Sunday, January 5, 2020 — 10 am
Pulpit Guest: The Rev. Dr. Sarah Oelberg
"Integrity — A Good New Year’s Resolution?"
Worship Leader: Stephen Frey

We all make New Year’s resolutions — some humorous, some serious, mostly superficial and usually broken before the year is out. Perhaps we could consider integrity as a good alternative.

About our Guest: The Rev. Dr. Oelberg is a retired UU minister with a fine mind and a marvelous dry sense of humor. After a long career in academia, Dr. Oelberg served UU churches in Nebraska and Minnesota.

Sunday, January 12, 2020 — 10 am
The Rev. Suzelle Lynch
"Living with Integrity"

In the original Star Trek series, Captain Kirk was famous for barking impossible orders to Chief Engineer Scotty during battle scenes. “Divert energy to the forward shields!” “More power to the warp engines!” and so on. Scotty would often reply, “I’m giving ‘er all I can, Captain! She’s losing her structural integrity!” How can we maintain our “structural integrity” during stressful times? How do we live as “A People of Integrity”?

Sunday, January 19, 2020 — 10 am
The Rev. Suzelle Lynch
"Beloved Community, and an 8th Principle for Unitarian Universalists"

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke often about the Beloved Community. His vision was a society based on justice, equity, and love of one’s fellow human beings. We Unitarian Universalists have longed for that community; a community of wholeness and integrity. What will it take to build it? Are we willing to do what it takes? Special Music from YRUU student Spencer Harris and cellist Arthur Johnson.

Sunday, January 26, 2020 — 10 am
Pulpit Guest: Philip Chard
"The Divided Self: Finding Peace in a Fractious Mind"
Worship Leader: Eddee Daniel

Inner conflict assumes many forms — guilt, shame, self-criticism, low self-esteem, indecisiveness, even self-harm. The self is not a monolithic psychological entity, but one characterized by multiple “personas” that sometimes harbor competing agendas, attitudes and opinions. Inner conflict and division challenge us to transform the most constant and, arguably, important relationship we have — that with one’s self. We will examine the origins and workings of the divided self, how to negotiate a psychological truce, and paths toward reconciliation, healing and, eventually, inner peace. Beautiful Music today from the UUCW Adult Choir and Ruben Piirainen, Music Director.

About our Guest: After 32 years as President and CEO, Philip recently retired from Empathia, Inc., a behavioral services firm providing health, safety and productivity solutions for over 400 organizations across North America. He remains a practicing psychotherapist and newspaper columnist.

DINNER FOR TWO anywhere IN THE WORLD

JANUARY 9, 2020
Last Chance for Tickets!
GET YOURS TODAY - ONLY $20!
See page 3 for more details.
Integrity.

That’s our theme for this month. It’s the quality of being honest and morally upright – it has to do with acting in accordance with our values. It has to do with the way we live our lives every day. But integrity also means “the state of being whole and undivided,” which leads some of us to believe that we have to uphold certain principles and values in our lives no matter what, and/or that the same moral values and principles should apply to everyone, universally.

I’m not sure it’s that simple.

At the risk of sounding “preachy,” (always a risk when we’re discussing moral stuff like integrity), here’s how my musings on integrity have unfolded recently…

First, truthfulness. Integrity leans on our willingness to tell the truth. Telling the truth to others, but also to ourselves. The problem? Truth-telling takes courage. The other problem? We human beings are often very good at fooling ourselves, or mistaking “loyalty to what we were taught” for integrity.

Integrity as truthfulness leans on self-awareness and humility. To be a person of integrity, we have to be self-aware enough to willing to be wrong, and able to admit it. Rats! I hate being wrong; I was raised to be smart, for heaven’s sake! Smart, and right. But somewhere along life’s path I realized that integrity is more critical to my wholeness than being right is.

The next step: Integrity as humility leans on recognizing that we are not isolated “human units;” our actions affect the people our lives touch, and ripple out far beyond our knowing. Integrity recognizes that we’re inextricably connected in a broad web of other lives.

Integrity as humility means being willing to apologize, seek forgiveness and make amends. Listening is the spiritual practice that gets us there. What if we all doubled down on listening whenever we started to feel defensive? I’m willing to try it, how about you?

What does integrity mean to you? Is it about staying faithful to something or some one? Could it be about allowing yourself to unfold, or matching your insides with your outsides? Maybe it’s about refusing to hide, or putting the pieces of a shattered self back together…

I look forward to exploring Integrity with you this month.

