

MINISTER'S COLUMN

REVEREND LAURA THOMPSON

FEBRUARY'S THEME : PERSEVERANCE

"People cry not because they are weak. It's because they've been strong too long." - Shane Koyczan

What does it mean to be a people of perseverance? The standard recipe is well known: Buck up! Grin and bear it! Keep pushing! Keep moving forward! Dig deep; you are stronger than you know! But maybe Koyczan is right. Maybe this typical roadmap isn't the path to perseverance; maybe it's just the path to breakdown.

As a people of perseverance, we are being called not just to grit and strong wills, but to gentleness and self-care. Constantly pushing ourselves without also giving ourselves the gift of pause gets us nowhere. Digging deeper without making time to deepen and fill our wells is a recipe for self-inflicted pain. All of which is to say that maybe vulnerability is the real secret to perseverance. Maybe admitting you're tired and asking for help is the real strength that gets us through.

Rabbi David Wolf tells a story that we all should carry with us this month:

A boy and his father were walking along a road when they came across a large stone. "Do you think if I use all of my strength, I can move this rock?" the child asked. His father answered, "If you use all of your strength, I am sure you can do it." The boy began to push the rock. Exerting himself as much as he could, he pushed and pushed. The rock did not move. Discouraged, he said to his father, "You were wrong. I can't do it." His father put his arm around the boy's shoulder and said, "No son. You didn't use all your strength - you didn't ask me to help."

What a gift to remember that perseverance isn't a solo act. May that be the gift this month gives us all.

In faith and joy,
 Rev. Laura

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 —

10:30am: Beloved Conversations

Carla Ries, Polly Sonifer, Ginny Christensen, and Mark Lofgren reflect on participating in the anti-racism program Beloved Conversations that was held at MVUUF last fall. What did they expect? What did they learn? And more importantly what effect did the program have on how they see themselves and the world around them? *With special music by Tom Ehlinger and Mark Lofgren.*

— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 —

9:00am: Religion Ethics and Ideas: Sexual Harassment

We will continue our discussion of Sexual Harassment (SH). This session we will talk about SH by clients and customers, SH in public places, fair treatment for the accused of SH, appropriate penalties for SH, and more. For a detailed description of the topics we will cover, see page five. All members and friends of the fellowship are invited to attend. For questions contact John Peloquin at john17780@charter.net.

10:30am: Persevering Pioneers of Unitarian Universalism: Olympia Brown

A champion of women's suffrage and the first woman to be ordained by a denomination, Olympia Brown was an inspiration. Come and learn about a true pioneer and explore the lessons of her legacy that are still with us today.

— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 —

10:30am: Resistance & Resilience: Songs of Freedom

Behind every movement are the songs, chants, and anthems that drive it. There were gospel songs that led the Underground Railroad and Civil Rights Movement. There were folk songs that led the anti-war and women's rights movement. Today there are songs in nearly all genres that inhabit the spirit of freedom. How do these songs keep us moving forward?

— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 —

10:30am: Bringing Downstairs Upstairs: Complex Community Conversations

Join our high school youth in a small group setting as we challenge assumptions and unpack the complexities of social issues today. Come with an open mind, open ears, and thoughts to share!

Recordings of past Sunday programs are available for listening and download on the MVUUF website
<http://www.mnvalleyuu.org/sermon-audio>





RESOURCES: EXPLORING PERSEVERANCE

VIDEOS —

Instructions for a Bad Day

Shane Koyczan

A stunning and inspiring guide to perseverance!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sso4h7Gr3Pc>

Sisyphus

Jankovics Marcell

<https://vimeo.com/23083554>

A Conversation About Growing Up Black

The New York Times

(Connecting Perseverance and African American History Month)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSAw5IcaEeg&index=4&list=PLrubwoNQcGdT3fOBsyFGouycB4VsLINT7>

BOOKS —

Rising Strong: The Reckoning, The Rumble, The Revolution

Brené Brown

Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy

Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant

Endure: The Power of Spiritual Assets for Resilience to Trauma & Stress

Daniel D Maurer

ARTICLES —

Five Ways Science Says to Handle Difficult Times

Kira M Newman

<http://upliftconnect.com/5-science-handle-difficulttimes/>

How to Bounce Back from Failure — Over and Over Again

Carolyn Gergoire

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/02/habits-ofresilientpeople_n_3818652.html

MOVIES —

Slumdog Millionaire

Babe

The Wrestler

Lion

127 Hours

Million Dollar Baby

MVUUF Office Hours

Minister

Rev. Laura Thompson
minister@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4203

Mondays: Off
Tues-Thur: Office Days*
Friday: Writing Day (Offsite)
Saturday-Sunday: By Appointment

*office hours vary due to meetings and appointments throughout the day and evening

Director of Religious Education

Jan Fitzgerald
dre@mnvalleyuu.org
(612) 216-4224

Monday / Wednesday / Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Administrator

Tristan Jones
office@mnvalleyuu.org
(952) 884-8956 (Fellowship Phone)
(612) 216-4113 (Direct Line)

Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Please call or email ahead to make sure we don't have another appointment when you come in.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Want to meet UUs from across the country, attend dynamic programming, and participate in some larger decisions which direct the focus of Unitarian Universalism? You can do all of that at UUA General Assembly!

