



NEWS FROM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH WEST

Sunday, July 7, 2019 — 10:00 am

"Freedom and Writing"

The UUCW Writing Circle with the Rev. Suzelle Lynch

On this first Sunday after July 4, the members of Writing Circle led by Helen Ambuel will share their reflections on Freedom and on why they write. Come prepared to hear their many voices and thought-provoking prose and poetry. **Special music today from Jennifer Nicolosi, Lead Music Director, and Stacy Mills, vocalist.**

Sunday, July 14, 2019 — 10:00 am

"Everything is Holy"

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch

The idea that the sacred resides in every molecule of the mundane is a very old notion. But what if it were true, and its truth had something to do with every one of us? Today's service is a good one to enjoy with friends, and introduce them to Unitarian Universalism! **Special music from the Kaleidoscope Worship Band.**

Sunday, July 21, 2019 — 10:00 am

"Carrying the Babies up the Mountain"

UUCW Member Dennis Wanless

Worship Leader: Steve Frey

Historically, the Guatemalan government has denied many of the indigenous Mayan Indians access to medical services, good roads, and communication services. With the closest medical facility hours away, the families of the northern mountains of Guatemala face high risks of maternal and infant mortality. Dennis will take you on the journey of committed midwives from Wisconsin who traveled up the mountain to share their knowledge of new birthing techniques. **Music today from special guest Dan Dance.**

Sunday, July 28, 2019 — 10:00 am

"Stranger in a Strange Land"

Pulpit Guest: The Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen

Worship Leader: Deb Ruesch

No, Tony's sermon is not about the Robert Heinlein novel by that title, but about what it feels like to come to Earth from a different planet. Haven't we all felt that way at times? And wasn't there something of beauty in the experience?

About our Guest: The Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen is the new half-time minister at Unitarian Church North, Mequon, starting July 1st. Tony served Olympia Brown UU in Racine for 42 years and has authored a UUA curriculum called "A Catechism for Unitarian Universalists"; and contributed chapters to two Skinner House books, "Salted With Fire" and "Everyday Spiritual Practice." **Beautiful music provided by music director Ruben Piirainen.**

SAVE THE DATE! The Annual Water Communion Ceremony is on Sunday, September 8th.

You're invited to bring water that symbolizes some aspect of your summer's experiences.

Additional details coming soon.





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SCINTILLATIONS

- A COLUMN FROM THE REV. SUZELLE LYNCH -

Dear UUCW Members and Friends,

I'll be back home not long after you receive this issue of our West Wind (or read this column in our awesome eNews), but I'm writing it from a lovely cottage on the Oregon coast in the town of Manzanita. I'm enjoying a week of vacation after an exciting week of work and learning with the UU Ministers Association and the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in Spokane, Washington!

General Assembly (GA) is four days of sun-up to sundown activities: general sessions, workshops, lectures, worship services, concerts, meetings and more, shared with thousands of Unitarian Universalists from across the continent and some from across the globe. This year's GA theme was "The Power of We." The idea was that in this time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, we need to find our path together as UUs, engaging with the question, "What does our faith demand from us?" Our UUA's work in dismantling white supremacy culture was at the forefront in every possible way — it was inspiring to be led by lay and ordained leaders who are people of color, indigenous people, women, and LGBTQIA+ and non-binary or genderqueer people. It was also inspiring to join in with other UUs in small groups to reflect on questions put to us by the UUA Commission on Institutional Change:

- What sustains you and your faith community in efforts towards inclusion, equity, and diversity?
- What limits you from living out our faith's promise towards liberation and transformation?
- And, What should we expect from ourselves and one another in living out our covenantal relationships?

Many of the core events of this year's General Assembly are available in video or text form online at the UUA website, www.uua.org/ga I would particularly urge you to see (or read):

The Black Lives of UU (BLUU) Promise & Practice campaign completion <http://bit.ly/blacklivesUU> You may recall that we gave \$4000 to this campaign to fund resources to serve Black UUs — and the whole campaign was successful!

The Service of the Living Tradition, with a powerful sermon on the climate crisis by my friend and colleague the Rev. Lindi Ramsden: <http://bit.ly/revlindi>

The report from our inspiring UUA president, the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray: <http://bit.ly/UUpresident>

Scroll down in the Sunday worship service, <http://bit.ly/GAsundayworship> to "The Meditations of My Heart: It Is Time Now," by the Rev. Marta Valentin. Some of you will recall sermons of mine where I've asked us to expand our "We," — to think deeply about who is included and excluded from our UU understanding of "We." Rev. Valentin speaks to this eloquently and powerfully!

