



March-April Connections

2019

Join Us in Worship

March 3

An Unfolding Journey of Unitarian Universalism
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering: Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

March 10

On our Way
Fourth Grade Chalice Ceremony
Rev. Emily Gage
Offering: Hopital Albert Schweitzer

March 17

Crossing Boundaries
Rev. Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering: UU Prison Ministry of IL

March 24

My Journey with Whiteness
Rev. Scott Aaseng
Offering: UU Advocacy Network of IL (UUANI)

March 31

Seeking Refuge
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

(continued on next page)

A People of Journey

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your life journey, you are welcome here.” Each of us find ourselves at a unique place on our life journey.

And if we get in touch with our own stories, our lives are full of journeys, journeys out into the world where we ultimately return home with greater wisdom and inward journeys that beckon us to know ourselves more clearly and honestly. Both kinds of journeys can transform us. Both can bring us more alive. And stories are the way we transmit what we learn from them.

I have long identified with how Martin Buber, a Hasidic rabbi of the mid-twentieth century, described the religious life. He said that when fully alive as human beings, we traverse “the narrow ridge.” The narrow ridge is where,



Soul Connections
March Theme: JOURNEY
Download the March packet [here](#).
April Theme: WHOLENESS

(continued on next page)



Rev. Alan C. Taylor,
Senior Minister
ataylor@unitytemple.org

Worship *(Continued)*

April 7

Turning Toward Wholeness

Rev. Alan Taylor

Offering: National Alliance on Mental
Illness (NAMI)

April 14

Choir Sunday

Offering: West Suburban Action
Project / Proyecto de Accion de los
Suburbios del Oeste (PASO)

April 21

The Heart of our Remembering

Rev. Emily Gage

Offering: Hephzibah

April 28

Comming of Age Worship Service

Offering: Austin Scholarship program
of Third Unitarian Church

despite our uncertainties and aware of our vulnerability, we venture into a world of ambiguity and commit to living vibrant, engaged lives.

When living on “the narrow ridge,” we don’t always take the safe or convenient route but instead respond to where life and love are calling us. But this requires us to be open to the encounter with life and love. Martin Buber noted that we are capable of encountering life and other people through an I-Thou relationship where we are transformed by the relationship, or through an I-It relationship where we remain detached and unengaged.

As Howard Thurman notes in *For The Inward Journey*: “For some, there can be no security in life apart from being surrounded by the broad expanse of a country in which all landmarks are clear and the journey is along a well-worn path. ... The one great fear is the fear of change, the one great dread is the dread of strangeness.”

There is strength in cultivating routines and rituals. But there is a risk in creating a rut--a behavior pattern that prevents us from honest encounter with what is going on in, among, or beyond us. When we seek to live behind a sure and continuous windbreak, our days come and go without a sense of endurance. We risk dying while we are alive.

I agree with Martin Buber that life is at its best when lived “on the narrow ridge.” For we are intentionally taking a journey. We live with anticipation. While we recognize the need for routines and addressing the demands of everyday life, the meaning of our lives is not limited to the daily grind. There is always the possibility of unexpected joy, of an encounter that broadens our understanding, of an opportunity to act in relationship with another.

When living “on the narrow ridge,” the moments of ordinary living are infused with a vitality that helps us recognize that, in the words of Howard Thurman, “Life can be trusted to fulfill itself in the big Moment and the ordinary event, that what a person demands of life must never be more than what one is willing to believe about life.”

The more we live on the narrow ridge, the more we encourage and support others to do so. And when we see another willing to navigate life on the narrow ridge, it inspires us to follow suit. May we explore the theme of *Journey* from that place of traversing the narrow ridge!

Warmly,

In case you were wondering, the oldest email I was able to find in my Gmail inbox that contains the term “Policy Governance” is from April 6, 2007. It’s an old Unity Temple E-News. One of the events listed was a Town Hall on May 6 to discuss our transition to Policy Governance. It’s possible, if there was free child care provided, that my wife Rebeccah and I attended as a “date.” It’s also quite possible that after church that day, our kids would have either been ready for a snack, a nap, or an Arthur. We were in good company, and would be today. Members with young kids struggle to be anywhere that doesn’t directly engage and feed their kids.