Come to an informational meeting on **Sunday February 18th** at 11:45 in the Fireside Room to find out how you can join our caravan to Kansas City.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Kelley Hughes serves this congregation as chair-elect and as part of her duties she asked the various committees who do the daily work of our church to send in reports describing their activities. So, this month I want to highlight some of those, in no particular order:

Stewardship is now a year round activity. This year the committee is working with a consultant, Bill Clontz, to learn the best practices from other UU churches. One of the goals is to have more transparency and more open and honest conversation about financial support for our church. The consultant's fees were paid by our Hanifl grant.

Technology committee was reformed this year and is off to a roaring start. Majority of their activities are financed by the Hanifl grant. Hearing assistance devices purchased for the sanctuary have an added bonus—if you are in the kitchen doing prep work during the service, you can listen to the service using one of the devices. The new phone system and Internet TV in two classrooms is in place and a new website almost developed. The committee is now concentrating on evaluating the entire audio/video technology and underlying network infrastructure.

Archives is spending time organizing years of accumulated records and making decisions on how best to preserve these for posterity.

Music Committee organizes two music Sundays per year, collaborates with the Service Auction Committee through the Big Event, brings in special music (like Ann Reed's appearance earlier this year), member concerts, and supports our choirs. The committee also maintains our piano and helps organize music for memorial services and weddings.

Social Action is very active in the MLK day of service and Beloved Conversations. The committee supports our Sunday Sharing activity, writes informative articles for the Uni-Sun, organizes and participates our wider community outreach. Latest activity: caucus training.

Finance Committee along with the Treasurer supports the financial life of our church. The committee works on annual budgets, supports the Stewardship Committee, administers the Hanifl grant spending and reporting, monitors the financial position of the Fellowship including insurance. The committee also manages the rental property income and expenditures and prepares ad hoc reports and recommendations for the Board of Trustees.

The above is only a sample of what it takes to make MVUUF the place we love. We have a lot going on. I want to invite every one of you to learn more and maybe find a new area where you could invest your time and talent. It is work, it takes commitment but it is also fun, provides meaning, and helps us make the world a better place.

Finance committee, anyone?
Eva Mach, Chair
(emach@pro-tecdesign.com, 651-226-5949)



JANUARY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met on Wednesday, January 10th.

The Board approved a new wedding policy:

MVUUF provides a welcoming and attractive venue for weddings.

Members:

Members negotiate stipends for any musicians and speakers outside of the minister. Ministerial and building use are free to members.

Members are also responsible for their own decorations, as well as cleaning up all decorations, the kitchen, and other areas of use.

Non Members:

Upstairs rental only: \$125

*Whole building rental: \$250

Minister fee: \$200 just service, \$250 with rehearsal, \$350 with pre-marriage guidance (sessions with minister)

Non-members are also responsible for their own decorations, as well as cleaning up all decorations, the kitchen, and other areas of use.

*Building rental includes table and chair set up as well as the use of the kitchen. It does not include decorating.

MVUUF will be responsible for cleaning the bathrooms and all floors following an event. But the rental party is responsible for cleaning up all decorations, the kitchen, and other areas of use.

After discussion, Judith moved and Diane seconded approval of the draft as submitted, motion passed.

The Board also welcomed two new members, Laura Kampa Thompson and Emily Kampa, and discussed our emergency preparedness, including fire and medical responses. We are gathering information on this topic to make certain that we have procedures in place, if needed. Please read the official minutes for further details.

Next Board Meeting Date: February 14th, 2018 at 7:00PM

All are welcome to attend. If there is a topic you would like to add to the Board agenda, please contact Eva Mach at 651-226-5949 or emach@pro-tecdesign.com.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

The Democratic Process (UU 5th Principle)

in Minnesota 2018

Come to a special, non-partisan 45 -minute intergenerational workshop on the "3 Steps" of Minnesota's 2018 democratic process for major parties: Caucuses, Conventions, and Voting! Get in the know, save those dates, get ready to own your government, and practice how it works! Will you be the party of cake or ice cream? Do you like vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry? Imagine if we all had to choose one type of dessert for EVERYONE TO SHARE?

Our Fifth Principle as Unitarian Universalists calls us to affirm "the democratic process." Everyone matters.