There's so much more to share — but in the meantime, I look forward to seeing you soon!

With love,

Suzelle

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister



UUCW Annual Trustee Awards

The Annual Trustees Awards are given to individuals or groups who took action exhibiting excellence, initiative, and commitment or enhanced the life of the congregation, or who represented our congregation in the community in a manner that had definable results or outcomes.

The first Annual Trustees Award was given to Nicole Grandstrand for her leadership of the Earth Spirit Dancers, her involvement with the Lay Pastoral Care Team and the Our Whole Lives program. She is also a regular Sunday greeter. Nicole was nominated by Karen Engelking, Larry Hawley, and Dennis Wanless.

Karen Engelking: “Nicole’s role as the organizer and choreographer of the Earth Spirit Dancers has contributed to the superior quality of UUCW’s Earth-based worship services. The Worship Ministry Team regularly receives compliments and highly positive feedback about Nicole’s excellent and spiritually inspiring work.”

Larry Hawley: “Nicole’s warm smile, firm handshakes, and love filled hugs make entering UUCW a happy start to the UUCW Sunday experience.”

Dennis Wanless: “Nicole is... very up-beat, always encouraging us as a team, demonstrates excellent insight, and is always willing to reach out on behalf of the LPCT.”

The second Annual Trustees Award was given to Larry Hawley for his involvement with the Vision 2020 Team, Nominating Committee, the Capital Campaign, and Membership Committee. He has served on the Board of Trustees and is greeting visitors on most Sundays. Larry was nominated by Vicki Brezski:

“Larry gives a lot of his time and energy to this congregation... I suspect Larry has been involved in more activities that I am not aware of. But we all know how much he cares about UUCW and puts that into action.”

The third Annual Trustees Award was given to Phil Kroner for his role as Chair of the Build 2020 Task Force and his commitment to the Split the Plate. Phil was nominated by two individuals:

Almuth: “Phil chaired the Task Force which was charged with finding a Build Design Team to take on the project for UUCW, and then determining how we best decide on how to allocate the (insufficient) funds in order to align with our values and vision. Then add a bunch of UU's who all have different ideas. Not an easy task. But Phil did an excellent job commanding the "ship" to get us to a conclusion we

could all agree on. It was a long process, and Phil did an outstanding job.”

Rev. Suzelle Lynch: “If we have not given an award to Phil for his work on Split the Plate, we really should. He is the one who picked it up after we lost our dear Becky Steffes, and he has done yeoman's work to move it ahead and keep it rolling. I'm very thankful for his leadership there!”

The Long Term Service Award goes to an individual who has exhibited, over time, commitment to a service or project, or for an individual who contributed to multiple activities or projects over a significant period of time.

The Long Term Service Award for the 2018-19 church year goes to Almuth Soffee. Almuth is a UW Master Gardener and is UUCW’s outdoor campus expert. She is dedicated to environmental causes and exhibits her commitment through volunteering many hours on the Earth Ministry Committee, planning, leading others in cleanup efforts, weeding flower beds, leading buckthorn control and related projects.

Almuth has been a dependable member of the choir for years, serving the church through music ministry for Sunday services, small groups and special events. She plans and leads family movie and potluck events which have been popular on Friday nights and has been on various committees, including the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Ministry. She is active in Wellspring as a member of small groups and in advocating for Wellspring activities.

She is also on the Build 2020 Task Force, helping to plan for the future of our congregation.

Outside of UUCW, Almuth is a docent at Retzer Nature Center with fellow member Jerry Strong. The educational and recreational events they have facilitated there have been a valuable asset to our church community.

Almuth was nominated for this year’s Long Term Award by Susan Endes:

“I’d like to nominate Almuth... because she has shown excellence, initiative and commitment to UUCW consistently over the years since becoming a member. She has been generous with her time and effort and tireless in her work for our congregation. Almuth is an optimistic, community-minded UUCW member who deserves to be recognized for her above-and-beyond leadership and participation in the life of our congregation with this award.”

Questions? Contact David Feil via the church office.

Register Now for the UU Orientation Class!



UU Orientation is open to newcomers and those interested in becoming members of UUCW. The next three-part UU Orientation class will be held **Sunday, July 14, 21, and August 4th from 11:30-1:30 pm**. August 4th will be an optional third meeting where any final questions will be answered, and a potluck will be held for all of those who attended UU Orientation recently.

Every individual's faith journey is different. During UU Orientation we explore these journeys and how Unitarian Universalism can fit into one's future spiritual path.