There aren’t a lot of things I remember about the first 10 years of parenthood. I do remember making our exit from coffee hour fast enough to avoid being pulled into the Annual Meeting for several years running. That doesn’t speak to a lack of interest or even a lack of involvement, given how much time we spent doing things for Religious Education and retreats. However, in the case of the Annual

Meeting, quorums were met, budgets were passed, the “business of the congregation” went on without us.

Shortly after this year’s annual meeting, I spent Christmas break thinking about what I wanted to prioritize as President in 2019. In my past two years on the Board, we’ve transitioned from a group understandably immersed in the restoration project to one cautiously walking back to the discipline of Policy Governance, with a backlog of work to do on the Policy Manual and Bylaws. The past three presidents (Alec Brownlow, Dan Crimmins, and Rob Belmar) still remain actively involved in projects that have roots in their own tenures as president. What will my project be? For now, I’m fixated on making what the Board does accessible to the entire congregation.

In the coming months, we’re going to be trying new ways to connect with “all y’all.” While we have a target of a more inclusive Annual Meeting, we’re also looking to share our policy ideas with you more frequently and perhaps get your help in composing them. We

March 12 / 6:30-8:30

April 9 / 6:30-8:30

1019 South Blvd.

Board meetings are open.

Please email board@unitytemple.org with questions

met for a retreat on February 9. The primarily goal was to onboard our new members Stephanie Kiesling, Julie Willoughby, and Kimberly Brumirski; however, we also brainstormed ideas we can try this year. If you have any thoughts, please reach out to me at president@unitytemple.org.

In closing, I would like to thank our outgoing President (Alec Brownlow) as well as Clara Lewis and Anne Devaud for their generous participation on the Board of Trustees and individually for everything I continue to learn from them. Last year was a real turning point in how we run the Board, and I’m thankful for such a solid platform to build upon.

David Willard

President, Board of Trustees

Plans are mostly completed for the handling of congregational business while Rev. Taylor takes the second half of his well-earned sabbatical. He will be away April 17, 2019 through Aug. 13th, 2019. A “Guide For Rev. Alan Taylor’s Sabbatical Plan” will explain who is handling what during Rev. Taylor’s absence. A link will be made available before April. It will assist you in determining who to contact about questions you may have during his absence. This plan is very similar to the one put out during the first half, which went very smoothly. In the meantime, if you have questions, you are welcome to talk to Rev. Taylor or talk with Terry Kinsey, chairperson of the sabbatical team or one of the other team members, Shirley Lundin, Kathy Clark, or Larry Kameya or email sabbatical@unitytemple.org.



Rev. Emily Gage,
Minister of Faith Development
egage@unitytemple.org

What Does It Mean To Be a People of Journey?

Leo Tolstoy once said: “All great literature is one of two stories: a [person] goes on a journey, or a stranger comes to town.” I heard this once, years ago, and though I didn’t remember who said it until I Googled it just now, the idea has never left me. It’s something I ponder from time to time--is this a story in which a person sets out from the familiar into the unknown or is it a story in which someone new comes into what was familiar from the unknown? I don’t know why it’s stuck with me so much; perhaps it’s because I wonder if

it’s really true--can we sort most stories into one or the other?

This question may or may not interest you, but it’s one way of pondering the idea of journey--it doesn’t necessarily mean we need to set out on the road to grow and change and learn. Sometimes others help us see what is all around us in a brand new way, and from that we can grow and change and learn. Sometimes we offer that gift to another. We often tell the stories of journey as individual explorations, but the truth is that our journeys are enriched by, perhaps even impossible without, learning from others.

Being a people of journey comes naturally to Unitarian Universalists, since we uphold and celebrate the ongoing quest for truth and meaning. We know we haven’t found all the

answers and we’re okay with that. (Mostly. Most of the time. Sometimes it’s hard.) It’s in the journey itself that we often find meaning--the continual exploration of what it all means, who we are, where we are going, and so on and so forth. And the company we keep while we are doing all of that.