With faith in the future and joy in the present,

Suzelle
The Rev. Suzelle Lynch, Minister
Ticket sales for our Dinner for Two ANYWHERE in the World Raffle end January 9th – get your tickets today!

Buying Raffle tickets is as easy as One, Two, Three!

- ONE: Volunteers will be selling tickets at church on Sundays – December 29, 2019 and January 5, 2020.
- TWO: You can stop by the church office during the week to buy tickets – office is generally open Tuesday - Friday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, and sometimes later. NOTE: The Church Office will be closed Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st.
- THREE: If you can’t make it to church - ask a UUCW friend to buy the tickets for you – OR – contact a UUCW friend and see if they have tickets to sell you!

NOTE: We can only accept checks or cash for ticket sales – and no online or by-mail ticket purchases are allowed (it’s the law).

It’s not too late to sell tickets: Pick up a packet on a Sunday, or at the office during the week. Remember – there’s a $100 dinner gift certificate prize for the top seller!

Raffle Tickets are only $20 each!

The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, January 12, 2020 during the worship service. We’re inviting an extra-special secret guest to draw the winning ticket for us!

Ticket sales end January 9 – so don’t wait!

For full details, answers to frequently asked questions and raffle terms and conditions, visit our website uucw.org/RAFFLE/
East Property Update
Scott Shulick
UUCW Board of Trustees President

Many of you have been asking, and rightfully so, “What’s going on with the East property?” Packed into that question are several others, so I thought I’d spend some time bringing everyone up to speed on what’s been going on as there are many internal and external initiatives that impact our property.

North Avenue Expansion
For several years, we have known that Waukesha County and the Department of Transportation has plans to widen North Avenue. To accomplish that project, Waukesha County is exercising their right to eminent domain to obtain additional property on both the North and South sides of North Avenue. That includes our property.

Over the last several months, we’ve been working with the county, appraisers and legal counsel to come to a final agreement regarding the compensation for the land that is being taken. That agreement happened in November. Waukesha county will be taking 0.358 acres from our East property and 0.168 acres from our West property. The county is compensating UUCW a total of $136,700 for the two parcels. As a part of the negotiation, we will be working with the county to create two new entrances into our parking lots, along with turn lanes on North Ave. We are finalizing paperwork with both the county and BMO Harris, who holds our mortgage.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2020 and is planned to move from West to East, with the portion in front of UUCW near the tail end of the project. While it will be disruptive at times, North Avenue will remain open to traffic during construction except for a few weeks when the railroad crossings near North Avenue and Pilgrim Road intersections are replaced.

Selling the East Property
In September of 2019, at the request of a board-appointed task force, a special congregational meeting was held. At that meeting, UUCW congregants deliberated on the pros and cons of retaining vs. selling the East property. In the end, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to actively seek a buyer for the property.

Currently, the East property is zoned for residential use and development. Through our work with the architect and general contractor for Build 2020, we were introduced to a potential buyer as well as had some interactions with the city of Brookfield regarding what could be done on the property.

We are currently setting up meetings with industry experts who specialize in these types of real estate dealings to map out the marketing and sales negotiation process for the property. As of the drafting of this article, we have not officially “listed” the property nor engaged a broker. We do, however, remain open to the possibility of doing both should they be in the best interest of UUCW.

The East property is a unique parcel of land, both in terms of what the city of Brookfield will allow to be done with it and its shape after Waukesha County takes its eminent domain acreage, leaving it less flexible in terms of development. We do not expect this to be a quick process, nor do we need it to be, though one never knows what the future may bring. We will not be taking a cavalier attitude towards its sale. It is a treasured church asset, and we will treat the sale of it thoughtfully, seeking to bring forth the best possible offer we can for the congregation’s consideration.

Thank you and please reach out with any questions you may have via the church office.

Happy New Year!

Scott

DUUversity Theatre Attends Poignant Play A Small Fire

In A Small Fire by Adam Bock, a happy, middle-class couple must deal with the wife’s mysterious disease that leaves her completely dependent on her husband as her senses of smell, taste and sight, are stripped away. This is a frank demonstration of how much of life, of love and of happiness remain within reach even when so much appears to be lost.

