
SUNDAY WORSHIP

Jan. Theme: Reconciliation

Sunday, Jan. 17, 10:00 a.m.
Lest We Know Not Who We Are

At the 1966 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave the annual Ware Lecture. Dr. King's lecture was titled, "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution." This Sunday, **Rev. Lynn Strauss** repeats the call to "stay awake," and special music will be led by Dr. Lester Green. Trained in the gospel and spirituals tradition, Dr. Green earned his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Maryland and is on the faculty at Morgan State University in Baltimore. Our Partner Plate recipient is the UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund.

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, Jan. 24, 10:00 a.m.
A Healing Time

Where in your life do you recognize a need for healing and reconciliation? Where in the systems of our culture do we still, in Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's words, need to be "mal-adjusted"? How can the brokenness of our time and place be mended? **Rev. Lynn Strauss** will reflect on these questions and more.

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Quest

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

Spiritual Freedom Beloved Community Social Responsibility

Volume LIX, Number 5
January 13, 2016

Editor: Elizabeth Sullivan
Desktop Publisher: Nancy Gregory

Fire of Commitment

by Bruce Baskett for the Canvass Committee

When large numbers of people share their joy...

The happiness of each is greater...

Because each adds fuel to the other's flame. — St. Augustine

We share in our joys (and yes, in our sorrows). But we share a particular *Fire of Commitment* to "...a strong, vibrant and loving religious community actively engaged in nurturing spiritual freedom and working for social justice."

We add fuel to each other's flame of life.

In the coming weeks, the Canvass Committee will be highlighting the *Fires of Commitment* which make UUCR extraordinary. We learned last week that **Rev. Lynn** can literally set pulpits on fire, but that's another story.

Please take a moment to think about another fuel: financial resources. In the last months, with formal input from our dedicated ministerial and programmatic committee leaders, the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees have been making difficult and responsible decisions on the financial resources and needs of UUCR for 2016–2017, and beyond.

Our financial needs.

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Quest deadline: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.,
for mailing on February 10, 2016.

Email to **Beth Irikura**: beth.irikura@verizon.net.

Quest

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Sunday Worship (continued from page 1)

On **January 24**, the Adult Choir will sing. Our Partner Plate recipient is the UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund.

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. The nursery will be open in Building 3, Room 33.

Sunday, January 31, 10:00 a.m.

Roses and Reconciliation: The Beauty of It

The sermon this Sunday, by our Guest Minister, Rev. Dr. Mark Belletini, is a story of reconciliation, a story which actually changed his life. Rev. Belletini writes, "Though I myself am an artist, I never used to give beauty itself the power to inspire moral depth in my sermons...But witnessing this story in Palo Alto, California first-hand turned me around so that a beautiful event can now share the same power as truth and goodness..." Rev. Belletini just retired from congregational ministry after almost 40 years, serving Unitarian Universalist congregations in California, and for the last 17 years, in Columbus, Ohio. The Adult Choir will sing. Our Partner Plate recipient is the UUSC - UUA Refugee Crisis Fund.

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 open in Room 33.

February Worship Theme: Joy

Sunday, February 7, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Senior Youth-Led Service — *Maturity & Growing-Up*

UUCR's Senior High youth will lead us in an exploration of what growing up looks like today and the expectations surrounding maturity. Members of the Senior High class will also offer special music.

Preschool-fifth grade gather in the Sanctuary for the first part of the service and then go to Founders Hall for Children's Worship. Sixth grade and Junior High remain for the entire service.

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



Fire of Commitment *(continued from page 1)*

The Canvass Committee will, along with others, be describing those decisions and financial needs. And we will work towards securing annual financial commitments that will sustain and enhance the UUCR programs and ministries you have come to expect for yourself, other congregants, families, and our larger communities.

But wait, there's more! This year, members of the Canvass Committee and other members of the congregation are going to arrange fun group events (ping-pong parties, a tie-dye workshop...) within which time will be reserved for "Canvass Conversations" about the ministries of UUCR, their outcomes, and about our shared and individual commitments to UUCR. More specifics about those events will be coming soon!

Your Canvass Committee is chaired by **Karl Irikura** and includes **Bill Newhouse, José Clemente, Christy Shannon, and Bruce Baskett**. Look for committee members, ask your questions, give us your ideas for a successful canvass, and, *please, bless everyone by sharing your particular fire!*



UUCR Annual Fellowship Dinner - Saturday, March 5

by Diane Baillie

Please join us at UUCR on Saturday, March 5 for our annual Fellowship Dinner. The theme this year is *Fire of Commitment*.