FOR: Everyone! (Recommended Ages 10-100)

WHEN: Sunday, January 28, 9:30 -10:30 am in the Youth Room

REPEATED: Thursday, Feb 1, 7:00 pm in the Social Hall

CONTACT: Karen Wills, Social Action Committee member, at starship.dodecahedron@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Group **Saturday, February 3rd** **10:30am in the Social Hall**

We will meet at 10:15am for coffee and socializing in the Social Hall. The program begins at 10:30. This month our speaker will be Sondra Smalley, MVUUF member, who traveled to 19 countries in 2017. She will share slides and stories of Petra, Jordan, a new "7th Wonder of the World"; the island of Maderia, the "Flower Pot of Europe"; and Gaudi's work in Barcelona. She says each one is awesome, beyond words, and a spiritual experience.

A catered lunch is offered after the meeting for \$7.00. Nancy Buckman will e-mail you and you can respond to her notice if you would like lunch, or you can e-mail her directly at nancybmnuu@gmail.com. If not, feel free to bring your own lunch.

We welcome all MVUUF women, whether members or non-members to attend our monthly meetings. We meet the first Saturday of each month from October through May.

Men's Group **Thursday, February 8th** **6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall**

How much **Occupational Licensure and Regulation** should there be?

This month our speaker will be Morris Kleiner; the title of his talk will be **Guild-Ridden Labor Markets: The Curious Case of Occupational Licensing**. Morris is a Public Affairs and Economics Professor at the U of M HHH School of Public Affairs is well qualified to speak on the topic. He has done extensive research and written numerous books, academic papers, and articles on the topic. He has testified before the U.S. Senate, advised the Obama administration on the subject, and his research on occupational licensing was cited in President Obama's 2016 Economic Report of the President. He also has advised a number of U.S. state legislatures and governors as well as foreign governments.

Dinner will be offered before the talk. If you wish to come to dinner, sign up in the basement and come at 6:30pm. If you only want to hear the speakers, come at 7:00pm. **All are invited to attend without**

regard to gender. If you have questions, contact Bill McMartin at billmcmartin@gmail.com or John Peloquin at john17780@charter.net.

Religion, Ethics, and Ideas **Sunday, February 11th** **9:00am in the Fireside Room**

This month we will continue our discussion of Sexual Harassment (SH). Last time we talked about the definition of, the motivation behind, and the frequency of SH. This session we will talk about SH by clients and customers, SH in public places, international differences in what is perceived to be SH by sex and age, fair treatment for the accused of SH, appropriate penalties for SH, why are men disproportionately accused and found guilty of SH, should there be a "statute of limitations" for SH, is the widespread press attention to SH and the #metoo movement having or potentially having a chilling effect on business relationships between men and women, and finally have changes in sexual mores over the last 50 years or so made SH more or less likely? All members and friends of the fellowship are invited to attend. For questions contact John Peloquin at john17780@charter.net.

The Service Auction is Coming!

Every spring we hold a Service Auction to raise funds for our general budget expenses. This year's auction is **Saturday night, April 28th**. Seems like a long way off, but the planning is in full swing. Never participated? The auction members donate dinners, food, services and whatever to be offered at a silent auction. Others bid on these items and MVUUF gets the money. It's a lot of fun. We pair the evening with a potluck dinner and a special musical/theatrical presentation by Sonja Johnston and the MVUUF choir. Start thinking of what you'll be able to offer, we'll be asking for your donations shortly. Or, instead maybe you need help with something that a member can do and is willing to donate their time. We also ask for donations from area theaters, museums, and events. Plan to attend now and think of how you can help.

**- Jean Danko, Holly Bruce, Barb Olson,
Karen Olson, and Leslie Swenson**

Do You Ever Wonder...



Who are we? Why does MVUUF exist?

Why do you and I come here?

What is it we stand for and seek to accomplish?

MVUUF is not just a community or a social gathering! We have a purpose and a sense of mission and goals for what we want to be in the future.

Let's be clear on what that means.

MVUUF, in partnership with Stewardship for U, is Conducting a Search for the Future (SF^{TF}) Weekend – and YOU are invited!

SF^{TF} is a unique but proven process to develop mission and vision statements that ring true, articulate our values and priorities, and set our path for the future. It's also a fast paced, fun opportunity to engage both our hearts AND our minds in coming together for shared purpose.

Give us a half day Saturday and we will give you great mission and vision statements for MVUUF!

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018

Time: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Location: MVUUF

To sign up, visit <https://form.jotform.com/80215712184147>
or e-mail Tristan at office@mnvalleyuu.org.