A Small Fire by Adam Bock
Sunday, February 2 – 2:00 pm
Next Act Theater, 255 South Water Street
For tickets: 414-278-0765 or www.nextact.org

Buy your own tickets and then contact Kristin Fewel via the church office to join the group for dinner and conversation. If you are interested in attending other performances, pick up the DUUversity Theatre Group brochure in the Community Room or go to http://bit.ly/DUUversity19-20
RE-flections
Dave Cicero
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

This month we celebrate the birthday of Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. It may be of interest (and news to you?) that King and his wife considered, but ultimately rejected, becoming Unitarians http://bit.ly/KingJr It was to me. And learning this made me consider what we UUs get right, and what we ultimately still need to work on.

We strive to be a “People of Integrity...” a community that can be relied upon to consistently do the right thing. Those who remember Spike Lee’s movie of the same name might recall the ambiguity that hovers around this seemingly simple concept. What’s “right” isn’t always so clear-cut. It’s based on culture, history and personal experiences. Perhaps this is why we center two of our faith’s stated Principles around the idea of continual growth and a responsible search for truth and meaning. It’s this process of searching, and acting, and reflecting (on both the shortcomings and successes of our actions) that keeps us true to our moral selves. We aren’t always going to get it right. But perhaps we can be honest with ourselves and give each other the opportunity to try again.

Ongoing Religious Education

We exercise this philosophy, of course, when teaching Sunday morning RE classes. Children famously test the limits of propriety as they discover what’s right and wrong in certain situations. Adults are less willing to do this — probably because they’re presumed to already know better. But we don’t always. I encourage us all to approach life with a “beginner’s mind”, to explore, stay curious, be creative. This doesn’t negate integrity, but with appropriate reflection helps us understand our authentic selves. Which is a prerequisite for it.

In this spirit, I again invite you to accompany our Neighboring Faiths class on an upcoming visit to a house of worship different from our own. Contact me for the current schedule. The Cantor at Congregation Emanu-El (Waukesha) has also invited UUCW adults to take part in a class she is leading this month on the Basics of Judaism. I have already, through the member2member email list, shared details about this. But I am happy to provide them to whomever else asks.

Other RE classes this month explore the topics of Wonder, Buddhism, UU’s worship practices and Protestant roots, Sikhism, Hospitality, and Acceptance. Our “Junior High” students will soon be able to explore the integral nature of sexuality in their lives, through the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program we are offering starting in February. If you or a 7th-9th grader are interested in learning more, please inquire before January 12, when we are holding a mandatory parent orientation to the program.

Upcoming Adult RE

Please keep an eye out for a series of Adult RE workshops I am organizing on Spirituality in Art for late winter/early spring. And if you would like to request that a particular art form be included, or suggest a teacher for one or more sessions, please let me know ASAP.

I am organizing an Adult RE Advisory workgroup, too, to help direct future Adult RE activities. If you are interested in helping with this, please see me at this month’s UUCW Activity Fair on January 19, or contact me to let me know your availability and area of interest.

Contact Dave Cicero, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, via the church office.

Adult RE: Winter Webinar “Whose History Is It, Anyway?”

Please join your fellow UUCW congregants and other Midwest UUs in learning about Unitarian Universalist history — from a unique, and perhaps new, perspective. The UUA’s MidAmerica Region is hosting a series of Monday night interactive online lectures titled, “Whose History Is It, Anyway?”, at 6:45 pm CST beginning January 27 and running through February 24. This webinar has a fee for several reasons. First, the presentations will be highly unique, viewing familiar UU history through an anti-colonialist, multicultural lens. Second, proceeds from this webinar will help fund important historical research by the presenter, Reverend Connie Simon.

Dave Cicero, DLRE, is obtaining a discounted “congregational” registration, good for up to 5 people to participate “live”. There is a $15 fee to receive access to the five sessions. This includes two “viewing parties” Dave is planning here at UUCW on both the first and last webinar dates, for participants to view, snack and discuss the program together. The webinar will not be recorded, so I hope you can attend!

For more information and/or to register, please contact Dave Cicero, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, via the church office.
Have you been wondering what’s happening with the Build 2020 renovations? The project is on-going, and the end is “almost” in sight!

Here's what was completed in December:
1. New doors at the West Entrance are in, but not yet fully functioning; the same is true for the doors to the outside at the top of the ramp in the lower level west Gathering Area.
2. Our electrical panel upgrade was completed, which allows us to move forward with elevator installation.