When I’m preparing for a literal journey, I tend to pack economically, although I do sometimes add things that maybe aren’t strictly necessary--you know, just in case. (This usually applies to reading material. Apparently I have a deep seated fear of being somewhere without something to read.) Our family recently purchased a very large suitcase (larger than it looked online), and now it feels like we have a little more room either coming or going. Not sure if that’s good or bad yet. I’ll let you know after our next trip.

What kind of traveler are you? Or rather, what kind of packer are you? Have you been taking some things on your journey that you’d be better off without? Or have you been traveling without some precious item (or person) that you really need? Sometimes we are carrying things around without even really realizing it, and they may or may not be helpful. One thing that might be important to do during this month of exploring journey is taking a good look at your baggage.

Whether you’re a stranger coming to town, or in town welcoming a stranger, may you find good company and keep on learning on this month’s journey.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Adult Religious Enrichment

Interested in exploring some of the different theological perspectives within Unitarian Universalism?

There is time to sign up for third class of the series. Using the books from the series Voices in Unitarian Universalism there will be different discussion on the material presented.

Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism

Sunday, March 10 1-3 p.m. and
Sunday, March 17 1-3 p.m.
1019 South Boulevard
Facilitated by Stephanie Sideman

Registration encouraged, but not required, at adultre@unitytemple.org. There are a couple of books available for loan at Unity Temple during coffee hour, or they can be purchased at the Ex-Libris Bookstore.

"Cakes For The Queen Of Heaven"

Religious education opportunity for adults and mature teens (with parental permission) who identify as female. "Cakes For the Queen of Heaven" is a woman honoring, feminist spirituality curriculum focusing on pre-Judeo Christian cultures of ancient Europe that may have worshipped the female as divine. "Cakes" was published in 1980 and updated in 2007. Meets Thursdays March 7-April 4, 2019 7-9pm at the UT Community Center located at 1019 South Blvd. A five week commitment is required. Register and request childcare at adultre@unitytemple.org. Facilitated by Kathy Moroz & Jennifer Evans. **NOTE:** Cakes will not meet on Thursday March 21 due to the Spring Equinox celebration. The 5th and final class will be on April 11.

Soul Connections

Are you hoping to connect with other people from our congregation? Are you wanting to deepen your experience of being a Unitarian Universalist? Are you looking for a way to renew your spirit? Soul Connections is a great way to answer all these questions. Rev. Emily Gage at egage@unitytemple.org with questions.

Resource Packets for the March Soul Connection can be downloaded [here](#).

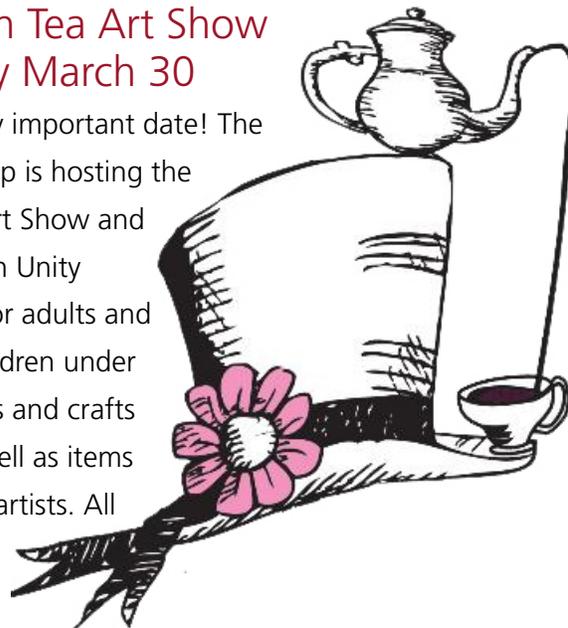
Upcoming Themes:

