

NEWS FROM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH WEST
Sunday, August 4, 2019 — 10:00 am
"Lughnasadh: Celebrating the First Fruits of the Harvest"
The Rev. Suzelle Lynch and the Earth Spirit Team

With stories, songs, and rituals, we honor the earth-centered holiday of Lughnasadh. It's a time of transformation, when we begin reaping what we have sown, gathering up the fruit of the first harvests. **Special music from Dayvin Hallmon, leader of the Black String Triage Ensemble.**

Sunday, August 11, 2019 — 10:00 am
"Pathetic Spiritual Practice"
Pulpit Guest: Denise Cawley, Intern Minister, Bradford Community UUC
Worship Leader: Eddee Daniel

Denise Cawley will share simple ways we might incorporate spiritual practice into our lives, little by little. It doesn't have to be scary or difficult. In fact, pathetic effort is ideal. **Music from the Kaleidoscope Band.**

About our Guest: Denise Cawley is a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and Intern at BCUUC in Kenosha. She is a visual artist of national regard and an author and researcher of Florence Buck, one of our queer, anti-oppression Unitarian heroes.

Sunday, August 18, 2019 — 10:00 am
"A Walk in the Woods with Isiah"
Pulpit Guest: Isiah Holmes with Rev. Suzelle Lynch

Isiah Holmes is a reporter with the Wisconsin Examiner, a newly-launched publication which rigorously covers political issues affecting Wisconsin. He's a 2014 graduate of Wauwatosa East High School and a keen observer of the communities in which he lives. He writes novels and stories in his spare time, reflecting on the issues of our day via myth and metaphor. Isiah met Rev. Suzelle Lynch at a Black Lives Matter protest three years ago, and they continue to cross paths in the social justice world. **Music today provided by Ruben Piirainen, UUCW Music Director, and guest Jeremy Hiniker.**

Sunday, August 25, 2019 — 10:00 am
"Spirit of Life: Being Present to Our Wild and Precious Lives"
Pulpit Guest: The Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Kennedy, Minister Emeritus, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

With a series of engaging and heart-warming stories, Rev. Kennedy, will weave together two closely intertwined spiritual concepts, namely, the inevitability of change and the importance of seeking to be ever more fully present to our singularly wild and precious lives. **Music today from Jen Nicolosi, Lead Music Director.**

About our Guest: Drew Kennedy served in the Unitarian Universalist ministry for more than 40 years in congregations in Indiana, New York, and Wisconsin. He retired after 28 years as Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee in 2014.

Sunday, September 1, 2019 — 10:00 am
"Working in Union for Justice"
Pulpit Guest: Janet Veum
Worship Leader: Steve Frey

Trouble in the workplace is often the initial motivator leading people to consider joining or forming a union. After taking that first step, many also begin a journey to "good trouble," as Rep. John Lewis calls it. When people from different walks of life come together in union to pool their resources and share their strength, they become a mighty force for social and economic justice, achieving collectively what they never could alone. This Labor Day, we'll hear some of their stories. **Special musical guests: Randy and Jess Rock and Robert Fewel.**

About our Guest: Janet Veum is a UU and a Communications Coordinator for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), an organization of two million members dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families and creating a more just and humane society.



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- A COLUMN FROM THE REV. SUZELLE LYNCH -

Dear UUCW Members and Friends,

A year ago in August, I had the pleasure of introducing you to Marsha Thrall, our new Religious Education Coordinator. Marsha was hired with the charge of working with the RE Council to keep the RE program for children and youth going strong and steady for a year as we began the process of considering the future shape of religious growth and learning for all ages in our church. Now that year is complete — Marsha's last day with us will be Wednesday, July 31 — and it's time to say thank you and farewell.

Does it sound easy to “keep things going steady” for a year? It's actually very challenging! Following a long-time staff member and entering into an unfamiliar church culture and system are difficult. Marsha stepped up to the challenge of coordinating our RE program with her excellent teaching skills, brilliant mind, and caring heart; she gave a lot and we learned a lot from her. Transition years can be bumpy and ours was no exception, but we did achieve our goal. I am grateful for Marsha's leadership this past year as well as her caring, scholarship, sense of humor, and honesty, and I bet you're as grateful as I am for her good work.

