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## SUNDAY WORSHIP

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February Theme: Joy

**Sunday, Feb. 14, 10:00 a.m.**  
*Finding Joy in Love*

The rock band, Aerosmith has a great line in one of their songs - "falling in love is so hard on the knees." When we love someone or a way of being in the world, we are often transported to a place where we are also vulnerable to the hardships and challenges of loving. As a spiritual endeavor, we seek to know love and to navigate both the sweetness and what it takes to nurture and grow in love, whether it be an intimate partner, a cherished friend, or the sacred and/or god of our understanding. **Rev.**

**Rebekah Montgomery** will lead today's service and both the Adult Choir and our youth ensemble, Unisons, will sing. Our Partner Plate recipient is A Wider Circle.

First Fifteen - All ages will gather together in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service before going to classes. Nursery is open in Building 3, Room 33.

**Sunday, Feb. 21, 10:00 a.m.**  
*Theology of Sacrifice*

The ritual and theologies of sacrifice have a long history in the Judeo-Christian tradition, as well as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam.

*(continued on page 2)*

February 10, 2016

# Quest

The Newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Rockville:  
A Welcoming Congregation

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*Spiritual Freedom Beloved Community Social Responsibility*

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Volume LIX, Number 6  
February 10, 2016

Editor: Beth Irikura  
Desktop Publisher: Nancy Gregory

### **Fire of Commitment: A Canvass Message**

*by Terrie Barr, President, Board of Trustees*

*When the fire of commitment sets our  
mind and soul ablaze,  
When our hunger and our passion meet  
to call us on our way,  
When we live with deep assurance of the  
faith that burns within,  
Then our promise finds fulfillment and  
our future can begin.*

— from *The Fire of Commitment* by  
Mary Katherine Morn and Jason  
Shelton (in *Singing the Journey*)

Next year is UUCR's 60th Anniversary! Next year also brings our new Director of Religious Education who will begin giving shape to a newly-developed religious education vision. And, next year is the last year of our five-year strategic plan. It will be a year of re-visioning and creating our next five-year plan for the future, contributing to our spiritual growth and nurturing Beloved Community.

At its January meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a canvass budget with all of that in mind. It represents a 6% pledge increase over this year's budget. I want you to know what new items this canvass budget funds and supports:

- An expanded youth program with more hours for the Youth Coordinator
- Racial Justice Working Group initiatives
- Our Young Adult program

*(continued on page 3)*



*Quest* deadline: Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.,  
for mailing on March 9, 2016.

Email to **Alberta Maschal**: [amaschal@gmail.com](mailto:amaschal@gmail.com).

# Quest

**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Rockville**  
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Minister: Rev. Lynn Thomas Strauss  
Assistant Minister: Rev. Rebekah Montgomery  
Interim Director of Religious Education:  
Andrea Spencer-Linzie  
Youth Coordinator: Emma Falley  
Director of Music: Jennifer Rodgers  
Pianist: Justin Furnia  
Church Administrator: Donna Taylor  
Director of Communications &  
Membership: Nancy Gregory  
Facilities Coordinator: Bryant Taylor

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## Sunday Worship (continued from page 1)

As Unitarian Universalists, how do we approach a theology of sacrifice, given our primacy on the individual free and responsible search for truth and meaning? What does it mean to be in community such as UUCR with an element of sacrifice? **Rev. Rebekah Montgomery** will reflect on these questions and more. Our Partner Plate recipient is A Wider Circle.

Preschool - 5th grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children's Worship. Sixth grade - Senior High will gather in the lower level of Building 5 for Youth Worship. Nursery in Bldg. 3, Room 33.

## Sunday, February 28, 10:00 a.m.

*We Are the Light of the World!*

**Rev. Lynn Strauss** will explore these questions: Who am I? What am I called to offer the world? Who are we? What is UUCR called to offer the world? What does it mean to be a light in the world? How might we shine ever brighter? The Adult Choir will sing. Our Partner Plate recipient is A Wider Circle.

Preschool - 5th grade will gather in Founders Hall for Children's Worship. Sixth grade - Senior High will go directly to classrooms in the lower level of Building 5. Nursery in Bldg. 3, Room 33.