March ~ Journey
April ~ Wholeness
May ~ Curiosity
June ~ Beauty

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Mad Hatter's High Tea Art Show and Sale Saturday March 30

Don't be late for this very important date! The Unity Temple Youth Group is hosting the Mad Hatter's High Tea Art Show and Sale from 3:00-5:30pm in Unity House. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 8 and older. Children under eight are free. Peruse arts and crafts made by our youth, as well as items donated from local-area artists. All art will be available for purchase. There will also



be a music program featuring our talented youth musicians. Tea and snacks will be served. All proceeds go towards the youth group heritage trip to Boston May 24-27, 2019. Step through the looking glass into a world of beautiful arts and crafts. We guarantee you'll leave with a Cheshire-sized smile!

Religious Education Calendar

March 3 Regular Classes
March 10 Worship For All Ages*
March 17 Faith in Action for All Ages
March 24 Regular Classes
March 31 Regular Classes
April 7 Regular Classes
April 14 Regular Classes
April 21 Easter Activities For All Ages
April 28 Regular RE Classes /
Coming of Age Service

*Fourth grade Chalice Ceremony

Mindful Reflection Community

Sacred Wanderings is a component of the Mindful Reflection Community at Unity Temple. We meet the 3rd Saturday of every month, no matter what the weather conditions, from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m. at Thatcher Woods, near the North Pavilion. Sacred Wandering combines “Forest Bathing,” part of Japanese tradition, with meditation/mindfulness and Buddhist concepts. We have been meeting for 10 months—in beautiful sunny weather, rain, very warm temperatures, mosquito-intense days, and, this January, during a glorious snow storm. Come and join us! For more information, contact Terry Kinsey at mindful@unitytemple.org.



From **Thursday, April 25 through Sunday, April 28, 2019**, the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship Biennial Meeting will take place at the Garrison Institute in Garrison, N.Y. Dr. Jan Willis will be the keynote speaker and her topic will be: “Making the Invisible Visible: A Multimedia Exploration of Race and Racism in the US through a Buddhist Lens.” *Ebony Magazine* named Dr. Willis one of the top 150 influential African-Americans in the United States. She has taught Buddhist courses for over 40 years and has written many books and articles. Meditation, dharma talks, breakout groups, and discussion will occur throughout the weekend, which is not to be missed! To register and to obtain additional information: [here](#). Terry Kinsey from the Mindful Reflection Community will be attending this retreat and we hope that others from Unity Temple will attend as well. If you have any questions about this retreat please contact Terry at mindful@unitytemple.org.

On Tuesday, **April 30**, at the regular Mindful Reflection Community meeting from 7:00—9:00pm in Unity House, we will have a special guest live: dharma teacher Rev. Florence Caplow. Florence is senior minister at Urbana Champaign Unitarian Universalist Church and a Soto Zen Buddhist priest. She is on the board of directors of the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship and was the keynote speaker at last year’s MidAmerican Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship meeting. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to meet Florence, hear her dharma talk, and interact with her! Dana (financial generosity) will be received.

The UU Buddhist Fellowship’s winter newsletter “Sangha” just came out. In it was an article I wrote answering the questions “What Brought You To UU Buddhism”. You can read it [here](#).





Music Ministry

Martha Swisher,
Music Director
music@unitytemple.org



Spring Music Festival 2019

The annual Spring Music Festival showcases the outstanding talent of members and friends of the congregation. Anchored by our own Unity Temple Players (our house band), this not-to-be-missed event includes professionals as well as the very best amateur talent of our musical family. Proceeds provide scholarships for Chicago Public School students who compete for one of three \$1,000 awards applied to voice instruction and benefit the Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation Music Program.

Tickets are: \$15 presale/\$20 at the door; \$5 children (13 and under). Tickets go on sale after services beginning March 24. Cash, check or credit card payments are accepted. Tickets are available online with a credit card payment via Brown Paper Tickets **here**. Tickets purchased through the Brown Paper Tickets website should be picked up at Will Call after 6:30 p.m. on May 4. A limited number of tickets will be sold at Unity Temple prior to the start of the performance for \$20/adult; \$5/child (13 and under).