I hope you will be in touch with Marsha to express your appreciation. Her message is below. You'll find more about our ongoing Religious Education transition on page 5.

With love,

Suzelle

The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister

Dear UUCW,

Goodbyes are difficult. When I accepted the position of Religious Education Coordinator last summer, I honestly did not know what I signed up for. But what I did know is that I felt extremely blessed to be in space that would allow for me to use my education, talents, and skills in what we, as seminarians, like to call vocation.

And this year has been a wonderful vocational experience. I've been asked brilliant questions by UUCW's children. I've been embraced, encouraged and supported by parents and elders. But most important, I've been loved and accepted by you during a time filled with grieving the loss of a longtime, trusted Director of Religious Education.

And I will carry these beautiful things that you've shared with me as I venture into my next vocational experience – whatever that will be.

Thank you, UUCW, for this Religious Education experience. For you, I am grateful.

Peace,

Marsha

Marsha Thrall, RE Coordinator



It's Going to Be a Great Year at UU Church West!

A message from Scott Shulick, UUCW Board of Trustees President

I hope everyone's summer has gotten off to a wonderful start – even if it did arrive a little later than we may have wanted. Let me start by introducing myself. I am your 2019-2020 President. My wife Lisa Becker and I, along with our three children Jack, Carter, and Isabel have been members at UUCW for over 6 years. If we haven't met in person yet, please say hi next time you see me.

I wanted to take a moment this month to share how thrilled I am to have the privilege of serving as your church president this year. I couldn't be more excited about the year we're going to have. Here are just a few of the highlights:

After an incredible amount of work put in by the Build 2020 team – working with the contractors and the board to finalize the plan and budget – the board approved the recommended plan in June and we are finally kicking off construction in July! The scope of the project will tackle some much-needed maintenance and building improvements including the installation of a new elevator connecting the various floors of the building. There will be more communication in the coming days and weeks on topics including design choices, construction timetables and ways you can still contribute or make your current contributions go even farther.

This year we are making the transition to having a single Sunday service year-round starting this fall. Many of you participated in our input survey and shared your thoughts and concerns. While there will no doubt be bumps in the road as we make this transition, the improvements in community building and the expanded programming opportunities are significant.

We're moving into year two of our Religious Education design process. This will prove to be an enriching process that will shape the future of our educational practices for years to come.

Add to that several task forces digging in on church policies and practices – everything from new fundraising ideas to revisioning the Committee on Ministry.

It's a tall order for sure. But your Board of Trustees is up for the challenge.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as president and for putting your faith in me. I'll do everything in my power to represent your interests.

Lastly, I want to thank each and every one of you for all that you do to make UUCW an amazing congregation. Your passion, gifts, and energy make this the very special place it is. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Onward!

Scott

Questions? Contact Scott Shulick via the church office.



Do We Need a Committee on Ministry at UUCW?

This question and many others will be explored by the new Committee on Ministry Task Force. During their June meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the formation of a Task Force to study the topic of Committee on Ministry (CoM), especially as it pertains to the needs of our congregation. The members are Chair Laurie Boddie (representing the Board), Patricia D'Auria, Karen Engelking and Jim Weitzer. Our charge includes researching CoMs, conducting a needs assessment at UUCW, and making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

If you are in a position of leadership, you may have already been interviewed by one of us. To broaden the scope of congregational input, we're also considering hosting an interactive dialogue, a World Café type of discussion. More details to come on that. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about our work, please feel free to contact Chair Laurie Boddie at via the church office or any of our Task Force members.



Song Circle Takes a Summer Break

The Song Circle will take a short end-of-the summer break in August but will return on **Friday, September 20 at 7:00 pm**. Join us then to celebrate the approaching fall season.

For more information, contact Sarah Stokes via the church office.