**COME HELP DEFINE WHO WE ARE
AND SHAPE OUR FUTURE!**



STEWARDSHIP FOR A NEW ERA

Before we received the Hanifl Grant we brought in consultant Bill Clontz to look at all of our program areas, focusing on the overall health and operations of the fellowship. Particularly focused discussions were held on the financial health of the congregation, the stewardship environment, our community ties, and congregational operations.

What we learned from Bill:

- MVUUF **lacked** a sustained, integrated **conversation** about stewardship in the life of the congregation and how it relates to every member.
- A significant percentage of members **do not acknowledge** the link between our values and community with our willingness to provide consistent, predictable financial support.
- We **do not** consistently offer new members the **opportunity** to pledge and volunteer at the time of joining. We **do not** send a **clear** and honest **message** about the expectations of membership.
- This costs the fellowship much needed resources, and
- Sends the impression that financial commitments are **not** a core part of membership.

Actions Taken:

- **MVUUF hired Bill Clontz from Stewardship for Us**, using money from the Hanifl Grant, to advise us on how to conduct an effective stewardship campaign from the overview to the smallest detail.
- **A committee was formed** that will work **year-round**, not just a few months of the year, on stewardship. As we go forward, each member will commit to a **three-year term** just like board members. Members are Bob Boucher, Doug Bruce, Glenn Corliss, Steve Danko, Richard Duffin, Mary Koehler, Jeanne Simpson, and Sondra Smalley.
- **We are taking this opportunity to get our stewardship foundation healthy and well established for the long run.**
- **We are following Clontz' advice.** He is the **expert**. He knows what works. We are **not second-guessing** him.
- **We are learning** how to make MVUUF financially sustainable for decades to come.
- **There will be increased transparency** – better and more communication – **more** conversation about stewardship in the life of the congregation and how it **relates** to every member.
- **Members will be invited to participate in a variety of stewardship processes.**

The future of MVUUF is in your hands.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

JAN FITZGERALD, DRE

We have a special program for our third, fourth and fifth grade children called **Children Chalice Lighters**. Each child has the opportunity to become an official chalice lighter of the Fellowship. The children and their parent/guardians meet two times, once with Rev. Laura Thompson and once with the Director of Religious Education, Jan Fitzgerald. One parent and the child should attend both meetings. After the first introductory meeting we ask that the children, with the help of a parent/guardian, complete a booklet that is based on the Seven UU principles. The group will meet again to briefly review the booklet and learn how to light the chalice. The dates are to be determined. The recognition ceremony will take place on Religious Education Sunday, **May 20 at 10:30 am**. Please sign up on the sheet downstairs or e-mail me at dre@mnvalleyuu.org if you and your child are interested in this voluntary program. We hope to see you there.

Be sure to sign up to bring food or drinks for the **Special Friends Breakfast** on **Sunday February 25** at 8:45 am. We need egg casseroles, muffins or bagels and fruit or juice.

MUSICAL NOTES

SONJA JOHNSTON, MINISTER OF MUSIC

Special music in February will include the choir singing a new arrangement of "Gift to be Free" on the 4th; the Children's Choir on the 11th possibly singing two songs; and, on the 18th, an original piece by MVUUF member Rita Philips backed up by our "One Voice" group. Her piece is titled "Always to Love" and is a positive message about dealing with life's difficulties with an emphasis on uniting people. We engaged the services of a member of the MN Composers' Forum to notate Rita's song and write a piano arrangement for it.

Start thinking about **Spring Music Sunday, March 11**, if you wish to participate. All ages are invited and there will be more information in the March UniSun. Whereas our Holiday Music Sunday in December features music about the holidays, Spring Music Sunday is open to all subjects.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Sonja Johnston, Minister of Music

The Senior High class will be presenting the Sunday Service on February 25. Please make an extra effort to come and support our youth.

Religious Education topics for the coming months are: **Prekindergarten**— our ability to learn and introduction to religion, **K and First** – the gifts of mutual sharing and caring, **Second and Third** – do unto others and other moral tales, **Fourth and Fifth** – speaking of why bad things happen and is life fair, **Sixth through Eighth** – qualities of a justice maker, **Senior High**- planning for the Senior High Service.

We still need many teachers and nursery assistants for the Spring Unit. We need two nursery assistants, two for PreK, two for second and third grade, and two for sixth through eighth grades. Please consider teaching.

Thank you for all of your interest and support of the Religious Education Program.

Jan Fitzgerald

VEAP

The MLK VEAP service project went exceeding well. There were 19 volunteers who participated. Together the volunteers delivered and packaged 220 lbs. of toilet paper which will serve 192 families, 113 lbs. of diapers which will serve 56 families, and 309 lbs of other items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, feminine hygiene products, etc. We want to thank everyone who volunteered as well as everyone who donated products.