Tasks yet to complete include:
1. The flat roof which joins the older part of the building with the newer part of the building will have a new membrane installed.
2. The doors at the main west entrance doors and the top of the ramp near the lower level Gathering Area will be completed.
3. New doors will be installed in the back of the Sanctuary and a single door in UL5 that leads to the wood staircase on the southwest side of the building.
4. Controls for the main HVAC unit will be passed over to UUCW.

About the Elevator
Unfortunately, continued delays in the manufacturing of elevator components are preventing us for scheduling installation of our elevator. With the winter holidays in the midst of it all, we are anticipating elevator installation in mid-January. As always, we will keep you updated!

Tasks to be completed after elevator installation:
1. The ramp near the main west entrance needs to be built.
2. The lower level elevator foyer/hallway will be finished.
3. The main level elevator foyer needs to be finished.
4. Final cleaning and touch-ups will be completed around the building.

Artwork, signs, and name tags, oh my!
A Task Force of the UUCW Exec Team will soon be working on artwork, signage, and placement of things like name tags, furniture, bulletin boards and other displays. Watch for updates!

The staff has appreciated everyone’s support and understanding during this construction project. 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, via the church office.

SAVE the DATE!
Leap Day is Pledge Day at UUCW
Your Stewardship Team is planning fabulous, meaningful fun for this year’s Financial Pledge Drive launch on Saturday, February 29th — Leap Day! UUCW is poised to leap into great things during this second decade of the 2000s — and we need you to make it truly great. So, save the date — daytime and evening pledging possibilities will be offered to serve UUs of all ages!

Sometimes a Listening Ear Helps
Many people are under much greater stress during the holiday season. Some major concerns are time and money. Most people already are balancing work and family. Now they need to find time to shop, decorate, and celebrate the season in various ways. Also, some wonder how they can afford to give their children a memorable holiday. Probably the major stress factor for many is family dynamics. Why, when the family is together, does your sister Sally revert to a spoiled ten-year-old? Why is it that Aunt Lynda and Aunt Emma, two intelligent women, have refused to talk to each other for ten years? And who is going to help Uncle George now that he’s been diagnosed with Alzheimer?

There is help for these people who are stressed out over the holidays. The Lay Pastoral Care Team is a group of trained, confidential, non-judgmental listeners who will not offer advice. Talking about the stresses they are under, individuals feel relieved and often find their own solutions to their problems.

Individuals may seek support for themselves, or a friend or family member may suggest that the Lay Pastoral Team contact the person. A team member will make an initial phone call to introduce himself or herself and Lay Pastoral Care services, and to ask if this would be helpful.

Contact Lay Pastoral Care or Rev. Suzelle Lynch via the church office. All calls will be handled confidentially.
**January Split the Plate Supports The Grand Avenue Club**

Split the Plate is one of UUCW’s programs of outreach and generosity. Each month we give half of all undesignated offering monies to a nonprofit organization as a way to help us live our Unitarian Universalist values and serve our community.

Our STP partner for January 2020 is The Grand Avenue Club, the GAC, established Milwaukee County in 1991. The Grand Avenue Club is just ‘the Club’ to its people. It is a workplace where its members, Milwaukee County citizens who are recovering from a psychiatric disability, come to work side by side with a small but dedicated staff in jobs that make the program run—word processing, record keeping, maintenance, faxing and copying, preparing meals and mail handling.

“Our clubhouse” is the historic Bank of Milwaukee building, the oldest commercial building in Milwaukee. Its rich history and strong foundation are a metaphor for the Club. By running GAC, members ready themselves for paid employment or additional training or education via GAC’s Employment Program or Supported Education Program.

Cooking and serving delicious meals on-site is a learning experience for some, job training for others, and an onsite healthy relaxing means of sustenance for all. Breaking bread together is a centerpiece of the Club. Some 450 members share their lives at The Club every year.

Membership is voluntary. Each day is structured on what needs to be accomplished to run the Clubhouse. Everyone has responsibilities. The focus is on a work-ordered day. Learning and refining skills here may lead to a job in the community. Staff and members speak of themselves as peers and partners. The Clubhouse is operated by members and staff working together to run the Clubhouse.

“We are strength-based, not clinical.”


The shepherd for Grand Avenue Club is Judith Traband, jatraband@gmail.com. For more information about Split the Plate, contact the Committee Chair, Kathy Herrewig via the church office.