UUCW Ends Common Ground Membership



UUCW has been a member of the Common Ground community organization since it started over 10 years ago. However, at their June 2019 meeting, the Board accepted a recommendation from the Social Action Council to end our official membership. This decision was not made lightly and was carefully considered by the Social Action Council over the last several years. We will, however, remain a member of MICAH, a Milwaukee County faith-based organization similar to Common Ground – and join their partner organization SOPHIA in Waukesha County as well. We feel that at this time, membership in those organizations is a better fit for UUCW and focusing our attention on those community-based organizations which work in cooperation with each other and the WISDOM statewide network will help us better engage our members in community issues.

This decision does not at all reflect on the good work of Common Ground. They have been and continue to be an important voice for justice and needed a change in Milwaukee. UUCW will continue to support their efforts as we can, just not as a formal member. I have spoken with Common Ground leadership about our decision and while disappointed, they are understanding. The Social Action Council had talked with Keisha Krumm, the former lead organizer, about our concerns 18 months ago but nothing significantly changed since then.

Our concerns with Common Ground in the last few years included difficulty with timely communications, lack of gatherings to engage UUCW members in one time informational events, most issue meetings and actions occurring during daytime hours which excluded working people, their focus on Milwaukee County only after they stopped having a suburban organizer, and our lack of ability to find sustained leadership to represent us at Common Ground strategy sessions. And their dues structure made it difficult for UUCW to meet its financial obligation to them.

Right now MICAH seems to be a better fit because:

- It is working on issues similar to Common Ground but it is also working on issues like reducing mass incarceration which is in keeping with our support for Black Lives Matter
- As part of the statewide WISDOM organization, MICAH can work on issues like transportation and prison reform that require changes on the state level rather than the local level. By working on state-wide issues, this also

provides more opportunities for engaging UUCW members in letter-writing or calling campaigns which can be more easily done by working people and those with families who can't come out to weekday actions.

- MICAH/WISDOM has taken an explicit stand on anti-racism and dismantling white supremacy within its organization, which is in alignment with UUCW priorities. They are offering training on this topic and are modeling what this looks like in their structures and presentations.
- Many UU churches around the state belong to their local affiliates of the WISDOM organization and membership in MICAH aligns us with them as well.
- MICAH has regular evening task force meetings for each of its issues which it publicizes in advance making it easier for an interested UUCW member to become involved.
- MICAH also has at least two or three events in the spring and fall which are of a general nature to introduce and keep congregation members apprised of their issues and ways to get involved. These include prayer breakfasts, issues nights, and annual celebrations. We have had great success in getting 15 - 20 UUCW members to attend each of these events.
- MICAH has a regular newsletter with updates on issues and actions which is easy to forward to UUCW members and to use for announcement purposes.
- Dues for MICAH are only \$600/year for UUCW with more contributions being made by individuals who attend their fundraising events.
- With the lower dues, UUCW can afford to consider membership in SOPHIA, the Waukesha County affiliate of WISDOM which will better enable us to engage our Waukesha County members in community action.

If anyone wants to talk more about this decision, please contact Ann Heidkamp via the church office.



UUCW Welcomes New Members and Celebrates an Anniversary

Please welcome our newest Members, **Steven Margis** and **Trent Taylor**.

Congratulations to **David Brostrom** who is celebrating his 15th membership anniversary!

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



End of Summer Means It's Time to Register for Religious Education

- **Registration for our upcoming religious education program is ongoing!** Classes start Sunday, September 8. Help UUCW staff prepare for a great year of classes.
- **Volunteer for one of our teaching teams!** Excite your spirit as you nurture the faith development of young Unitarian Universalists. You don't have to be a parent in the program to teach – we love participation from all congregation members.

2019-20 Religious Education Curriculum Descriptions:

Chalice Children (nursery – 3-year-old kindergarten)

Using the symbol of the chalice throughout the year, children learn about their church, celebrate holidays, discover wonder, and make friends. We nurture children's spiritual growth, creativity, and connection to their Unitarian Universalist community through hands-on rituals, finger-plays, and games.

Welcome Home (4-year-old kindergarten - grade 1)

Find a home grounded in faith and welcome others into it. Through stories and explorations, we discover the kinds of homes where we can grow into our best selves and create communities that are open and welcoming. Along the way, we discover many gifts that we bring to our faith homes and how we are nurtured by them.

