

FEBRUARY 2018

EXPRESSION



NEWSLETTER of the
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Minnetonka
Wayzata, Minnesota
www.uucmtka.org

UUCM SAYS FAREWELL TO REV KENT

On Sunday, February 4th there will be a farewell service for Reverend Kent Saleska. It will include a Farewell Ritual, Vows of Release and an opportunity to thank Kent for his decade of service to UUCM. Afterwards there will be cake and refreshments to share. There will also be note cards available and a box to place them in so congregants can write a personal note to Kent.

The Board wants to sincerely thank Kent for his years of dedication and service to our community; for challenging us to greater social justice; and for inspiring us and persevering through the significant accomplishments of UUCM in the past decade.

The next steps planned by the Board are:

- We are planning the February 4th farewell service for Reverend Kent Saleska with the Worship Arts Ministry. It will include Farewell ritual, vows of release and an opportunity to thank Kent.
- We will be working with Ian Evison of UUA MidAmerica Region to assist in the management of our transition. Consulting from the UUA and UU Minister's association is covered by UUA through our congregational dues.
- We will appoint a small group to work on the application for an interim minister. The applications are due April 17th for an August 1st start date.
- In the meantime, the Board, the Staff and the Ministries, including the Worship Arts Ministry WAM, are working together to maintain continuity. WAM is currently preparing services beyond Feb. 4th. They may use the UUA Targeted Minister Program for speakers for some of the services in the spring if necessary. Fred Hulting continues to manage the finances and Karen Zais has returned as the interim treasurer.
- The Board will also be working with a consultant to assist the Board and other key leaders in reviewing policies, procedures, organizational structures and practices. The consultant would then provide facilitation, training, consultation and support as needed. The Board is using the Board budget plus contributions from Board members to cover the costs of the national consultant recommended by Ian Evison, UUA MidAmerica Region staff.

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UUCM MISSION STATEMENT

"In a spirit of wonder and with courageous love, we connect, grow, and act".



The monthly theme for this month is Perseverance. As we move forward in the midst of change I found stories from the Soul Matter readings related to the topic of Perseverance most helpful.

A boy and his father... 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.... 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."
 ~Rabbi David Wolf

What a gift to remember that perseverance isn't a solo act. In this church, during this time of change, I was grateful for this perseverance poem by Rev. Rudy Nemser, UU minister:

Long-Haul People

*You find them in churches, when you're lucky;
 other places too, though I mostly only know
 ecclesiastical varieties.
 Long haul people
 upon whose shoulders (and pocketbooks
 and casseroles and daylight/nighttime hours)
 a church is built and maintained
 They...mow lawns and come to suppers;
 teach Sunday School...*

*... The church—their church—will be here,
 steady and hale. For a long, long time. It will.
 For long haul people bless a church with a
 very special blessing.*

For the past five months, the Board, Reverend Kent and consultants from the UUA and other experts worked to address strained relationships within UUCM. We all came to the realization that it was in the best interests of the Minister and UUCM to part ways. We thank Rev. Kent for his ten years of service and for challenging us to greater social justice actions.

During February and March, we will apply for an Interim minister who would begin service in August. In the meantime, the Board, the Staff and the Ministries, including the Worship Arts Ministry, are working together to maintain continuity. The Board will also be working with a consultant to assist the Board and other key leaders in reviewing policies, procedures, organizational structures and practices. The consultant would then provide facilitation, training, consultation and support as needed.



When we struggle through hard experiences, they become part of us. We do need to find healthy ways to integrate hard experiences into our lives. May we hold hands, persevere, and integrate these changes into our lives together.

Sharon Charles,
Member, Board of Trustees
scharles.mn@gmail.com

Long-Haul People,
by Rev. Rudy Nemser

*You find them in churches
when you're lucky;
other places too....*

*Long haul people
upon whose shoulders
(and pocketbooks and casseroles
and daylight/nighttime hours)
a church is built and maintained....*

*They pay their pledges full and on time
even when the music's modern;
support each canvass though the sermons aren't
always short;
mow lawns and come to suppers;
teach Sunday School when
there's no one else and they'll miss the service.
Asked what they think of the minister,
or plans for the kitchen renovation,
or the choral anthem, or Christmas pageant,
or color of the bathroom paint,
they'll reply: individuals and fashions
arrive and pass.*

*The church—their church—will be here, steady
and hale. For a long, long time. It will.
For long haul people bless a church
with a very special blessing.*

I have always loved this reading because it speaks strongly to one of my most valued ethical principles instilled by my parents. It is not relevant just to church. For them it applied to nearly every institution, organization or group they chose to have as part of their lives and their family.