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 and table host.

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

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**, is provided for all other ages. Children younger than 6th grade should plan to bring a brown bag dinner. We will provide water and activities.

Volunteers are needed as table hosts, to set up and clean up, and to staff the kitchen. Please join us as a volunteer.

Look for this year's Co-Chairs, **Christy Shannon** and **Diane Baillie**, at the Fellowship Dinner information table after the Sunday service during the month of February. You can learn more, sign up to attend the dinner and for child care, and volunteer to help out. You may also sign up online at <http://goo.gl/forms/RM1fB6hyxE>. **To help us plan for the event, we ask everyone to RSVP, even if you cannot attend.** You can RSVP your regrets at the information table or by using the online form as well. We look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you on March 5!

DeLynnations

Fire of Commitment

January is a good time of the year to consider the state of the congregation.

I am excited, now in my eleventh year of service to UUCR, to report that energy is high, worship is meaningful and full of heart and beauty, we host visitors on most Sundays, and our doors are open to the wider community seven days a week — our shared ministry to one another and to our community is strong and vital.

As a large mid-sized congregation in the Washington area, we are among some of the largest and most successful of Unitarian Universalist congregations. We are a healthy congregation and amazing ministry happens here every day.

As we enter canvass season, we will celebrate how far we have come, and what kind of congregation we aspire to become. Each of you, each of us is part of the **fire** of UUCR. To “bank up” our fire, we need the resources, the gifts, the financial generosity of everyone.

I invite you to make or renew your **commitment** to UUCR through your financial pledge. Will you commit all you can to:

- ◆ Keep “the lights on”
- ◆ Stretch toward our programmatic aspirations
- ◆ Make a place for those not yet here
- ◆ Sustain our excellent staffing
- ◆ Be a witness for peace and justice in the world
- ◆ Care for our children, youth, elders, and everyone
- ◆ Sustain our legacy as a progressive beacon in Rockville
- ◆ Grow your spirit and your faith

The lyrics of the hymn, *The Fire of Commitment* were written by Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, and the music by Rev. Jason Shelton. We have permission to use this hymn to inspire our canvass and we have a beautiful logo designed by **Susie Spangler** — now all we need is your participation.

In faith and gratitude for UUCR,

Lynn

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Faith Formation: UUA Common Read

by Shira Ehrlich, Chair, Adult Faith Formation Committee

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, is this year's Common Read selected by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Congregations across the country are reading and discussing this book by Bryan Stevenson. Assistant Minister, **Rev. Rebekah Montgomery** will facilitate a discussion of the book on Sunday, February 14.



In his book, Stevenson, a lawyer, writes about his work with his organization, the Equal Justice Initiative. Through this non-profit group, he has represented the wrongly-condemned, women, and children in our criminal justice system. Their stories reveal life- and soul-destroying policies and practices of that system. Stevenson asserts that the opposite of poverty is not wealth, but justice. The themes of justice, mercy, and compassion, of concern to Unitarian Universalists, speak throughout his book.

Just Mercy is available at the Adult Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall after the Sunday service. Join the discussion in Room 51 in the lower level below the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact **Shira Ehrlich** at adultfaith@uucr.org.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Statue Honoring Confederate Soldiers in Rockville

by Marie Reed on behalf of the Social Justice Committee

The life-sized bronze statue of a cavalry private honoring Confederate soldiers from Maryland, located next to the county courthouse in Rockville, has been in the news of late. It was unveiled on June 3, 1913 (Confederate Memorial Day). Those instrumental in getting the statue built and placed in Rockville were said to want to put memories of the animosity of the war behind them and promote peace and reunification in Maryland. The monument calls these soldiers "our heroes," Montgomery County's heroes. No statue to Union soldiers from Maryland, who numbered at least 2.5 times those who joined the Confederate army, exists in Rockville or Montgomery County.

The statue stood in front of the county courthouse for nearly sixty years, and was moved to the side of the courthouse in the early 70s. With the rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement, the statue came to be seen by many as problematic and has been vandalized with spray paint.

This summer, the County Executive ordered that the statue be removed from the courthouse property. The Rockville Historic District Commission (HDC) then weighed in because it has jurisdiction over all properties of historic significance within the city, even though the statue sits on county property. On December 17, the HDC voted 3-1 to move the statue (which is still in its original location but enclosed in a wooden crate to protect it from vandalism) from its current location to the park next to the Beall-Dawson House (home of a slave-owning Unionist.) The HDC stipulated that there be proper signage and security measures at the new site. The Rockville City Council will decide whether to approve the move of the statue at a meeting on February 8, and whether to help pay for some of the moving, maintenance, and security expenses.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

Statue Honoring Confederate Soldiers *(continued from page 5)*

The move is fueled by the current understanding that symbols of the Confederacy are felt to be oppressive and disrespectful of the lived experience of African Americans. The public display of the statue without context encourages empathy for those who fought on the Confederate side without recognition of the many in Maryland who supported the Union.

