee. (See <http://www.uua.org/loveresists/declaration-conscience> to sign as an individual.)

Trustee Diana Lormand, whose daughter, Taneisha, voted as a teen Board representative, said, "As both Board Trustee and concerned citizen, I'm enthused to support the Declaration of Conscience. Not only does the statement confirm our beliefs, but declares our persistent commitment to action. In these days we live in, it can be overwhelming to decide where to focus our energy, but by joining forces with our fellow UU's, community organizations, other faiths, and individuals, we can and must make a difference in these areas. We, as the Board, have full confidence in the Social Action Committee and its plans to join efforts with other community members to make a lasting impact here in the Lehigh Valley, and subsequently, beyond!"

The UUA and the UU Service Committee both advocate "translating our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us." The Declaration affirms a commitment to "justice, equity and compassion, to truth and core values of American society". The statement responds to a growing hostility on the national scene toward immigrants, Muslims, people of color and the LGBTQ community. The Social Action Committee is asking individuals to sign on and become more engaged in speaking up for the disadvantaged. A national conference call was held July 14th on connecting with others working on social justice projects in their communities.

-- Social Action Committee

## **REPORT FROM THE REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 7, 2016:**

**The Almawas family arrives.**

- An apartment has been found and set up with necessary furniture and equipment;
- A six-person Syrian farm family arrives speaking no English and with no resources;
- Committees go into action helping them solve issues ranging from medical evaluations, to signing up for governmental services, to obtaining proper clothing;
- The three boys are signed up for a neighborhood Allentown elementary school after two months of intensive tutoring.

**MAY 2017**

- The three boys have progressed academically, but the social climate of the school is difficult;
- The boys were accepted at the Circle of Seasons charter school and began classes. They are now fluent in English;
- Kattab has a full-time factory job but is looking for something better. His lack of fluency in English is an impediment, but he is beginning to sound out words. He is ready to take his test for a driver's license;
- Dibe has made a little progress in English but is much more independent and now walks by herself to doctor's appointments. Her baby is due in August.

**JULY 2017**

- The search is on for a bigger apartment;
- There is an intense effort to make the family more independent;
- The final reports from the school show that all three boys have made tremendous progress. Both Ahmad and Mohammed are reading at grade level. Ghannam is only a little more than a year behind.
- They love their new school;
- Tutoring will now be reduced to just the adults because the children will be in school all day;
- People continue to provide recreational activities especially for the children. These include swimming, plays and concerts and other physical activities;
- The boys are in a summer parks program and, thanks to a generous UU donor, are attending the LePoCo peace camp.

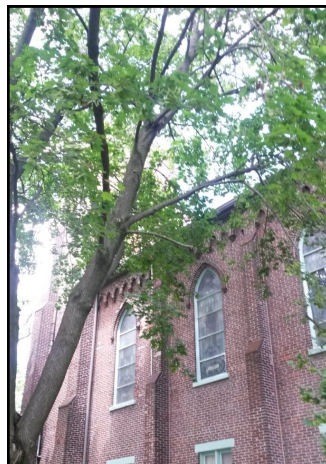
*-- Respectfully submitted, **Judy Claps, Chair***

## **WATCH THIS SPACE**



“Watch This Space” is presented by the UUCLV’s Property Committee for the 2017-2018 year. Our summer outdoor project is getting the property trees trimmed back away from the church windows, gutters, and the building. The tree trimming will take place on three sides of the church property, not the front Center Street trees. We have hired Monster

Tree Service who will perform the work this August. Keep your eyes open. Our church & property is being transformed.



## **JOIN US FOR A LINK PIZZA PARTY!**

Consider yourself invited to join us for the monthly UU-Link Pizza & Mailing Party on Wednesday, August 30! Every month, church 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 UU-Link mailing party will be held on **Wednesday, August 30**. If you'd like to join in the fun and help out, just RSVP to the church office at [uuclv@uuclvpa.org](mailto:uuclv@uuclvpa.org).

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

NON PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 LEHIGH VALLEY  
 PA  
 PERMIT No. 546

***Address Service Requested***

Today < > August 2017							Day	Week	Month	4 Days	Agenda	More ▾
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat						
30 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12p Hospitality: Brides Room	31	Aug 1	2 7p Finance Mtg: RE Lib 7:15p Finance: RE Lib	3 7p Board Mtg: CR	4	5						
6 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12:15p Service Auction Mtg: Gym 5p Soc Action: Hiroshima-Nagasaki: CR	7	8 7p Property: RE Lib 7p Mindfulness Practice: CR	9	10 7p ACLU: CR 7p Worship: RE Lib	11	12 4p Diaz Party: Gym						
13 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12:15p Service Auction Mtg: Gym	14 7:15p Social Action: FM	15	16	17 7p Church Visit Taskforce: FM	18	19						
20 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 5p The UU-Link: deadline	21 7p Program Council: CR	22 7p Mindfulness Practice: CR	23 12p Link Mailing Party: CR	24	25 7p 4th Friday Films: CR	26 9 Board Wshp: CR						
27 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 11:45 Town Hall-CR 12p Hospitality: Brides Room	28 7p Comm on Ministry: RE Lib 7p Long Range Planning: 308	29	30	31	Sep 1	2						