Basically it meant that when something needed doing, and if you had the ability to do it, you did it. This value was not driven by martyrdom, as in doing because others would not, nor out of the need for control and perfection (though I personally have an unfortunate bias towards those). And it never implied that you would be alone in the process. You do your part as best you can because that is what it means to be part



of a workplace, church, family, social cause, neighborhood, country or dance club. At the very least, you show up and participate.

This is what comes to mind for me when I think about perseverance, this month's congregational theme. It involves choice, and not necessarily easy choice, because we individually only have a certain amount of time and energy. Plus there is more sustaining reward when we give back to the things we treasure most as opposed to every opportunity encountered. That only leads to exhaustion and burn-out.

In the last several months I have been greatly impressed by the number of people of perseverance we have been blessed with at UUCM. In the midst of ministerial and other transitions, "long haul people" are especially helpful. Be assured that "The church... will be here, steady and hale. For a long, long time. It will." May this congregation move forward together with perseverance and joy.

Andrea Heier,
Director of Religious Education
dre@uucmtka.org

Heartfelt Thanks from Andrea!

I am so grateful to the members, friends and staff who have shared expressions, messages and cards of condolence with me and my sister, Paul Ostrom, as my father entered hospice and subsequently died this month. I am particularly thankful to the leadership who have graciously stepped up to fill my shoes throughout the month of January, allowing me time to be present to my family throughout. There will be a service to celebrate his life on Feb. 25, the day before what would have been his 96th birthday, at 3pm at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. I recently have resumed office hours and some responsibilities, and will be fully "back in the saddle" on Feb. 4th to kick off Spring Term. Feel free to be in touch about any church business.

FIRST HOUR IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 4th Self Care for Winter

Winter getting you down? Learn some self care tips, specific to Winter, days that are long and dark. Experiential and group sharing based class. Come prepared to leave your winter stress behind. Facilitated by Laurie Moser.

Sunday, February 11th Meditation for Everybody

Participants will be introduced to three different forms of meditation. During the class we will sit in chairs to learn and practice the three forms with time for discussion in between. Facilitated by Troy Couillard.

Sunday, February 18th Exploring UU History and Beliefs

This class is part 1 of a 2-part class on a path to membership at UUCM, allowing participants to



share their own spiritual journeys and to interactively explore a broad overview of Unitarian and Universalist history and what it means to be a UU. Current members and friends are very welcome to join in the class also. Facilitated by Gary Charles,

Membership Ministry.

Sunday, February 25th

Learn about two early activists and UU Twin Cities Women

Clara Ueland, a member of the first Unitarian church in Minneapolis in the early 20th Century and her daughter Brenda, a member of First Universalist Church until 1985, helped shape the progressive culture of Minneapolis. Clara's role as a civic leader is honored in the State capitol. Brenda's contribution came as a noted writer. Come and learn about these dynamic women! Hosted by Christy Dachelet and Brenda Golbus.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

EXPLORING UUism

In these classes, you'll have an opportunity to briefly share your individual spiritual journey and to explore whether membership in UUCM feels right for you. There are two classes in this series, both offered during the First Hour on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM. Visitors and friends who are interested in membership at UUCM should take both of these classes, in any order. The class called "Exploring UU History and Beliefs" allows participants to interactively explore a broad overview of Unitarian and Universalist history and what it means to be a UU. In the class called "Exploring UUCM", we will continue to respond to your questions, and explore information and opportunities about our particular



church and how we relate to the wider UU Region and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Here is the upcoming schedule:

Exploring UU History and Beliefs:

Sunday, February 18th at 9:00 AM
(Please note the change of date)

Exploring UUCM:

Sunday, March 18th at 9:00 AM

There are five expectations of membership in our voluntary association:

- Have a spiritual practice
- Pledge
- Serve the congregation
- Serve the wider world
- Come to Sunday services

2018 WOMEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for the 2018 UUCM annual Women's Retreat for the weekend of October 5th and 6th, 2018. The retreat will be held at Camp Eden Wood and the theme this year will be "The Power of Laughter". Hosts this year will be Janna Sundby, MaryAnn Wiborg, Rebecca Halat and Jessica Shogren-Carlson.

POT LUCK FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Come and join us on Saturday, February 24th, from 5:00 - 8:00 PM at UUCM for a Family Potluck and Game Night! You don't even have to cook dinner! Please bring a dish and a game to share. We will nibble and play together! All ages are welcome.



GODDESS PROJECT MOVIE AND DISCUSSION

Come and join us on Friday, March 9th, from 7:00 - 10:00 PM for an exclusive screening of **The Goddess Project**, with discussion to follow. You can't watch this film on any channel on your TV! Please feel free to invite your Goddess MEN & WOMEN friends!