UU Orientation offers:

- An opportunity for prospective members to explore and share their personal spiritual journeys.
- Information about Unitarian Universalism - our ideals and principles.
- An overview of Unitarian Universalist history.
- An overview of UUCW history.
- Information on ways to get involved at UUCW, through our programs, committees, music, education, etc.
- Answers to any other questions you may have.
- A community of other newcomers and a Membership Committee mentor to turn to for guidance within the church.

Please contact Community Builder Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office to register or answer any further questions. Childcare can be provided with registration **before July 2nd**.

July Offers a Summer Song Circle



Friday, July 19: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join us as we continue to celebrate summer with our songs! Singing is good for your brain, and it's a fun social time, too!

This is not a concert and no instruments are required! Easy to learn songs will include classic songs of peace, nature, social justice, hymns, and rounds. This adult Song Circle is open to the public, so bring your friends, too! Please bring a snack to share (optional), and/or your water bottle. Contact Sarah Stokes via the church office with any questions.

New Online Sign-Up Makes Volunteering for Guest House Easy



Every month the UU churches of Milwaukee provide a meal to over 100 homeless at the Guest House, a shelter for men in downtown Milwaukee. Our next turn will be **Saturday, July 20**. We need volunteers to provide food or soda and servers and adult assistants to help with transportation and serving. Sign up at the Social Action table today after the service or use our new online sign-up at <http://bit.ly/GuestJuly2019> Contact Eileen Gleeson via the church office.

Please note: Children are generally welcome to help serve, but please consult with us before signing them up. For those of you who like to plan ahead, our remaining Guest House dates this year are September 21 and November 16.

Welcome New Board Members



At the Annual Meeting held on June 2, Laurie Boddie, Pam Beattie, Greg Kohnert, and Stephanie Wahlen were elected to the Board of Trustees. Laurie Boddie was installed as the new Vice President.

Continuing on the Board are Jeanne Jarecki as Secretary and Leslie Peterson as Treasurer. Also continuing are previous President David Feil, Heather Bartlett, and Melanie Weston. Scott Shulick transitions from Vice President to President.

Cycling off the Board are Jane Browne, Karen Engelking, Kurt Gaetano, and Kathy Herrewig.

If you see any of these dedicated individuals, please congratulate them on their new position or thank them for their years of faithful service! For more info, contact the Board of Trustees via the church office.

UU Wellspring - Thank You UUCW!



UU Wellspring month was a great success! Thank you for stopping by at our Community Room table, and for expressing interest in the UU Wellspring Program. Our raffle winner was Louise VerWert! She is enjoying a lovely array of gifts in support of spiritual wellness. We experienced enthusiastic registration for fall groups.

Openings Still Available

If you missed the opportunity to sign-up, there are a few open spots! Please contact Patricia via the church office.



REflections

Marsha Thrall, Religious Education Coordinator

Summer is here! And with summer comes a host of family activities that often take attention away from Religious Education at UUCW.

During my time here, I've been told that "Unitarians take the summer off." But in Religious Education, at least as far as planning is concerned, and especially since deciding to shift to one service year-round, the summertime is jam-packed with planning and volunteer recruitment.

Since registration opened for the 2019-20 RE season, some families have registered for programming, and some teachers have come forth to renew or begin a new commitment to volunteering with Religious Education here at UUCW, and to those who have heeded the call to volunteer, know that I'm both appreciative and grateful for your commitment.

For those who are still thinking about helping in RE, know that I'm excited about your consideration, and can't wait to hear from you! For those who just aren't sure about where you fit into Religious Education programming, but want to know more about RE, please reach out to me; let's spend some time together sorting out how your gifts and talents can work to strengthen Religious Education here at UUCW. Finally, if you're just not ready to make the firm commitment to helping in RE yet, please know that we're ready and waiting to help with any concerns and questions that you may have when the time is right. In any case, contact me via the church office. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Register today for Religious Education 2019-20

Religious Education would not be without the active and enthusiastic participation of the children and youth at UUCW. If you haven't already, please go to <http://bit.ly/UUCWRE2019>, and take a moment to check out registration information for the 2019-20 RE season.

As we move forward with planning a meaningful season of Religious Education, especially in this time of transition, I'm reminded of UU Principle number three, which encourages us, as a community, to accept one another and encourage spiritual growth in our congregations." Here at Unitarian Universalist Church West, Religious Education is dependent upon the families who participate. In other words, without you, we can't do RE.