## March Worship Theme: Abundance

## Sunday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.

Canvass Sunday — *The Fire of Commitment: A Theology of Relationship*

"Guiding hands and hearts and spirits into faith set free from fear." These lines from the hymn, *The Fire of Commitment* ask us to consider both our fears and our dependence on one another. What is it that guides us to open-hearted living in spite of the culture of fear in which we live? **Rev. Strauss** and **Rev. Montgomery** will lead us in celebration of life this morning. Both the Adult Choir and the Children's Choir will sing.

First Fifteen - All ages will gather in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service before going to classes. Nursery in Room 33.

For the most current information on upcoming events, visit the UUCR calendar online at [uucr.org](http://uucr.org). At the top of any page, click on the light blue box labeled "Calendar."



## **Fire of Commitment: A Canvass Message** *(continued from page 1)*

- An annual fee for the newly-purchased, cloud-based, integrated database, linking membership, religious education, pledging, and more for the first time. This has so much potential for saving time and for increasing effectiveness and efficiency.
- UUCR's 60th Anniversary Celebration on October 16, 2016.

We want to build on the outstanding work of **Rev. Lynn** and the staff. We want to continue our efforts to be a more public congregation, reaching out to our community. We want to continue making investments to ensure that the next 60 years of UUCR facilitate our transformation and that of our community. Please remember - Canvass Sunday is March 6!

Your Canvass Team is chaired by **Karl Irikura** and includes **Bill Newhouse, José Clemente, Christy Shannon,** and **Bruce Baskett**. Look for team members - they wear the bright flame of commitment buttons and they will be staffing an information table in the entrance corridor on Sunday mornings. You may also visit our canvass web page at [www.uucr.org/canvass](http://www.uucr.org/canvass) for more information and inspiration. Talk with a Canvass Team member to ask your questions and offer your thoughts on how we may inspire one another to express or discover our Fires of Commitment!



### **Annual Fellowship Dinner - Saturday, March 5**

Please join us at UUCR on Saturday, March 5 for our annual Fellowship Dinner! The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour (light snacks with wine and beer on sale and non-alcoholic beverages) followed by an amazing potluck dinner unique to each table.

This will be a wonderful time for all! It will give you a chance to meet new UUCR members and catch up with long-time friends. We'll share our culinary gifts and a relaxing evening together.

***Even if you cannot attend, we ask everyone to RSVP by Sunday, February 21.*** You may use the online form at <http://goo.gl/forms/RM1fB6hyxE> to sign up to attend or to register your regrets.

You may also look for this year's Co-Chairs, **Christy Shannon** and **Diane Baillie**, at the Fellowship Dinner information table in the entrance corridor after the Sunday service. There, you can learn more, sign up to attend the dinner and for child care, and volunteer to help out. Volunteers are needed as table hosts, to set up and clean up, and to staff the kitchen.

The Senior High will have a table in the Sanctuary, along with another table for the 6th-8th graders (new this year). Child care, coordinated by **Andrea Spencer-Linzie**, will be provided for all other ages. Children younger than 6th grade should plan to bring a brown bag dinner. We will provide water and activities.

We look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you on Saturday, March 5!

## *DeLynnecations*

### “Tell Me More”

Tears fall outside my window  
Some say it’s melting snow  
Falling from the roof  
And I remember childhood  
Tears came so easily then

I still feel the brush of a flannel sleeve  
On my tender cheek  
And once in a while mother’s soft fingertip  
Wiping sadness away

Too soon now the tears slow  
They dry mid-cheek  
And no one knows the tenderness  
Is still there, and the sadness

And no one says, “Tell me more.”

May we always ask questions of one another. Thus does relationship become sacred.

Blessings, *Lynn*

### **Minister’s Sabbatical Project - April, May & June 2016**

#### **Goals:**

- To rest and re-charge
- To read, think, and write
- To research the impact of their year of internship on six former UUCR intern ministers. Where are they now? What were the deepest learnings of their congregational-based internship? What matters now in their current ministries? What might have gone better?