Monetary donations are also welcomed and encouraged. Make checks payable to UTUUC with SMF in the memo line and mail to: UTUUC SMF, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60302.

Your attendance and/or support are sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Spring Music Festival committee at: springmusic@unitytemple.org.

Music at Unity Temple for March begins with a guest appearance by the Eliot Chapel Choir, who serve that Kirkwood, Mo., congregation. Combined choirs will present music for March 3 services, which will include Nick Page's famous rendition of "Choose to Bless the World" as well as a rousing arrangement of the song "Draw the Circle Wide."

The 2019 Winter Chalice Singers will present music for March 10 services. Under the direction of their new conductor Nicole Henderson, these 30 young singers have prepared two inspiring numbers.

The Unity Temple Bells are ringing in the March 17 service with a multi-generational ensemble. Member and director Alice Muciek leads this group of musicians. Many are experienced ringers and others are playing for the very first time.

On March 24, the 2019 Unity Temple Vocal Music Scholarship Competition winners will perform. These talented young singers will sing twice for our services, once at the beginning of their private instruction and once during the final lessons. With funds raised by the proceeds of the Spring Music Festivals, the Vocal Music Scholarship Competition awards three \$1,000 scholarships for private vocal lessons to high school students.

The Unity Temple Choir will sing a tender anthem on March 31 entitled "Good Night, Dear Heart." The text for this work is taken from the epitaph Mark Twain wrote for his daughter's headstone

April brings the theme of Wholeness and the Unity Temple singers will perform for our April 7 Welcome Sunday. The following Sunday, April 14, is Choir Sunday! A work by UU composer John

Kramer, entitled "The Immigrant Experience," will be presented with instrumentalists; tenor, baritone, and soprano soloists; and the choir. This exciting composition is presented in seven short movements describing the hopes and dreams as well as the disillusionment of those immigrating to this country. The offering will be collected for immigration support services.

April 21 is traditional Easter Sunday and the choir will be in full force singing a celebratory gospel number and also an Earth Day reflection.

The music program is hard at work with the 2020 Schubert Festival+ planning, the Vocal Music Scholarship Competition, organizing for the Women Inspired by Song Ensemble, Unity Temple Chalice Singers, choir and a cappella ensemble. We welcome your involvement not only in performance, but also in the help needed for promotion, program collation, dishwashing, ushering, and all the things that make our music serve this loving congregation. Please contact Marty Swisher if you are willing to lend helping hands to any of our events or ensemble experiences.



Congregational Life

Tina Lewis,
Membership Director
tlewis@unitytemple.org

Welcome New Members!

The following people joined the congregation in January: Monica Angelo, Timothy Coon, Roxanne Kazda, Caroline O'Neill, George and Mona Pain, Laura Rodriguez, Anne Wright Schmidt, and Alec Ubogy. We are delighted to have you among our community!

Thank you, Jeff Libert and Rebeccah Willard for facilitating the January Pathway to Membership class.

Journey and Wholeness, what interesting themes for us to grapple with together over the next two months. My good friend and colleague, Marie Luna who serves the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has this to say about "the journey to belonging" in congregational life, "Belonging to a congregation is a journey of deepening connection and growth. The journey may be only for a year or decades. It may progress into membership. Rather than membership being an either/or, in/out thing, it is really an evolving relationship, growing richer over time as we learn more about ourselves and how our Principles call us to live. It starts when we visit a website or go to an event, and gets stronger as we attend worship regularly, join the parents' group, participate in an online small group ministry circle, sign the membership book, teach

in religious education, participate in a Facebook event, take on leadership roles, etc. It does not stop when we become a member but rather continues to the highest levels of dedication and leadership. Being in community is a give-and-take. We look forward to the gifts you have to share and hope you will find value in what we bring to this community." I love the way she thinks about the journey one might have in a faith community. Indeed our journey together is a deepening of connection and growth which can be there through the twists and turns of our lives. I am really looking forward to exploring these themes and discovering new things about myself as well as you in the months to come. May our journey together bring us joy and lead us to more wholeness.