Stories of World Religions (grades 2-4)

Our own curriculum uses stories, music, art, and participatory activities to examine religious beliefs from around the world. The major world religions are explored in extended units, helping us understand a particular religion and culture and thereby examine our own Unitarian Universalist identity.

Neighboring Faiths (grades 5-6)

Explore the worship practices of our own and other religions. Using videos, internet explorations, stories, and activities, we discover the spirituality and worship practices of other religions, highlighted by exciting visits to the worship services of different faith groups to meet and interact with our neighbors.

Coming of Age (grades 7-8)

Embark upon a spiritual journey from childhood to adolescence. Using the symbolism of the compass, we explore our most ultimate beliefs and values, UU faith and heritage, and importance of social justice. The year culminates in writing a faith statement and creating a worship service for the whole congregation.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (grades 9-12)

Our YRUU high school program provides experiences in community building and fellowship, worship and congregational engagement, social action, UU values, and youth-led sessions exploring the Soul Matters themes and other topics of importance to our youth and their world.

Register and Volunteer Online Today!

Please register at <http://bit.ly/UUCWRE2019> or contact the Religious Education Director via the church office.



RE Transition News

New Lifespan Religious Education/Faith Formation Director

With the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees, and the recommendation of the RE Hiring Team (Kathy Bradshaw, Genevieve Daniels, Bruce Chesshire, and Rev. Suzelle Lynch) UUCW has hired **David Cicero** as our new full-time Lifespan Religious Education/Faith Formation Director. He will begin working at UUCW on August 1, 2019.

Dave is a professional educator with many years' teaching and classroom management experience in the Waukesha School District, as well as in school districts in San Luis Obispo and San Jose, California. He holds a Pre-K to 12th grade Lifetime Teaching License with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in Art, a Certificate in Online Teaching, an MA in Visual Studies and a BFA in Sculpture. He calls himself "a teacher of students" as opposed to a teacher of a particular subject, and he has a good grasp of the needs and abilities of learners in different age ranges and skill levels. He's been a member of Lake Country Unitarian Universalist Church (LCUUC) for more than a decade. At LCUUC, Dave served as an RE teacher and RE committee member and Chair. He assisted the Director of Religious Education in training volunteer RE teachers in classroom management, as well as helping develop a Safe Congregations Policy. He also oversaw the congregation's RE program transition through an interim period including the interviewing and hiring of their current DRE. In addition, Dave is an artist, a musician (he plays guitar and bass) and a good storyteller.

Dave is excited about the opportunity to lead our RE programs for all ages, and he looks forward to meeting the congregation and getting up to speed on our RE transition process. Welcome, Dave!

If you have questions about the RE Transition process, please contact Rev. Suzelle Lynch via the church office.

Build 2020 Construction Update



It finally begins! The sounds of sledgehammers, power saws, and machinery are traveling up from the lower level of UUCW. Demolition for the elevator has begun, and this will soon be followed by work in other areas of the building as our Build 2020 project swings into high gear.

Informed by years of planning, and funded by the generous donations of church members to the Build 2020 Captial Campaign, this project includes major maintenance upgrades to the church including a new HVAC system and new the roof (no more leaks!). Other projects include installing an elevator, remodeling the main level bathrooms and adding a new all-gender-inclusive bathroom, remodeling the foyer, and adding new carpet and paint in the offices and meeting rooms. Construction is expected to last into November. Below are the tentative demolition and construction tasks scheduled for July and August.