**Donations Support Muskego Pantry**

January’s collection of non-perishable food will go to the Muskego Food Pantry. While serving over 1800 families in the Muskego area, the pantry promotes ‘neighbors helping neighbors’ and no one in need is ever turned away.

Thank you to Joyce Cable who will deliver the donations.

**Currently Needed Items:**

- Canned/pouches of meat (chicken, tuna, ham, bacon)
- Boxed potatoes (mashed, scalloped, au gratin)
- Canned pastas (ravioli, Spaghetti-O’s)
- Creamed soups (chicken, mushroom, etc.)
- Canned chili, Manwich, and all types of tomatoes
- Cereal
- Personal hygiene items and laundry detergent
- Diapers (size 4 & 5)
- Canned and dry dog/cat food

If you have questions, call Ellen via the church office.

Thank You! Co-chairs Ellen Newbauer and Melanie Weston.

**Register for UU Orientation Class!**

UU Orientation is open to newcomers and those interested in becoming members of UUCW. The next two-part UU Orientation class will be held Sunday, February 2nd and 9th from 11:45 am - 1:45 pm.

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.

**Childcare can be provided with registration before January 24th.** Please contact Community Builder Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office to register or answer any further questions.
Earth Ministry: Crisis, Hope, and Action

This April 22nd marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, an event credited as the start of the modern environmental movement, and now celebrated around the world.

Today, we face enormous challenges: polluted air and water, plastic pollution, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss. And now, climate change threatens our very existence as a human species.

While some people choose denial as a way of dealing with the threats facing us, our Unitarian Universalist faith encourages us to seek the truth, take individual and collective action, and speak truth to power. When our leaders fail us then we, the people, must lead.

So, what do we do?

In 2020 UUCW’s Earth Ministry Team will focus on four quarterly themes: Climate, Land and Food, Water, and Responsible Consumption.

During each quarter we will emphasize education, lifestyle choices and community engagement. For example, the first quarter of 2020’s theme is “Climate,” with education as the January focus.

During the Activity Fair on January 19th, you can learn how to speak to skeptics about climate change, and add your voice to the question: What should we do as a congregation?

Then, join us on January 24th, 6:30 pm, for a potluck and movie “Ice on Fire.” (see article in next column)

During February, our focus will be on Lifestyle Choices and ways to minimize one’s carbon footprint.

Then, in March, you can participate in a Community Engagement letter-writing event to our legislators.

During each quarter of the rest of the year, we will address the issues of Land and Food, Water, and Responsible Consumption similarly. We hope you will join your UU friends in this most important work! For more information, contact Almuth Soffee via the church office.

Earth Ministry Movie and Potluck
January 24th – 6:30 pm - “Ice on Fire”

Join the Earth Ministry Committee for a potluck, fellowship, and viewing of “Ice on Fire,” along with meaningful discussions. The 98-minute movie is an eye-opening documentary that focuses on many never-before-seen solutions designed to slow down the escalating environmental crisis. The film goes beyond the current climate change narrative and offers hope that we actually can stave off the worst effects of global warming.

With sweeping cinematography of a world worth saving, Ice on Fire was filmed at locations across the globe. The film highlights firsthand accounts of people at the forefront of the climate crisis, with insights from scientists, farmers, and innovators.

Please bring a dish to pass. For more info, contact Almuth Soffee via the church office.

Earth Ministry Offers Accessories Donation Rotation for New Year

Pat Ginter and Helen Klimowicz want to thank all who cleaned out and brought items to the Holiday Rotation. It was another joyous community gathering around the rotation tables in the Community Room. Afterward, we took the remaining holiday treasures to House of Peace on Walnut Street, Milwaukee. If you have a donation site or an idea for a Rotation we welcome your suggestions.

The next event is the Accessories Donation Rotation on Sunday, January 12, 2020. We are accepting jewelry (for display purpose try to have earrings, necklaces, pins in boxes or Ziploc bags), hats, gloves, ties and belts, hair accessories, nail polish, makeup, brushes, perfume, shaving cream (unopened), and novelty socks.

Bring items to the Community Room before the service. Everything is free so adults and children are welcomed to browse and find treasures.

Earth Ministry sponsors these community rotations so we might REDUCE… RECYCLE… REUSE some of the material goods we surround ourselves with. Rotations bring our awareness to how much we have and collect.

If you have any questions, please contact Helen Klimowicz via the church office.