Hope to hear from you soon.



August Children's Choir

The Children's Choir performance has been moved to **August 25**. It would be lovely to have a big group of kids in the choir! We will be singing two songs at the beginning of the service, and there will be rehearsal tracks sent to all participants. **Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays, August 6 and 20, 7:00 - 7:45 pm.** To sign up, or for more information, contact Lead Music Director Jennifer Nicolosi via the church office.



Children's Summer Program

Join us for a summer filled with games and activities.

Friendship Finders Nursery — Pre-K

Let's discover new friends as we read stories, play games, and sing songs.

UU Play! Kindergarten — 5th Grade

Through team-building games and group activities, we'll develop the skills of cooperation, communication, empathy, and conflict resolution.

For more information, contact Lead Summer Program Coordinator Kelly Bognar via the church office.



Gen UU Summer Backyard Party

All young adults (18 to 35 years) are invited to come together for socializing and camaraderie on **Sunday, August 4 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm at Chelsey's backyard in Waukesha**. Bring a side dish to pass and enjoy lawn games, BBQ and great company. To RSVP or for more information, contact Chelsey Nisbet via the church office.



Tap Roots: A Pub Spirituality Group

Tap Roots will meet on **Monday, July 22 at 7:00 pm at Benno's, 7413 W Greenfield Ave, Milwaukee**. This convivial drop in affinity group is for anyone who likes dialog, not debate, over deeper philosophical, ethical and theological issues. RSVP's unnecessary but appreciated to Jim Gerber via the church office.

Article Key:

Church Life



Fellowship & Learning



Living Our Values



We Got This - MKE is the Split the Plate Recipient Starting July 21



Each Sunday we invite people at our church service to split their offerings between the church and a not-for-profit group in the community who is doing something purposeful. We seek organizations whose work contributes in some way to a more just, equitable and compassionate community, one of our UUCW's cherished values.

Our mid-summer recipients are a group of young Milwaukee boys. Their mantra could be "See a need, plant a seed" but it isn't. Their chant is "We Got This," which is also the name of their organization. They know what they are facing growing up in Zip Code 53206. In that facile bumper sticker way of describing things today, 53206 is the most violent zip code, in this city, in this state, maybe on this planet. They wear baseball caps, some of these boys, with 53206 in big numbers right across the front. And they shout, "We got this" as their leader, their mentor, their friend, and occasionally their disciplinarian Andre Lee Ellis, leads the chant.

Ellis has been nurturing *We Got This* for five years. This local movement gives these boys the tools, the courage and the skills to make a success out of their young lives right now, right here. How? By growing summer gardens as they work together toward a bountiful future.

"It's not that hard," said Ellis during an interview on Black Nouveau, a locally produced PBS program hosted by Joanne Williams. You can see if you agree by watching the show, aired on June 6th and streaming on Channel 10. To learn more, go to wegotthismke.com.

UUCW is proud to have *We Got This* as our Split the Plate partner for **six Sundays, from July 21st to August 25th**. More information will be in the August West Wind or contact Split the Plate representative Judi Traband via the church office.

Summer Q Youth Club



The next meeting of the Q Youth Club is **Friday, July 19 from 6-9:00 pm**. Q Youth Group is a social group for LGBTQI+ youth ages 13-18 and provides facilitated support and social opportunities for youth and their families. The group creates a safe space where youth can hang out with other LGBTQI teens and meet new people in a respectful environment! Q Youth group is open to the public and free! Check out the Q Youth Club on Facebook or contact Brianna Laux Kocis at briannal@uucw.org

UUCW Welcomes a New Member and Celebrates July Anniversaries



Please welcome our newest Member, **Pascale Engelmajer**.

Congratulations to **Jennifer and Ruth Conrad-Proulx** who are celebrating their 5th membership anniversary!

For more information about UUCW membership, contact Brianna Laux Kocis, Community Builder, via the church office.

July's Donation Rotation: "How did I collect all these T-shirts?!"



The theme for the Donation Rotation held on **Sunday, July 14** is "How did I collect all these T-shirts?" July is the time to look in your closets and drawers to dig out those T-shirts you've bought on your travels or collected over the years. Tables will be set up in the Community Room to accept donations **before the 10:00 am service**. During coffee hour, browse and find a treasure. Everything is free. Donation Rotations are sponsored by the Earth Ministry Team who promote the 3 R's: Recycle, Reuse and Reduce. If you know of an organization that would have a use for the T-shirts, please contact Pat Ginter via the church office.