Many members of UUCR's Social Justice Committee (SJC) are opposed to the continued public display of the statue in Rockville, particularly when no historical context is provided. There are alternatives that could be considered, such as putting the statue in an exhibition space inside a public building, with appropriate signage explaining the current controversy over Confederate symbols and a discussion of the effects that the display of such symbols have on all of us.

You can read more in the testimony presented by SJC Chair, **Alonzo Smith** to the Rockville Historic District Commission. Find a transcript of Alonzo's testimony on the Social Justice page of the UUCR website at <http://uucr.org/social-justice>. And, James Loewen, a sociologist and Unitarian Universalist based in Montgomery County, has written the very informative article entitled, "What does Rockville, Maryland's Confederate Monument Tell Us About the Civil War?," which you can read at <http://historynewsnetwork.org/blog/153651>.

What can I do?

- ◆ Learn more! Read the documents linked above. Talk to your children about this situation. It exists in your own backyard.
- ◆ Sign the petition to the Mayor and City Council at the Social Justice table after the service on Sundays. The petition requests that the statue either be put in storage or be displayed inside in an appropriate location (inside to prevent vandalism). Historical and other contextual information must be included in the display. Note: you need not be a resident of Rockville to sign the petition.
- ◆ Even more persuasive would be to write a personal letter to the Mayor and City Council (or call or email), perhaps basing your arguments on Unitarian Universalist principles. Contact information will be available at the Social Justice table on Sundays.
- ◆ Plan to attend the Council meeting on Monday, February 8.
- ◆ If you are a resident of Rockville, your voice on this matter is particularly relevant. The City and County need to know your opinion, however, even if you don't live in the city.

Partner Church News

by Louise Friedenber

Our partner church in Magyarszakod, Transylvania, Romania, recently sent wishes to UUCR for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hopes that all our dreams and wishes come true. They want us to know that we are always in their hearts!

They also report that the Village Caretaker Program is running smoothly and they thank UUCR for its generous help. The children made presents for the elderly and delivered them as they sang Christmas carols. Photos will be available at the next Partner Church fundraiser. They also took videos, which they are trying to figure out how to send over the Internet.

SHARING THE MINISTRY

Visioning UUCR's Future Landscape

by Marie Reed, Lay Minister for Buildings & Grounds

Barbara Harrison and **Jo Wilson** have ably led the landscaping effort at UUCR for many years, implementing a Master Plan approved by the Board of Trustees. Much of the ongoing grounds up-keep is taken care of by a contractor (thanks to all who pledge generously to UUCR's operating fund!) And a team of volunteers, honchoed by **Mary Lanigan**, takes care of weed-removal, pruning, planting, and other efforts throughout the year.

The Master Plan is basically complete. Now we need to envision what we'd like to see happen in our landscape over the next couple of decades. Some ideas include dealing with storm water runoff, removing invasives, and creating rain garden(s).

We are looking for your ideas. If you are interested in the future of UUCR's landscape, have specific ideas (or not), and want to contribute to the visioning of the next steps in our grounds management, please come to the UUCR landscape visioning meeting in Room 44 in Building 4 on Sunday, January 31 at 11:30 a.m. We hope to see you at the meeting! If you have questions, please contact **Marie Reed** at marieyoga@gmail.com.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Events January 15 - 18

Unitarian Universalist congregations in Montgomery County will witness together on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend to lift up the truth that Black Lives Matter. All of our congregations will be sharing in the following events:

- ◆ **Friday, January 15 at the River Road UU Congregation**, 6301 River Road in Bethesda: Potluck at 6:00 p.m.; worship service at 6:30; street vigil remembering victims of police violence at 7:00.
- ◆ **Sunday, January 17:** All of our congregations will offer worship services on the theme, "Remaining Awake!" At UUCR, we'll also be joined by Dr. Lester Green for special music in the gospel and spirituals tradition.
- ◆ **Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cedar Lane UU Congregation** at 9601 Cedar Lane in Bethesda: Remaining Awake - An Interfaith, Multicultural Celebration of Rev. Dr. King's Life and Legacy.
- ◆ **Monday, January 18 at 10:00 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School** at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville: Rockville's 44th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, including multicultural performances and a keynote address by David Ragland entitled, "Many Truths, One Community: Justice in the Age of Baltimore and Ferguson."
- ◆ **Monday, January 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Annapolis:** Press conference and rally for Police Accountability Legislation. Carpools will travel from Cedar Lane - to learn more and to sign up, email togetherlt@googlegroups.com.