Earth Day 2020 will be far more than a day. It must be a historic moment when citizens of the world rise up in a united call for the creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery that we need to meet our climate crisis and seize the enormous opportunities of a zero-carbon future.
After the 2016 elections did you vow to get more involved the “next time?” Well, the “next time” is here, and efforts are gearing up for key races in both the April state elections and the November presidential and congressional elections that involve justice issues that we as UUs hold dear. The new UUA “UU the Vote” effort is encouraging UUs to get involved. So, UUCW, through its membership in SOPHIA, will provide you with a multitude of ways to do this. But we need YOU to step forward to participate. Come to the Jan. 12th information session to find out how.

We all know that Wisconsin is a key swing state. But did you know that Waukesha County, and especially Brookfield, are identified as “swing areas,” based on voting patterns in past elections? In this environment, educating and engaging with voters around campaign issues is critical and has been shown to be effective. SOPHIA will be organizing voter education, training, and canvassing around justice issues that will be affected by the results. As a Brookfield congregation, UUCW will be the key location for these efforts. We need UUCW members willing to get involved in a variety of roles from planning, to canvassing, to calling, to behind the scenes support, and simply talking to friends and neighbors. SOPHIA is currently putting together a planning team to lead these efforts. They will be supported by organizers provided by the state-wide WISDOM group and resources from the UUA “UU the Vote” campaign.

Interested in finding out more or volunteering to help in any way? Come to the Jan. 12th meeting or contact Ann Heidkamp via the church office.

UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick Gray says: The stakes couldn’t be higher in the 2020 elections. All our values, our work for justice, the communities we love and the beloved community we seek to create are under attack. Our religious community must speak with moral courage and act with prophetic clarity and determination in the 2020 electoral cycle. Our UU values of interdependence, democracy, and the inherent worth and dignity of all people are direct antidotes to the fear, bigotry, and inequity that define our world. In this political moment, UUs are called to join forces with all people who want to organize our communities and our nation to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate. Let’s UU the Vote in 2020!

Help WISDOM Get the Vote Out!

2020 is a big year for elections. We all know about the presidential election in November. The April 7 election is also interesting and important. Milwaukee elects a new Mayor and County Executive. We all elect a new State Supreme Court Justice. These public officials make big decisions that affect the people and issues we care about.

You can help to make sure everyone receives information about the candidates and their positions and that they vote. You can be a Relational Voter Program (RVP) Leader by learning to use WISDOM’s MyRVP app and encouraging others to do so as well. The My RVP app helps you identify people in your contact list who are least likely to vote. You can help them become better participants in our democracy by helping them to get to the polls and vote.

WISDOM staff can help you get started. RVP leaders will receive regular emails from WISDOM with messages you can share with your RVP contacts. Messages might be information on the relevant issues, reminders of polling locations and hours, encouragement to get out and vote, and more.

Contact WISDOMforJustice@gmail.com for more information or to get started as a RVP leader!

Earth Ministry Tip for January: Be Responsible When Applying Winter Salt

- Melting ice and snow carries salt to storm drains leading to our rivers and lakes. Once it enters a body of water it doesn’t go away. High salinity is toxic to aquatic life, birds, and other organisms.

- If you must salt, scatter it. One coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20 ft driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.

- Remember, it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water.

For more information, contact Almuth Soffee via the church office.
LAST CHANCE for Beloved Conversations! Registration ends January 10th

Centuries of racism and an economic system founded on slavery have stolen spiritual wholeness from all Americans, and relegated far too many of us to poverty, oppression, and incarceration. The Beloved Conversations program helps us begin to recognize how centuries of racially-informed social, emotional, and spiritual practices wound every person, of every racial and/or ethnic identity. In small groups, we talk together about our experiences, and work to identify places where we need to grow. Beloved Conversations requires time and energy, but the payoff is rich: it helps us learn how to live and act in a spirit of reconciliation that brings growth and spiritual healing.

Register here by January 10:


Wisdom & Whimsy Group Shares Poems, Books, and Movies

Wisdom and Whimsy is a fun and friendly group for people over 50, which meets the second Wednesday of the month from October through May. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8th from 11:30 am until 1:15 pm. We will share a poem, book, or movie that has been meaningful or enjoyable to you – or two! Bring a bag lunch and a beverage. Please contact Susan Foley or Kathy Allison via the church office with any questions.