Here is a synopsis of the film:

Determined to empower the feminine voice, two aspiring filmmakers packed their lives into a school bus for what became the most transformative adventure of their lives



Through powerful conversations with over 100 women from different walks of life, the Goddess Project gives an intimate look into the collective experience that women in the United States face

today. Movie will start promptly at 7:00 PM, so come a bit early if you want to catch up with others before the show. Bring popcorn or snacks to share if you would like. Coffee, water and tea will be provided. Young women and men may also be

inspired by this movie (suggested ages - 12 and older). Cost: \$10 per person. All proceeds will go to UUCM to support the cost of hosting this film.

LIFE PASSAGES

If you recently experienced a great joy, a significant challenge, or a deep pain, and are open to reaching out and sharing (or if you want to join our Care Team), please contact any member of our Care Team: Jan Geigle, Lea Hosley, Deanne Magnusson, or Sue Asinger. Our love and support go out to each of these families.

Herb Purdy, father of Paula Ostrom and Andrea Heier, passed away peacefully at home on January 12th surrounded by his family. Herb, 95, was active at FUS and Camp Unistar. Herb was a very energetic, classy, kind, loving decent good man. He was loved by his family and will be missed dearly. His body will be donated to the University. A memorial service will be held at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis on Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 PM.

UUCM member Carol June (Christoffel) Papke. Carol, aged 90, passed away January 25, 2018 in Minneapolis MN. Born in Milwaukee in 1927, Carol

graduated from Downer College with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. In 1975, Carol moved to Washington DC to work as the Executive Director of the Fund for an Open Society, a nonprofit that worked to integrate housing complexes around the country. Then in 1976, she moved to St. Croix, US Virgin Islands where she taught art in an elementary school for twenty years. She was also a founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Croix, USVI. In 1994, she retired and moved to Fort Myers, Florida. During her twenty years there, she served as a substitute art teacher, served on the board of Habitat for Humanity, and was a founding member of the All Faiths Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Myers, Florida. Carol moved up to the Twin Cities in June of 2015 to be closer to her family, and joined UUCM, as her son Rob Papke and daughter-in-law Rebecca were already members here. A memorial service was held for Carol on Saturday, January 27th at 1:30 PM at the chapel in Folkestone.

FEBRUARY SOCIAL GENEROSITY

Our FEBRUARY social generosity offering will go to support CAIR Minnesota (Council on American Islamic Relations). CAIR, America's largest Islamic civil liberties and advocacy group has 35 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the



understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. Further details can be found at <https://www.cairmn.com>. Thank you for your continued generosity!

UUCM AFFINITY GROUPS

Meditation Group

The meditation group meets Mondays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Chapel downstairs. All are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like an introduction to meditation contact Troy Couillard at coolyard@icloud.com.

Venerable Women Group

The Venerable Women meet on the second Friday of each month, and will meet next on **Friday, February 9th, 2018** at noon at UUCM in the community room. The hosts this month are Sue Asinger and Lea Hosley. Please bring your own lunch, hosts will provide beverage and dessert. This month the topic of discussion is "What surprises you about the age that you are?". Please RSVP to Sue Asinger at sueasinger@yahoo.com or call her at 612-703-2297.

Venerable Men Group

Each month, on the first Tuesday, the Venerable Men meet at the Original Pancake House on Hwy 101 and County Road 6 in Plymouth. The next meeting is planned for **Tuesday, February 6th** at 8:00 AM. The group of 8 to 10 men always welcome more breakfasters! If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Johnson at jnanjer@icloud.com.

Women Who Read Book Group

The *Women Who Read* Book Club will meet on **Monday, February 12th** at 7:00 PM at UUCM in the Community Room to discuss the book *On Living* by Kerry Egan. Please contact Christy Dachelet at czdachelet@gmail.com if you have any questions. New members are always welcome!

Monday Morning Book Group

The *UUCM Monday Morning* Book club meets next on **Monday, February 19th** at 11:00 AM at UUCM in the Community Room. The group will be discussing *The Middle of Everywhere* by Mary Piper. Please direct any questions to Bev Montgomery at bevmontgomery@comcast.net. New members are always welcome.

Men's Book Group

The new Men's Book Club is off to a great start. We held our first meeting on January 16th at the church. There were seven of us attending the discussion of "Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse. The next meeting of the Men's Book Club will be held on **Tuesday, February 27th** at 7:00 PM at UUCM in the Oak room. Please mark it on your calendars. The book we've chosen for our next meeting is "Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth" by Reza Aslan. If you have questions, please contact Adam Schenck (schencka1@gmail.com) or Gary Charles (gcharles.mn@gmail.com).