- Lorna Prell



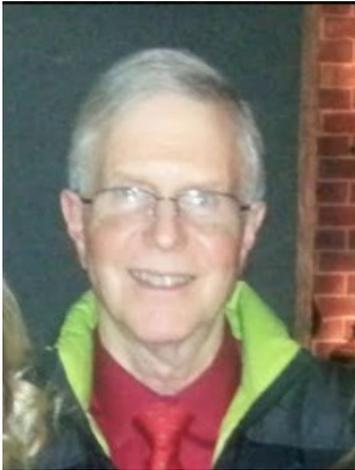


MEMBERSHIP AT MVUUF

TRISTAN JONES, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

New Member Profiles: Richard Duffin and Nancy Giffen

Richard Duffin



Richard moved to West Bloomington at the end of July 2017 after living in Santa Rosa California for 17 years. Prior to living in California, he lived and raised his children in Plymouth, MN for 17 years. While living in Plymouth, Richard spent a good deal of his career running a residential mental health program in Minneapolis and supervising school-based health clinics in each of the St. Paul public high schools. After moving to California, he was the COO of eight community health centers in Santa Rosa before retiring. He loved his career in human services and says the only goal he didn't quite accomplish was becoming fabulously wealthy.

Having just retired on July 1, 2017, Richard is still figuring out what to do with all of the "extra" time he now has. He recently completed a four-month remodel of his condo and has now jumped into congregational involvement at MVUUF. Richard is head of the Technology Committee and has been integral to many of the new updates and developments we have seen from the Hanifl Grant, as well as being a member of the Stewardship Committee. Of course, his favorite activity is spending time with his two daughters and their families. Both of his daughters just had their own daughters last fall, and he has found it very rewarding to be able to spend so much time with them.

Richard first became involved in UU congregations in 1969, when he was married at a church in Shaker Heights, Ohio. He has been connected to UU congregations ever since. When he last lived in the Twin Cities, he was a member at the Wayzata church and the "big" UU churches. When he moved back, he decided that he wanted to find a church that was closer to home and small enough to easily feel like he could be a part of the community. Luckily for us, he found MVUUF.

Nancy Giffen

Nancy also moved back to the Twin Cities this summer. Having grown up in North Dakota, she moved to Minnesota for college and lived in Minneapolis for several years before moving to Virginia. She lived and raised her sons in Virginia for 20 years before returning to the Twin Cities to be closer to her family. Her parents, sister and brother-in-law, and brother all live in the area.

Nancy has a Master of Social Work and has experience working in every field under the clinical social work umbrella! Most recently she had a private practice where she worked primarily with adults experiencing life transitions. She centered her work around helping them to find a larger meaning in their experiences and to help them step into a stronger, more empowered self. Nancy's interest in empowering and helping others is also evidenced in her hobbies: for years she ran a blog centered on teaching and enhancing greater self-awareness, and she has spent a lot of time studying energy, reiki, and spiritual healing. She is passionate about using metaphysics to find ways to help people understand conflicting or complicated parts of themselves. She is especially interested in using the language of archetypes to do this, and she has held numerous workshops highlighting common archetypes as well as classes centered round learning self-awareness skills.



Having been a member of the Bull Run UU Church in Virginia for 20 years, Nancy was looking for a UU congregation when she moved to the Twin Cities when she found our website. Nancy says that she found MVUUF to be immediately welcoming— not just for the first visit, but every time she's come. She loves that people know her name, greet her warmly, and help her feel connected. We look forward to Nancy being part of our community for many years to come!



COMMITTEES

CONGREGATIONAL CARE RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Care NETWORK is comprised of all members and friends at MVUUF who reach out to each other in times of need, crisis, sadness, or celebration. The Congregational Care COMMITTEE is responsible for connecting members and friends of the Fellowship who have a need or a request at such times with members and friends who have volunteered to help fill those specific needs. We are a committee of seven, and we need your HELP! This is a full-congregational activity.

The Congregational Care Committee coordinates help with rides, food, child care, pet care, visits to shut-ins, and so much more. It also maintains a list of friends who offer short term help. We welcome you to join this important congregational function and encourage you to look for future sign-up opportunities. Call anyone on the committee if you have questions. We're confident you will find it gratifying.

The MVUUF Congregational Care Resource Network

Bobbie Gish	952-941-4417	bobbie002@comcast.net
Carmen Herzog	952-831-7988	carmjlher@aol.com
Donna Kopnick	952-884-1431	lkopnick@comcast.net
Becky McPeck	952-887-2148	racreates@yahoo.com
Betty Olson	952-831-3854	bolsonflute@comcast.net
Leslie Swenson	952-881-9602	kline012@umn.edu
Jan Wolff	952-888-4283	junebug5391@comcast.net
Ruth Keely	952-237-7136	rajpkceely@gmail.com



ENDOWMENT

Don Park. Chair

Endowment Odds and Ends

According to the December 2017 treasurer's report the endowment fund balance is **\$31,924**.