CONGREGATION WORKS

UUCR Nominating Committee

by Karla Timmons

The Nominating Committee at UUCR is charged with the annual recruitment and nomination of candidates for the Board of Trustees and other elected positions. This year, three positions will need to be filled, each with a three-year term. There will be two open positions on the Board of Trustees, Vice President and General Trustee, as well as the position of Assistant Treasurer for Deposits. The Vice President position takes on a different role in each year of its three-year term - the first year as Vice President, the second year as President, and the third year as Immediate Past President.

Now is an exciting time in the life of UUCR. Ours is a healthy, vital, growing congregation with a solid financial picture. The Board is engaged in discernment, leadership training, and learning the latest in congregational governance strategies. We are making a difference in the larger community and we are growing the Unitarian Universalist leaders of the future. Next year, we celebrate UUCR's 60th anniversary and we welcome a new settled Director of Religious Education.

In addition to the Assistant Treasurer and Board of Trustee positions, there are two vacancies to fill on the Nominating Committee. We carefully consider the leadership qualities of the candidates we recommend for positions on the Board. As a growing congregation, we need open-minded, forward-looking leaders, people that we can put our trust in and know they will move us forward. If you are asked to be part of that trusted leadership, please consider the request thoughtfully. Many of our previous Board members have noted after their term of service that it was a time of spiritual growth for them, as well as an opportunity to become more connected to the congregation. Our next Board will be developing a five-year strategic plan to continue our forward momentum. Please consider being part of that initiative.

In addition to the people that the Nominating Committee submits to the congregation for consideration, members are encouraged to self-nominate. Position descriptions are available for anyone who is interested. If you'd like further information on the process, or on the position descriptions, please contact anyone from the Nominating Committee: **Nancy Blum, Andy Moore, Karla Timmons, Karl Irikura, Ricardo Carvajal, and Clarice Julka**. To be considered for the current year, the committee needs your self-nomination by Wednesday, February 10.

Welcome to the Capital Cluster of the UUA's Central East Region & The Future of the JPD

by Eric Burch, Chair, Denominational Affairs

The past few years have seen changes for large parts of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and 2016 may be a year of major transition for the Joseph Priestley District (JPD).

UUCR is the most northwest congregation of the Capital Cluster, a group of about 20 congregations in DC and suburban Maryland. We are still part of the 71-congregation JPD, which is one of four Districts in the 210-congregation Central East Region (CER). Right now, the Sugarloaf congregation is part of the Western Maryland Cluster, and across the Potomac is the Northern Virginia Cluster.

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CONGREGATION WORKS

Capital Cluster of the UUA's Central East Region *(continued from page 8)*

The Northern Virginia Cluster is the southern boundary of the Central East Region (and the JPD), which extends north to the New York-Canada border and west into Ohio. The clusters were established to attempt to facilitate collaboration among co-located congregations, but membership in a particular cluster does not have to be permanent.

One goal of the Capital Cluster is to build more inter-congregational links with other UUs, and another is to coordinate outreach to local residents who are searching for a religious community. Much like we gather in congregations to combine our individual talents to change our local area, the UUA is trying to gather congregations that are geographically close so they can share resources, host joint events, and combine their efforts to change the larger area. We have existing connections with other UU congregations, which will continue. But our relationship with the JPD and the UUA may change.

Every Cluster has a regional UUA staff member assigned to help build the connections inside the cluster. Currently, Rev. Megan Foley is assigned to the Capital Cluster. This staff member also is our first contact when we need UUA services, such as compensation advice or help with the startup of our new Director of Religious Education. Our UUA contact may not have all the answers, but every staff member in the Region has some specialization and our contact can get us in touch with that specialist. (In Rev. Megan's case, if you are interested in UU ministry, she can provide extra assistance.). In the past, we would go through the JPD for this help, and sometimes we would be directed to UUA staff for help. The goal is for each region to have the staffing resources to handle a wider variety of situations using just regional staff. In addition, our first contact has access to the resources of the entire Association to address concerns or problems, and can provide referrals to these resources.

We will continue to participate in existing area-wide UU activities with other area congregations, such as with various RE groups. Interfaith efforts will not be affected, though now we may get more participation with DC and Prince George's County UU congregations.