Weekly Meditation Group

"A traditional metaphor compares the mind to a glass of water that has been mixed with mud. Only when the glass is left tranquil and unmoved for a period of time, will the mud settle at the bottom of the glass, leaving the water untroubled. Meditation, it is argued, allows the troubled waters of our thoughts, feelings and emotions to settle down letting our minds become still and untroubled, and therefore regaining their original purity and clarity."

Excerpt from Buddhism by author and UUCW member Pascale F. Engelmajer

Come MEDITATE with us — Wednesday mornings 10:00 to 11:00 am. You may choose the length of time you wish to sit. We have introductory material on how to begin a meditation practice.

If you have any questions, please contact Helen Klimowicz via the church office.

Women's Book Group Starts New Year with Mary Oliver Essays

Are you looking for a new activity to get you through the winter? Consider the Women's Book Discussion Group, which meets every second Wednesday. In January, we will be reading Upstream: Selected Essays, by Mary Oliver. Please join us on Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00 pm. All adults are welcome.

Questions? Contact Kathy Schwei or Marilyn Swanson via the church office.

Great Books Explores Immigration and the American Dream

Great Books is discussing Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue on Monday, January 13 at 10:00 am. Behold the Dreamers is the story of a young immigrant family from Cameroon struggling to make a new life in this country during the 2008 financial crisis and their wealthy employers.

Great Books will be discussing The Stranger in the Woods by Michael Finkel on Monday, February 10. If you have any questions, please contact co-facilitator Joyce Prewitt or Kit Hansen via the church office.
Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates

Each year about this time the Nominating Committee begins seeking a slate of candidates for the board, nominating committee and endowment committee, to be installed the following June at the annual business meeting. This year we are seeking 3 for the board for 3-year terms, 3 for the nominating committee for 2-year terms and 2 for the endowment committee for 3-year terms, to replace those who will be leaving their positions.

These are great opportunities to serve your UU congregation, make new friends and use your leadership skills.

We will have a table set up in the community room on Jan. 19th and Feb. 2nd after the service with descriptions of each position. Nominating Committee members will be present to answer your questions. We would also love to hear your ideas on others you think might be good candidates.

For more information, contact Vicki Brzeski, Nominating Committee Chair via the church office.

Healing After Loss Group Provides Support for Each Other

If you have experienced the death of a loved one at any time, you’re invited to join our confidential group who meets monthly. Whether you feel comfortable sharing or just listening, we offer each other ongoing support for your grief. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 15th from 1:00-3:00 pm. Please bring a beverage if you’d like one.

If you have any questions, please call one of the co-facilitators, Charlene Carter or Susan Foley via the church office.

Join the Early Morning Conversation

The Men’s Breakfast Group meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:45 am at Bakers Square at 15300 Bluemound Road, Elm Grove. The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 13. Come again, or for the first time, for conversations on current events, philosophy, movies, vacations, seminal books, new knowledge, current UUCW information, contact facilitator Jerry Kashmerick, via the church office.

Q Youth Club

Join the Q Youth Club on Friday, January 10 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. The group creates a safe space where youth can hang out with other LGBTQI teens and meet people in a respectful environment! For more info, contact Brianna Laux Kocis via the church office.

Song Circle Takes a Winter Break

The Song Circle will take a short winter break in January but will return on Friday, February 21 at 7:00 pm. Join us then to celebrate friendships through treasured songs. For more information, contact Sarah Stokes via the church office.

Recycle Your Holiday Lights

Earth Ministry is asking you to bring your broken light strings to church to be recycled! Place your lights in the labeled bin in the church foyer. Collected lights will be taken to a metal salvage yard and UUCW will receive money for the copper inside them. Please do not bring rope lights or other types of lights - just the strings.

For more information, contact Almuth Soffee via the church office.

Early Bird Registration is Open for UU General Assembly

This year’s General Assembly will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, June 24-28. The GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

The 2020 General Assembly theme is “Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!” We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

NEW THIS YEAR! Registration Payment Plan: With a $50 down-payment, the cost of registration can be paid over the course several months. Final payment must be received by February 29, 2020.

Anyone may attend. To register or learn more, visit http://www.uua.org/ga
Old Befana
A Magical Holiday Musical!

Saturday, January 4 - 4 pm

The performance will enchant you with its warmth and magic, appealing to audiences of all ages.

Cash or checks at the door.
$5/per person (child or adult) or $15/per family.

Plus Family Potluck
A potluck will follow the one-hour performance. Please bring a dish to pass.

Come As You Are, Leave Inspired!