This is invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. The UUA website has all the details about this fund. In general it is conservatively invested. There are withdrawal restrictions. Since we have over \$25,000 in the fund, we can withdraw money four times a year. If our balance went below that we could only withdraw once a year. The finance committee feels that since our withdrawals are limited to 4% of the balance, the four times a year restriction will not be burdensome. We have enough savings to fund a project knowing that

within three months money will come from the UUA Common Endowment Fund to restore the savings.

The current endowment bylaws specify that requests for endowment funds must be submitted for board approval by November 1. Funds will be distributed the following April. The endowment committee would like to streamline this so that requests for funds can be considered as they are made and funds quickly distributed upon approval. We are still working on the exact wording of the proposed bylaw revision which will need to be submitted to the congregation during the annual meeting for approval.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

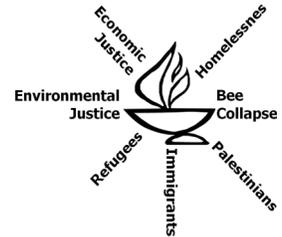
Megan Duffy Sananikone, Chair

GET INVOLVED!

Our next committee meeting is
Monday February 12th, 6:30pm in the Fireside Room.

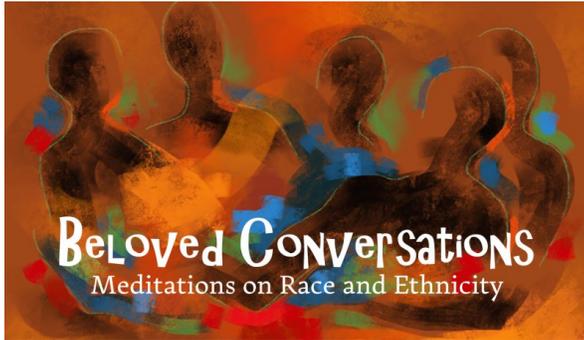
The Social Action Committee meets the second Monday of each month from
6:30-8:30 PM.

All are welcome to attend the meetings!



Racial Justice

Participants of the inaugural session of **Beloved Conversations** will be sharing their thoughts and stories as part of the **February 4th service**. This will be a great way for others in the congregation to get a glimpse into the racial justice work that has started. We are planning to have another group opportunity for Beloved Conversations in the fall of 2018. If you have questions or interest, feel free to reach out to someone who recently participated. The Alumni group of Beloved Conversations participants will be meeting again in March. We hope to provide more opportunities with a focus on racial justice. Soon we'll have a bookshelf in the Fireside room dedicated to books focused in this area.



Save the Date!

April 15, 2018 is the target date for a service from The Chief Defense Attorney for Hennepin County on Racism in the Prison system. More details to come in the March UniSun.

ANNOUNCING: A GARDEN OF SOLAR PANELS IN SHERBORNE COUNTY

Many Unitarians will soon be getting credit for solar power generated at the garden below, while we offset the solar panel and installation costs by our payments to the garden owner. We have been working on this with other congregations for at least 4 years! The option to use solar to generate electricity is neat, but so is letting Xcel know that we value clean energy.

Maybe we will go see it when the weather gets better. In the meantime, hope for many sunny days!





SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Continued

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SHARING: OASIS FOR YOUTH

Sunday Sharing for February will go to Oasis for Youth. Oasis is a drop-in center for homeless and at-risk youth. It serves the communities of Bloomington, Richfield, and Edina, but if a youth shows up from another community they will either serve that youth or find a place that will.

Oasis opened its doors in 2010 after seven local women researched the need for serving homeless and at-risk youth in the community. Two of those women were from this Fellowship. In 2017 there were 2,481 youth visits to Oasis. From an all-volunteer staff in 2010 to a paid staff of seven in 2017, Oasis has grown to meet the needs of youth at risk in our community. Oasis staff make weekly visits to the high schools in these communities and work with school counselors to identify and help youth in need.

Oasis was asked to open a satellite in the Mall of America after it was determined that many youth who came to Oasis for help to find housing, transportation, food, and shelter worked at the mall. That satellite is going on its second year being open and the mall is picking up all the costs for a three-year trial.

Oasis is located in the lower level of the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. It has clothes, food, and personal hygiene supplies as well as housing, health, career, and education counseling. Volunteers are welcome and help youth with class work, transportation, and mentoring.

Oasis has placed youth in the new permanent supportive housing unit, 66 West in Edina, which opened in the spring of 2017. It is still a future goal of OASIS to have emergency and supportive housing for youth in need.

Thanks for your support!



Fascinating Facts for Fascinating Folks

Did you know that MVUUF's foundation for programming, staffing, and brick and mortar is an investment of about \$161,400 a year? Our building, programming, and staffing affect your Sunday morning experience as well as your personal and spiritual growth. The foundation also impacts the gifts of liberal religion that we give to the community.