#### **Methodology:**

- Study existing research or documents that assess the impact of congregational-based internships on new Unitarian Universalist ministers.
- Visit and interview all six of our former interns: Rev. Stephen Sinclair in the Indianapolis area, Rev. Seanan Holland in the San Diego area, Rev. Elizabeth Marsh in Madison, Wisconsin, Rev. Nathan Ryan in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Rev. Sue Browning in Easton, Maryland, and Rev. Karen Mooney in Chicago, Illinois.
- Write a summary of findings and collect other documentation/media from colleagues as available.
- Invite former interns to the UUCR 60th Anniversary Celebration on October 16, 2016.

Rev. Strauss’s ministerial duties will be carried on by **Rev. Rebekah Montgomery**, the Pastoral Care Team, the Sabbatical Committee, and **Donna Taylor**, Church Administrator. Sabbatical Committee members are **Bill Hurlbut**, **Ginny Folsom**, **Cynthia Shires-Thurston**, and **Rolf Preisendorfer**.

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## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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### *RE Ruminations*

What a wonderful worship service the UUCR youth led us through on Sunday, February 7. Thoughtful, reflective, inspiring, and fun-spirited, with a good flow.

The youth-led worship service always reminds me that youth are today's leaders, not just tomorrow's leaders. They are already leading, and eager to be a part of the vision and mission of this congregation. I encourage all of us to remember how important the insight and questions of youth are for us, because they and their ideas, needs, and aspirations are a part of today's world and our community. We will learn from them as they learn from us. Whether you are parents or not, let us all be curious together, let us explore together, let us lead together, let us hold each other in loving-kindness.

“On Children” (excerpt) by Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts.  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

*Andrea*

### **Adult Faith Formation: Long Strange Trip Continues**

*by Shira Ehrlich, Chair, Adult Faith Formation Committee*

UUCR members and friends can travel through history via parts 4, 5, and 6 of the documentary, *Long Strange Trip*. Those who saw parts 1, 2, and 3 of this series last fall journeyed through the first thousand years of Unitarian Universalism. The final sessions lead to the rise of Unitarianism and Universalism in America, and the eventual uniting of the two.



The screening of part 4 of *Long Strange Trip* will take place in Room 51 on Sunday, February 28 at 11:30 a.m. This session guides us first to the English and German pietists of the 1600s, and on to America of the mid-1800s, where Universalist churches proliferate. We'll learn about notable Universalists, such as John Murray, Judith Sargent Murray, and Thomas Potter, and we'll explore how John Murray and Hosea Ballou influenced the theological development of the movement.

Join us for historical travel, discussion, and fellowship. Contact **Shira Ehrlich** at [adultfaith@uucr.org](mailto:adultfaith@uucr.org).

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### **Recycle Your Energy Bar Wrappers, Snack Bags, and Now Baby Food Pouches at UUCR**

*by Marsha Luce, Green Team*

We have been collecting energy bar wrappers and snack bags right here at UUCR and now will be collecting baby food pouches. The collection bins are in the Building 1 lobby, between Founders Hall and the doors to the circle drive in front of the Sanctuary. The response from UUCR members and friends to this recycling effort has been great and the bins have been emptied twice.

We are partnering with TerraCycle and will accept:

- All foil-lined energy bar, granola bar, meal replacement bar, protein bar, and diet bar wrappers
- Individual, multipack, and family-size snack bags
- Baby food pouches and caps

We have found some items in the bins that are not accepted, so please do not put these in the energy bar and snack bag bins.

Shipping to TerraCycle is free and we receive points that can be redeemed for a variety of charitable gifts, products, or payment of one cent per point to the organization of our choice. TerraCycle up-cycles and recycles traditionally non-recyclable waste into a large variety of consumer products. For questions, contact **Marsha Luce**. For more information, check out the Green Team's blog at <http://greenteamuucr.blogspot.com/>.

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## SHARING THE MINISTRY

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### **New UUCR Literary Fiction Book Group**

*by Marialyce Sherr*

There has been interest expressed in the formation of a second UUCR day-time book group - this one for the discussion of literary fiction. Literary fiction focuses on the subjects of the narrative in such a manner that in-depth character studies are created. Some examples might include *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doer, *The Japanese Lover*, by Isabel Allende, and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, by Oscar Wilde. If there is enough interest to support the formation of this group, we will pursue it.