Summer Donations Help Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative



The Summer non-perishable food donations will go to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative, which serves 300 to 400 homeless and 5,500 at-risk veterans in Milwaukee. There are "specific items" of food they need.

Please donate ONLY:

Mac and cheese	Pasta sauce	Spam
Knorr pasta sides	Peanut butter	Fruit cups
Box or rice packets	Canned fruit	Cereal
Canned stews and chili	Pudding Cups	

Please contact Ellen via the church office for details. Thank you! Ellen Newbauer and Melanie Weston, Co-chairs.

Men's Breakfast Group



Join this early-rising group on **Tuesday, July 9 at 7:45 am at Bakers Square at 15300 Bluemound Rd., Elm Grove**. Come again, or for the first time, for conversations on current events, philosophy, movies, in a small group. Contact facilitator Jerry Kashmerick via the church office.

WISDOM Works to Restore Voting Rights for All



WISDOM has launched the “Unlock the Vote” campaign to restore voting rights to people when they return from incarceration. Incarcerated people never lose the right to vote in states like Vermont and Maine: that should be the case here as well!

A huge majority of those formerly incarcerated are people of color. Why do we want people to vote?

- Voting helps people feel a sense of ownership over their community, helping to reduce recidivism.
- People on probation and parole pay taxes and live within our communities and therefore should have a say in how those communities operate.
- Voting is part of democracy, and a true democracy includes all of its people.

Watch for information on local events that WISDOM and EXPO are planning around the area to promote the Unlock the Vote campaign. You can find more information at www.wisdomwisconsin.org

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has introduced at least two measures into the proposed state budget that need to be watched because they provide a little bit of funding “in anticipation” of projects down the road. Once we’ve spent money on a “study”, it creates a rationale for going forward with a questionable project.

One such measure is \$5 million that has been slipped into the Capital Budget to purchase land and to make improvements in anticipation of a new prison to be built in Brown County. This is an expenditure that neither the Governor nor the Department of Corrections requested; it is a terrible idea.

WISDOM agrees with those who say we should have a goal of closing the Green Bay Correctional Institution (GBCI) within the next 4 or 5 years, and sooner if possible. If the state follows through on supporting a renewed Parole Commission, on looking for ways to reduce crimeless revocations, and on increasing investment in Treatment Alternatives and Diversions (TAD), the prison population will be reduced sufficiently so that there will be no need to replace GBCI.

The second such measure in the budget passed by JFC includes \$20 million to keep alive/restart the I-94 East-West expansion that Gov. Walker canceled in 2017. Throughout the I-94 East-West project’s years-long public

input process, thousands of Milwaukeeans and Wisconsinites urged decision-makers to reject this highway expansion. They called on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to instead fix the Interstate without adding lanes and to invest in local road repairs and public transit alternatives.

An increasing number of Wisconsinites rely on public transportation to connect to work, school, the doctor’s office, and social activities in their communities. JFC made a significant cut to the public transit investment proposed in Governor Evers’ executive budget. They should shift the \$20 million currently earmarked for expanding I-94 to make up for this cut.

For more information, contact Barbara Pfarr via the church office.



Women's Book Group Discusses *The Library Book*

Please join the Women's Book Discussion Group on **Wednesday, July 10 at 7:00 pm**. *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean revisits the Los Angeles Public Library fire in 1986 which destroyed or damaged more than a million books and showcases the crucial role libraries play in our lives today.

What do you remember about your childhood visits to your local library? What little-known fact can you share about your current library? We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Kathy Schwei or Marilyn Swanson via the church office.



The Great Books Group Continues with Great Summer Reading

The Great Books Affinity Group meets regularly the **2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 am** including during the summer. Great Books is discussing *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith on **Monday, July 8**. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is the story of a young girl's coming of age in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn, New York City during the first two decades of the 20th century.

Looking ahead, Great Books will be discussing *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate on **Monday, August 12**. If you have any questions, please contact co-facilitator Joyce Prewitt or Kit Hansen via the church office.



Unitarian Universalist Church West
13001 West North Avenue
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Return Service Requested

Come As You Are, Leave Inspired!

All-Church Picnic

Sunday, August 18

11:30 am - 3:00 pm

Come celebrate the start of the new church year. Hot dogs, brats, and vegan brats will be cooking on the grill, please bring a dish to share! Bring your own blanket or chair and reusable table settings if you wish – whatever you need to be comfortable.

RSVP in the Community Room or via SignUpGenius at <http://bit.ly/UUpicnic> There will be games, activities, and music for all! For more information contact Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office.



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