- Opening to be cut at future elevator lobby at lower level meeting room (LL14)
- Elevator pit demolition begins - existing flooring and concrete removal
- First-floor Vestry (ML17) shut down for elevator work.
- Demolition of Vestry (ML17) wood floor structure for masonry shaft
- Underpinning of concrete footing in the elevator pit.
- Mechanical system replacement to begin in lower level mechanical room (LL11)
- Electrical work in lower level mechanical room (LL11)
- Form concrete elevator pit slab and walls
- Demo of sanctuary roof – remove vents and coping cap around the perimeter.
- Demo walls and masonry arches and select doors on the main floor.
- Pour elevator pit components.
- Demo of shingle roof to begin
- Metal stud framing to begin on main floor for new walls.
- Lower level flooring, paint, doors, and new ramp construction

Additional details regarding the construction and its effects on church activities will be published in our weekly e-news and announcements, and pictures will be posted to our Facebook page. If you have more questions, or simply want to discuss the project in more detail, contact Phil Kroner, Chair of the Build 2020 Task Force at via the church office. For questions about the day-to-day effects of construction on church activities, contact Vicki Banville via the church office.

Lay Pastoral Care Team Can Be There for You in Tender Times



When my son went off to kindergarten, I grieved. Of course, I was joyous about his excitement over this new adventure; but I also knew that he would no longer be “mine.” He would now increasingly be influenced by others — especially his peers.

When he left home for college, I grieved. Of course, I was proud of his accomplishments and knew that I had prepared him to live independent of me. I was also relieved that I would no longer sleep restlessly until I heard him come home for the night. Pleasant and unpleasant emotions flipped back and forth uncontrollably. I felt at wit's end.

How wonderful it would have been if there was a Lay Pastoral Care Team available to me at those times in my life to be a sounding board for my feelings. You may benefit from allowing a non-judgmental, compassionate person to listen confidentially to whatever you are experiencing in your life right now.

We are here for you! Email the church office.

Gen UU Offers End-of-Summer Events



It's not too late to RSVP for the Gen UU Summer Backyard Party on **Sunday, August 4 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm**. All young adults (18 to 35 years) are invited to **Chelsey's backyard in Waukesha** for socializing and camaraderie. Bring a side dish to pass and enjoy lawn games, BBQ and great company.

Continue community building at UUCW by joining other UU young adults on **Sunday, September 15 between 12:00 – 2:00 pm at The Landing beer garden at Hoyt Park in Wauwatosa**. Bring your bike to join a leisurely group bike ride at 2:00 pm from the same location if you wish. Families and children are welcome! To RSVP for either event or to get more information, contact Chelsey Nisbet via the church office.

Men's Breakfast Group



Join this early-rising group on **Tuesday, August 13 at 7:45 am at Bakers Square at 15300 Bluemound Rd., Elm Grove**. Come for conversations on current events, philosophy, movies, in a small group. Contact Jerry Kashmerick via the church office.



Unlock the Vote Campaign Sponsored by WISDOM/EXPO

WISDOM/EXPO will do a community presentation on the UnLock the Vote Campaign on Thursday, September 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Location TBA. Please mark your calendar!

“Unlock the Vote” intends to restore voting rights to all people when they return from incarceration. Why is it important for all 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.

You can find more info at www.wisdomwisconsin.org

Despite our near feverish advocacy, the new state budget does not include our desired – and necessary – increases in public transit funding. WISDOM and our colleagues in the state-wide Coalition for More Responsible Transportation held activities across the state for Transit Awareness Week the week after the budget was finalized.

Funding short falls keep from providing the routes and frequency that bus riders ask for. The JobLines that went from central city Milwaukee to the industrial parks in Menomonee Falls, New Berlin and Germantown have all died for lack of funding. While the annual amount our State of Wisconsin spends on transportation debt service over the past 10 years has doubled to over than \$500 million per year, the much smaller amount the state spends on public transit service has actually decreased during the same period. Inflation and decreased funding have diminished all Wisconsin transit services.

By 2020 Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington counties project job growth of 57,000 but labor force growth of only 10,000. Milwaukee has the largest underutilized labor force in the state but 1 in 6 Milwaukee households do not have access to a car and 50% of workforce program participants have no driver’s license. There is no public transportation to connect workers to jobs.

Public transportation provides an important connection to work, entertainment, healthcare, and other services. Communities are currently unable to raise revenue for local transportation priorities on a regional basis, and political boundaries like county lines pose barriers to more

effective collaboration. One long-identified solution is the creation of Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs) which would give local governments more control in addressing their transportation needs.