All of that is possible because of your generous pledges. Thank you!

CLASSES & GROUPS

BRIDGE GROUP

December bridge will be on Saturday, February 17th at 1 p.m.

The bridge group meets the third Saturday of every month from 1-3 p.m. We are always looking for new players! Beginner to expert, all are welcome.

If you are interested, please contact Barbara Hanson at 952-937-5905, or bnehanson@comcast.net.

Come join the fun!

- Barbara Hanson, Coordinator



BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING - "BUILDING COMMUNITY"

These are small informal opportunities to get to know each other better and discuss a wide variety of topics. (We will try to have on the table where we are sitting a small sign that says "UU".) We meet on:

- **1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS** each month from 1:00-2:30 pm at the Edina Panera, located on 3345 Hazelton Rd next to JoAnn Fabrics and across from Target. (February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15)
- **4TH TUESDAY** each month from 1:00-2:30 pm at Jojo's Rise and Wine, located on Nicollet Ave between Route 13 and Burnsville Pkwy in Burnsville. (February 27th, March 27th)

Come when and as often as you like. No need to RSVP. Invite others who might be interested. These are intended for all genders and ages.

Contact Nancy Buckman at nancybmnuu@gmail.com or 952-736-9586 if you have questions and/or if you would like an email reminder for each date.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Did you resolve to read more books in the New Year? Can't decide where to start? We are here to help you keep at least one resolution. Read something on our list, and come to our group's lively discussions. Expand your brain and make friends at the same time. Alternating fiction and nonfiction, our upcoming choices are:

- February 20, 2018— ***Everything I Never Told You*** by Celeste Ng
- March 20, 2018— ***Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*** by James Foreman, Jr.
- April 24, 2018— ***The Hate U Give*** by Angie Thomas (Please note the change in date!)
- May 15, 2018— ***Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*** by Matthew Desmond

The Evening Book Group usually meets throughout the year on the third Tuesday of every month in the Fireside Room at 7PM. Please NOTE the change in date for April. The only requirement is that you read, or attempt to read, the monthly selection. Feel free to come to any or all of the meetings. We welcome newcomers! Questions? Call Joyce McMartin at 952-942-7143 or email at joyceamcmartin@gmail.com.

YOGA

Join us for a gentle yoga class open to all. No preparation or experience needed— just bring a mat and wear comfortable clothes! We meet on **Wednesdays at 5:00pm** and **Saturdays at 9:00am**. Classes cost \$4 each, or you can buy a set of 15 classes for \$50.

This session, we are meeting for classes on the following dates:

Saturdays:

- February 3rd, 10th, and 17th

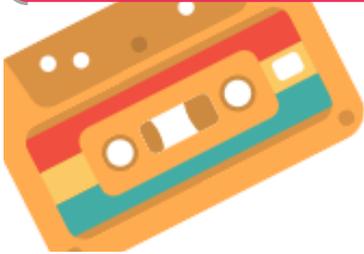
Wednesdays:

- February 7th and 14th

Direct any questions to Fran Bohlke, Yoga instructor — email : bryawnte@msn.com



NOTES TO THE COMMUNITY



GOTTA CASSETTE TAPE PLAYER?

Archives is purging our cassette tapes of GUEST SPEAKERS. If you want to take one (or more) please let Beverly know and she will put the tape(s) in your MVUUF mailbox. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE! For questions, contact Beverly Schmidt at gypsyleap@gmail.com.

1999

Prof. Eric Janus
Sexual Offenders

2007

January 14

Jack Reuler

Dr. King, Theatre, & UU Ambitions

February 18

Betsy Allis

UU Social Justice

April 15

David Lohman

So Great A Cloud of Witness

April 22

Madalyn Cioci, First Unitarian Society.

What Will You Hold in The Palm
of Your Hand

May 6

Anita Makar

The Afternoon of Life – A Bouquet
for Longevity

October 7

Secrets of Breath

2008

March 9

Mike Tikkanen

The Impact of Abuse

December 7

Avis Schorer

Combat Nurses in WWII

2009

March 19

Eleazar Fernandez

Making Our Hearts as Large as The
World

March 29

Chris Bremer

Bending Toward Justice

September 27

Eleazar Fernandez

Fools For Life: Exorcizing Idols

November 1

Dr. Ed. Ehlinger

Health Care

2010

January 10

John Keller

Practical & Compassionate

February 7

Mark Ritchie

Faith & Spirituality in Public Service

November 30

Laura Jensen

Lesbian Educator

2011

January 2

Bob Bledsoe

Busted

April 10

Jonathan Odell

Discovering Our Race Stories

October 16

Marcus Borg

Gospel

October 30

Allan Kohl

Artists' View of American
Landscape

November 4

Mark Griffin

November 13

Eleazar Fernandez

Voice Walking, Audacious Hoping

November 27

Jim Foti

Lifting Our Voices

2012

March 4

Promises, Covenant

March 15

Lori Wilfahrt

Gay Soldier & Son

April 15

Jack Nelson Pallmeyer

Search of Authentic Hope

April 22

J. Drake Hamilton

Earth Day

The Kitchen

After the Sunday services, come downstairs to socialize and get to know each other. Usually there are hot beverages and snacks available.