Please respond to **Marialyce Sherr** at [msherr1@verizon.net](mailto:msherr1@verizon.net), **Jane Klag** at [jtklag@verizon.net](mailto:jtklag@verizon.net), or **Judy Eisenhauer** at [judyeyisenhauer@gmail.com](mailto:judyeyisenhauer@gmail.com) indicating if there are any weekdays that you are not available. Current preference is for monthly afternoon meetings at UUCR. The meeting would not conflict with another UUCR book discussion group that meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information about the existing first Thursday group, please contact **Carolyn Pooley**.

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## SHARING THE MINISTRY

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### **Newcomer Brunch with the Minister on February 21**

All newcomers, new religious education families, and visitors are warmly invited to a light brunch with **Rev. Lynn Strauss** following the service on Sunday, February 21. We'll meet in Building 4, Room 44 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We hope you'll join us so that we may get to know you and answer any questions you might have about Unitarian Universalism or UUCR. Please sign up to attend at the Welcome Center, or contact **Nancy Gregory** at [ngregory@uucr.org](mailto:ngregory@uucr.org). Children are welcome, and child care will also be available.

### **Spring Cleaning at UUCR**

*by Marie Reed, Lay Minister for Buildings & Grounds*

It's been over ten years since we opened our beautiful Sanctuary and classrooms in Building 5. And, we have enjoyed the spaces in so many ways. But, just like at home, our storage areas have gotten out of hand. The big closet in the lower level of Building 5, in particular, is overflowing. It's time to clear out all the stuff that's no longer needed in order to reorganize and consolidate the storage areas.

We are asking everyone who has stuff stored in the Building 5 lower level closet (or in the Building 5 HVAC room) to review and remove anything that's no longer needed. Some of the groups with stuff include the Power Tool Gang, the Children's Worship Committee, Religious Education, OWL (Our Whole Lives), the Action Auction, Quilters, Crafters, and Halloween Hullabaloo. There may be others—let our Church Administrator, **Donna Taylor** know if you have things in storage.

Please, try not to keep stuff that "might be useful someday." If your group hasn't used an item in the past two years, it's a candidate for tossing. And, if you want to keep an item, please use one of the labels that Donna will make to identify the group, the contents, the person responsible, and the date.

Let's use the cold weather time of February and early March to get rid of the unneeded stuff. We are looking for a thorough first cut by March 15, so please set aside time in the next few weeks to spend an hour or two (or whatever it takes) to go through your stuff!

Once we have a sense of what items need to stay, we'll need to rearrange the placement of the shelves (and probably add more shelving units). We're hoping to have a work day in March or early April to do this (volunteers will definitely be needed). And then we can have a party to organize the items and put them back on shelves. It will be something to celebrate! Let **Marie Reed** know if you have any questions or would like to help us with this fairly massive and somewhat daunting project!

### **The Art on Our Walls**

*by Liliane Blom & Sharrill Dittmann, Co-Chairs, Aesthetics Committee*

It was hard to say "farewell" to our wonderful Members and Friends show, but we are pleased to introduce art from our youngest members. We hope you will enjoy their exuberant pictures and that you will take the opportunity to seek out the artists and thank them. We believe our children's art is a fitting accompaniment to this year's canvass – it highlights our wonderful religious education program, one part of this beloved congregation.

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## CONGREGATION WORKS

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### UUCR Governing Documents & Policies on the Website

by Ellen Rohan, Vice President, Board of Trustees

One of the goals of the UUCR Board of Trustees this year is to “Increase Board engagement with the congregation and promote congregational understanding of existing ways to engage.” The Board hopes you've felt this when you've stopped by the Board table in Fellowship Hall after the service, or when you've attended a Town Hall or congregational meeting.



Even though the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting was cancelled due to snow, the Board wants you to know that there are now online ways to learn more details on Board policies and UUCR's governing documents. Many thanks to **Nancy Gregory** and our Webteam for making the Board's ideas into new, easily-accessible web pages.