During Transit Awareness Week, WISDOM held events in nine cities across the state, engaged six legislators directly in our events, and had media coverage in four cities. Most importantly, we collected stories from 96 transit riders, many of whom expressed interest in joining our Transit Task Forces. For more information, see www.wisdomwisconsin.org

Lights for Liberty Event

On July 12th, WISDOM members participated in the Lights for Liberty event to express our outrage over the way immigrants, migrants and refugees are treated at the US-Mexico border. Additionally, UUCW members in large numbers stood in support of immigrants at the Milwaukee ICE office. We continue to organize, advocate and mobilize against the atrocities through the Immigration Task Forces of MICAHA (Milwaukee) and SOPHIA (Waukesha). WISDOM regularly plans activities to let the immigrant community know that they are not abandoned. Contact the WISDOM office at wisdomforjustice@gmail.com to participate.



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



Tap Roots: A Pub Spirituality Group

Tap Roots will meet on **Monday, August 26 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.

Split the Plate Supports We Got This – MKE



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.

UUCW is proud to have *We Got This* as our Split the Plate partner now through the end of August.

We Got This all begins with a man named Andre Lee Ellis. Inspired by an abandoned garden on a city lot and a passion to make a change in his neighborhood, Andre reached out to a small group of young men for help and to the city of Milwaukee for a start-up grant.

Five years later, that group is an organization called *We Got This*. It's a garden and a team — young men, their families, and friends committed to making a difference in one of the most challenging places in Milwaukee.

The garden is open on Saturday mornings through the summer. To participate, boys and young men in the neighborhood have to be there by eight o'clock in the morning and they have to work until noon. Each of them gets \$20 for his morning's work, a burger and sides, a chocolate chip cookie, and an ice cream treat for dessert.

What's so important about a neighborhood garden? *We Got This* is in Milwaukee's zip code 53206 — the neighborhood made famous in film and news story for being the zip code that incarcerates the highest percentage of black men in America. The toll that this mass incarceration takes on the families of the community is huge. And Andre Lee Ellis can tell you that each boy or young man in the neighborhood, by the time he is just six or eight years old, knows the challenge he faces.

In the garden, there are rows of raised boxes with all sorts of green and growing vegetables. On a recent visit, a UUCW member saw about twenty-five boys and young men hard at work, surrounded by adult supporters and mentors. Andre Lee Ellis uses the small stage and microphone located in the garden to name those who have done something notable. Again and again, he tells these young men how special they are, how much they are loved, how sure he is that they can achieve their goals. *We Got This* grows vegetables, to be sure, but they also help young men grow their skills and confidence, and they are growing a sense of hope for the whole neighborhood.

Join us on **Sunday, August 4th**, when Andre Lee Ellis will be at UUCW to meet you in person. But in the meantime, Andre invites you to visit the garden and see for yourself what *We Got This* is doing. Come any summer Saturday between 8:00 am and noon at the corner of 9th Street and Ring, a block west of I-43 and a few blocks north of Burleigh. It's kitty-corner from the La Follette Public School. You'll be glad you did!

See the *We Got This* website <https://wegotthismke.com/> For more about Split the Plate, contact Judi Traband via the church office.



Back-to-School Donation Rotation

The month of August is a good time to look around your house and see what school, office and desk supplies you may want to swap out for a change! Bring the things you no longer use: Backpacks, notebooks and folders, pencils and other writing instruments, etc. These items should, of course, be in good condition so that your fellow UUCWers will be happy to have/use them in their homes! Bring the items to the Community Room on **Sunday, August 11th** and place on the tables. Anyone is free to take whatever they want for free! You do not have to bring anything to take something. For more info, contact Pat Ginter via the church office.



All-Church Picnic - August 18

Join us for the UUCW All-Church Picnic on **Sunday, August 18th from 11:30-3:00 pm!** We will be celebrating the start of the church year with games, crafts, and music featuring Kaleidoscope. Hot dogs, brats, vegan brats, and buns will be provided, please bring a dish to share. Bringing your own blanket or chair and reusable utensils is also advised.

RSVP in the Community Room or 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.