Concerning the Joseph Priestley District, UUCR member, **Dennis Wellnitz** may be the last President of the JPD. During the JPD Assembly (to held on April 8 and 9 in York, Pennsylvania), the Assembly will vote on a proposal to dissolve the JPD. This is the last action of a few years of planning. But even if the JPD is dissolved, JPD endowment funds and JPD Chalice Lighter funds will be only used for congregations in the current JPD.

If you are interested in attending the JPD Assembly in April, please contact **Eric Burch** for more information. There will be an Adult Faith Formation event on Sunday, February 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to discuss regionalization. If you want more information, you can also check out the Region's web page at <http://www.cerguua.org/>, or contact Eric at eric_burch@verizon.net. There are also some videos at the Central East Region YouTube video channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Uy-iSdJOXjAglW7fUgofQ>.

CONGREGATION WORKS

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting **Sunday, January 24 ~ 11:30 a.m.**

Please plan to attend our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting on January 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The agenda will include updates from the Director of Religious Education Selection Committee, Racial Justice Working Group, and Lay Ministry Council, a 2016 Canvass announcement, and the Treasurer's report.



Bring your coffee and tea to the Sanctuary and enjoy light snacks prior to the meeting. Children are welcome, and child care is also available.

Summary of the December 2015 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

by Terrie Barr, President, Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on December 15. **Julie Robinson** presented the monthly financial report. Overall, we are in good shape, but investment losses were noted and Julie indicated that the Finance Committee plans to take a closer look at UUCR's investment portfolio this year.

Karl Irikura, Chair of our Canvass Committee, announced that the canvass theme selected for this year is "Fire of Commitment." Thanks to **Susie Spangler** for designing the graphic for the theme. We'll have group canvassing, rather than one-on-one canvassing, and it will be in a social setting. Our goal is to canvass about one third of the congregation this year and everyone in a three-year period.

Rev. Lynn Strauss provided an update on the Director of Religious Education search process. The selection team is ahead of schedule and will interview the first of two strong applicants on January 8. Lynn also reported on the Racial Justice Working Group. Rev. Lynn is coordinating with area Unitarian Universalist ministers on Martin Luther King weekend events. She will present a sabbatical plan to the Board at the January meeting for her sabbatical in April, May, and June. The Board is grateful to Rev. Lynn for her work on so many fronts. She took on these two items in addition to her already long list of responsibilities.

Ellen Rohan, working with relevant staff and committees, updated the activities of our Strategic Plan that will be completed or begun this year, the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). Look for the AIP on the UUCR website at [http://uucr.org/sites/default/files/2015-2016 Annual Implementation Plan.pdf](http://uucr.org/sites/default/files/2015-2016%20Annual%20Implementation%20Plan.pdf).

The Board completed work on the Religious Education Transition Team's staffing recommendations, which will be part of the canvass budget. The full budget will be approved at the January Board meeting and shared thereafter.

THINKING OF YOU

Thinking of You

Compiled by Marianne Miller on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team

The great granddaughter of **Jewell Golden** was born on December 15. Rachel Leslie is the granddaughter of Jill Golden Zimmermann, who graduated from UUCR's Religious Education program in the 80s. Her mother, Michelle Groce, was married by Rev. Ginger Luke, then of the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Another example of UUCR reaching into the fourth generation!

Audrey Koch was recently released from the hospital and is now (as of January 8) at the Wilson Center at Asbury Methodist Village. Her daughter, Nina is with her and reports that Audrey loves to receive cards. They may be sent to Audrey's apartment address at Asbury and Nina will be sure that Audrey receives them.

Founding UUCR member, **Peggy Jones** suffered a retinal hemorrhage in early January and is now recovering at home. Her activities must be limited during this recovery period and calls from friends are welcome.

Our heartfelt condolences to UUCR members who have lost loved ones recently:

Charlie and Lora Sheridan's daughter, Melissa Sheridan Horsman, died unexpectedly on November 4. Melissa grew up in Olney and graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where she earned a degree in psychology and social work. She worked as a social worker for Baltimore County and in various hospitals in the area and in North Carolina. She was active in the Episcopal church.

Rebecca Sosa's grandfather, Frederick Boese, died on Monday, December 14. He lived in Wisconsin and was 86 years old at the time of his death.

Ellen Menis's son, Dan, who lived in Indiana, died unexpectedly after Thanksgiving. A celebration of Dan's life will be held in Founders Hall on Thursday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Margaret Chalkley's older brother died in early January. A service was held in North Carolina on January 9.

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