Now, to have these beverages and snacks, we do need your help. Volunteers (individuals, families and children) are needed to make coffee and plug in the teapot and/or take turns to bring some treats (which can be store bought or homemade) and/or stay after

HELLO! I AM

Please wear your name badges on Sunday mornings. If you need either a new one or a replacement, look for the signup sheet in the entrance hall.

In case you don't know or remember, the colored dots indicate where you live. Besides being colorful, they can be conversation starters! Look for someone else who has the same dot as you and talk about how close you live to one another.



BOARD OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Chair & Board Member	Eva Mach	(651) 226-5949 emach@pro-tecdesign.com
Chair-elect & Board Member	Kelley Hughes	(952) 831-0032 uukelley@hotmail.com
Secretary & Board Member	David Olson	(952) 888-6527 olson199@umn.edu
Treasurer	Dale Lewellyn	(952) 432-9459 treasurer@mnvalleyuu.org

BOARD TRUSTEES

Trustee & Board Member	Max Chester	(952) 388-1186 maxchessler@gmail.com
Trustee & Board Member	Judith Anderson	(952) 941-7047 andersonkj@earthlink.net
Trustee & Board Member	Tom Schoenbauer	952-808-7714 tschoenbauer@hotmail.com
Trustee & Board Member	Diane Bick	952-250-9559 dianeebick@gmail.com

BOARD WORKGROUPS

Zimmer Property	Doug Bruce, Mark Clary, Steve Danko, Eva Mach
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MVUUF STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee	Chair(s)	Phone & Email
Adult Education and Enrichment	Steve Danko	(952) 884-9099 jsg@jsgalleries.com
Aesthetics	Karen Olson	(952) 888-6527 luvzcatz@comcast.net
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Congregational Care	Jan Wolff	(952) 888-4283 junebug5391@comcast.net
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Endowment	Don Park	(612) 836-8485 donfpark@comcast.net
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Music	Betty Olson	(952) 831-3854 bolsonflute@gmail.com
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Operations	Mark Clary	(952) 830-1971 mlfe@aol.com
Personnel	Tom Traub	(952) 435-5855 Tomtraub@charter.net
Religious Education	Steve Danko	(952) 884-9099 jsg@jsgalleries.com
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Stewardship	Jeanne Simpson	(612) 239-1240 jems.ellen@gmail.com
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Minister of Music
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Youth Coordinator
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(612) 216-4113

Custodian & Operations
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Internet
Home Page: www.mnvalleyuu.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mnvalleyuu

Website Coordinator
Michael Baynton, webmaster@mnvalleyuu.org

The Board of Trustees meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The meetings are open to all members of the Fellowship.

UNI-SUN Item Submission Information

The submission deadline date for the UNI-SUN is the 20th of each month.
Submit articles to the Newsletter Editor via email to newsletter@mnvalleyuu.org

MVUUF CALENDAR ~ FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am Caucus Training 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Membership Co 11:45am Meditation Gro 12:30pm Worship Associ	29	30	31 5pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Feb 1 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc 7pm Caucus Training Ev	2	3 9am Yoga Class 10:15am Women's Group
4 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am Program Comm	5	6	7 5pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30am Women's Spiritu 10:30am Women's Book 6:30pm Men's Group	9 10:15am Blue Highways 7pm Friday Night Poker	10 9am Yoga Class
11 9am Religion, Ethics, an 10:30am Sunday Service	12 6:30pm Social Action Co	13 10am Book Club 7pm Finance Committee	14 5pm Yoga Class 5:30pm C.O.S.M. meetin 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Board of Trustees	15 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	16	17 9am Yoga Class 1pm Bridge Club
18 10:30am Sunday Service 11:45am General Assembl	19	20 7pm Evening Book Club	21 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22 9:30am Women's Spiritu	23-24 Mission and Vision Weekend 10:15am Blue Highways 8:30am Search for the Fi	
25 Mission and Vision W 10:30am Sunday Service 4:30pm AFS Meeting	26	27 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	28 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Mar 1 9:30am Women's Spiritu 1pm Beyond Sunday Mc	2	3

MVUUF 10715 Zenith Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

We are a Welcoming Congregation