Q Youth Club Continues All Summer

The next meeting of the Q Youth Club is **Friday, August 16 from 6-8:00 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! Contact Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office.

2019 Summer Writers' Group



Six Members and Friends have been writing together since the first Wednesday in June – and we're half-way through the six sessions. We want to share how we're doing.

Participants include Allan Johnson, Barbara Glasgow (facilitator), Irene Heideman, Lynn Beaudoin, Mike McCrossin, and Susan Endes.

This experience develops the writers' voices – whether the goal is to preserve memories, compile a collection of stories, write and publish, or to get to know the others better. We reflect on those things most important to us. As an added plus, we share laughter, poignant stories, raw emotions, and the real satisfaction of being heard.

We follow the format described by Pat Schneider in her book *Writing Alone and Together*. We gather two afternoons a month during the summer to write together. Writing prompts are provided, writers share what they write and receive feedback; the feedback is about what we identified within the piece, what we felt as we listened, and what made a memorable impression.

A writers' group isn't a therapy group, and writing invites fabrication and fictionalizing. Art isn't about telling our secrets, but it has to be free to go wherever it needs to go – and usually our pain comes out first.

So what do we write about? Here are a few examples:

1. Our first prompt was appropriately about "writing." The responses were wide-ranging – from one member's description of his early school experiences with putting letters together to making narratives in middle school – to another's light essay about subscribing to a newspaper just for the puzzles and comics.

2. At our second session, we wrote about "How I have evolved" and then wrote a letter to someone who's gone and who was important to us.

One group member described her transformation over her life from a shy little girl into a less self-conscious independent adult who reaches out as needed in life.

Another member wrote a sad letter to her former neighbors about the new residents who moved in – she had to tell her friends that the new neighbors had dumped the valued piano of theirs into the yard.

3. The prompts for our third session were "...and then" (suggesting a jump right into the middle of a narrative); the next prompt was to rewrite the first piece with a changed person (e.g., 1st to 3rd) or form (such as from essay to

dialogue or a listing). The topics included one member's essay on feeling hooked on politics and old movies on TV – she easily changed it from past to present tense; another member gave a fictional accounting of family activities (pets, food, a grilling accident). She rewrote this piece into a schedule or list and changed it to present tense (listing date, time, event).

This short-term opportunity to write with others may be offered again next summer (2020); look for articles in UUCW's West Wind next spring. For more info, contact Barbara Glasgow via the church office.

Women's Book Group Discusses *Leaving Time*



Please join the Women's Book Discussion Group on **Wednesday, August 14 at 7:00 pm**. *Leaving Time*, by Jodi Picoult, is the story of a young girl whose mother mysteriously disappeared from an elephant sanctuary after a tragic death. Jenna is determined to find her mother with the help of her mother's journals, a former police detective who botched the death investigation, and a clairvoyant whose powers failed her.

We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Kathy Schwei or Marilyn Swanson via the church office.

The Great Books Group Wraps up the Summer with Scandalous Novel



Great Books is discussing *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate on Monday, August 12. *Before We Were Yours* is a novel based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals in which the director of a Memphis-based adoption agency kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families. Intertwined are the stories of Rill Foss, a young girl who with her four siblings suffered such a fate and of Avery Stafford, a young lawyer who is discovering her roots.

Great Books will be discussing Ruth Bader Ginsberg: a life by Jane Sherron De Hart on **Monday, September 9**. 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
Brookfield WI 53005-5219
Return Service Requested

Come As You Are, Leave Inspired!

The Annual Water Communion Ceremony

Sunday, September 8
10:00 am



Join us for the Annual Water Communion on Sunday, September 8th. You're invited to bring water that symbolizes an aspect of your summer's experiences: a trip to the beach, a downtown "bubbler," or the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

During this worship service, we each pour a bit of our water into a common bowl. As our waters touch and blend, we're reminded that our individual lives meet and merge into one beautiful whole in our faith community!

Share your water experience online! Post a picture of you and your water on the UUCW Facebook page or send your picture to the church office.

 **Unitarian
Universalist
Church West**
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