There are two new pages now available on the UUCR website. UUCR Governance, at [www.uucr.org/uucr-governance](http://www.uucr.org/uucr-governance), includes links to our Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Strategic Plan, and other important governing documents. UUCR Policies, Procedures & Guidelines, at [www.uucr.org/uucr-policies-procedures-guidelines](http://www.uucr.org/uucr-policies-procedures-guidelines), includes RE, social justice, and finance policies, and more.

To view these pages, click on the links above and then bookmark the pages for easy access. You may also access the pages from the header on the UUCR website ([www.uucr.org](http://www.uucr.org)). On any page of the website, find the "Resources" tab at the top of the page. Hold your cursor over the tab (don't click the tab) and a drop-down menu will appear. From the menu, you can click on "Governing Documents" or "Policies & Procedures" and go right to these new pages.

### Summary of the January 2016 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

by Terrie Barr, President, Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on January 19. Next year, when we'll celebrate UUCR's 60th anniversary, we'll undertake a re-visioning process, leading to the creation of our next five-year strategic plan. With that in mind, the Board approved a canvass budget representing a 6% pledge increase over this year's budget. See the Fire of Commitment article on the cover for more information.

This year, our current strategic plan called for us to contract for a professional assessment of the acoustics in the Sanctuary and identify possible physical improvements. Thanks to the Sound Committee for researching and formulating sound system upgrades for better intelligibility. The Board approved \$14,450 to improve sound quality and acoustics in the Sanctuary. This money comes from the capital improvement budget which is separate from the operating budget. However, any funds left over from the operating budget at the end of the fiscal year go into the capital improvement budget.

**Rev. Lynn** shared her sabbatical plan for the months of April through June. See the article on page 4 for more information and stay tuned for further details from the Sabbatical Committee. **Karl Irikura**, our Canvass Chair, briefed us on the canvass fellowship events during February. We hope that you participate in one of these group canvass events this year.

*(continued on page 9)*

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## THINKING OF YOU

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### Thinking of You

*Compiled by Marianne Miller on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team*

On January 28, **Audrey Koch** died peacefully at home, with her daughters, Nina and Deborah at her side. She had recently celebrated her 92nd birthday. She was a member of UUCR for nearly sixty years. A service to celebrate Audrey's life will be held in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 28. Bring your dancing shoes!

**Ethel Gilbert** has been chosen to receive the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Gold Medal for Radiation Protection. She recently retired from the National Cancer Institute where she conducted research in the field of radiation epidemiology. The award recognizes her contributions to understanding the carcinogenic effects of radiation exposures at low doses as well as her work evaluating the late effects of radiotherapy among cancer survivors. In May, both Ethel and her husband, **Dick** will travel to Cape Town, South Africa where the medal will be presented at a ceremony in connection with an international radiation meeting.

**Joan Fox** is back in rehab at the Villages of Rockville. She would enjoy calls from friends.

**Marie** and **Steve Reed** are now officially the proud grandparents of Parker Suzanne Reedin, born September 15, 2015. Their son, Alex Reedin, grew up at UUCR. He and his husband, Ben Reedin, just received Parker's adoption papers, dated December 30, 2015. The Reedins live in Portland Oregon, too far away according to the grandparents.

Marilyn Moors, wife of former UUCR minister, Bill Moors, died on January 14 in Garrett County, Maryland. As a long-time supporter of Habitat for Humanity, Marilyn hosted a dinner each year for UUCR members and friends during their Habitat for Humanity work week in Garrett County. Marilyn was president of the Garrett Branch of the American Association of University Women, and a retired anthropologist and professor of women's studies at Montgomery College in Rockville and at Frostburg State University.

Please contact **Marianne Miller** with any joys, concerns or accomplishments you would like to share in this column.

### Summary of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees *(continued from page 8)*

The goals of these events are to provide an opportunity for fun and fellowship, along with a chance to hear about the 2016 canvass budget and pledging. And, just as important, these events are intended to be an opportunity for members and friends to share experiences and their fires of commitment. We are doing this rather than one-on-one canvassing. Our goal is to reach about a third of the congregation this year and everyone in a three year period.

We hope to speak with you at the Board table in Fellowship Hall after the Sunday service to hear what is on your mind. We are also happy to hear from you via email or over the phone.