Peace and all good things,
Tina

Upcoming Events & Activities

Young Adults Meeting If you are in your 20's or 30's and you'd like to be part of our youngish adult group, please join us! We meet every other Saturday beginning at 6:30pm at the UT Community Center located at 1019 South Blvd. We will talk about social justice initiatives and engage in discussions reflecting topics chosen by the group. Upcoming meeting dates are March 9 & 23, April 6 & 20. For more information contact youngadults@unitytemple.org

Creative Writer's Group Is there a story lurking between your ears-haunting you, demanding your write it down and share it with trustworthy people who also are equally possessed? Our new writers group will meet on the second Sunday of the month at the Unity Temple Community Center located at 1019 South Blvd frp, 6-8pm. Please join us! For more information contact John Taylor at writersgroup@unitytemple.org



Spring Equinox Celebration Join the earth centered spirituality group to welcome the Spring Equinox! We will bring in the light half of the year with chant, dance, and ritual, followed by seasonal refreshments and social time. Event takes place on March 21 at 7pm, Unity House. All ages and genders are welcome. Babysitting is available with one week advance notice. earthcentered@unitytemple.org

Attention All Women! Please join us for a Poetry Share and Culture Exchange, Friday, April 12, 7-10 pm at the Unity Temple Community Center, 1019 South Blvd.

Did you know that April is Poetry Month? We will celebrate by reading aloud our favorite poems. Original poetry is welcome, too!

You are also invited to share something meaningful that is representative of "your" culture: food, clothing, photos, art, literature, music, and dance! Let us know if you have AV needs.

We will have soda and snacks on hand, cheese and crackers and fruit. Bringing something to share is appreciated, but not necessary. Childcare is available, if requested by April 5. We hope to see (and hear from you) at the event! Questions? Contact womensconnection@unitytemple.org

2019 Auction: Building Relationships Through Our Member Auction

We did it: we had a bunch of fun, raised a bunch of money and made a bunch of new friends!

Our 2019 auction was a tremendous success. We received 257 donations (maybe the most ever), enjoyed spectacular auction celebrations, and raised over \$10,000 during our first day of bidding.

The **fun** began in January as we developed new ideas for donations and continued into February and March with our kick-off celebration, friendly bidding, and closing celebration. But the fun didn't end there. Winning bidders will be enjoying their purchases throughout the year, until the auction comes around again in 2020.

We appreciate the generosity of our members in helping us reach our second goal of raising money to support the ministries of our congregation. The final totals are not in yet, but we anticipate final revenue to be substantial, having had such a successful first day.

Our third goal for this year's auction was to make new friends (**building relationships within our congregation**). We hope you were able to meet new people as we celebrated our auction activities. And with over 100 meals, events, and adventures purchased in the auction, and with so many new people becoming involved in sponsoring and bidding, we anticipate those relationships will get stronger throughout the year.

Thank you from the 2019 auction team!

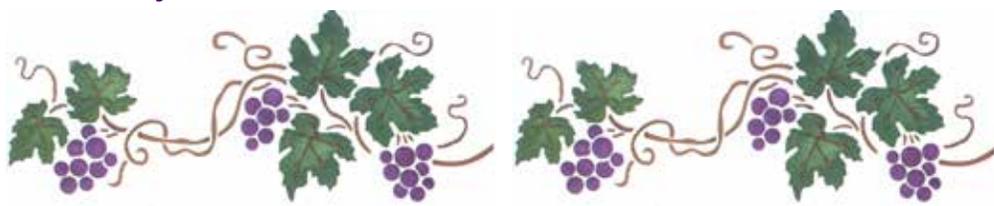


2019 Auction co-chairs:

Mila Tellez and Paul Beckwith

Team members:

Barb Heskett, Carolyn Skipper, Carolyn Walter, Connie Strait, Corrine Rohr, Denise Seeber, Jerry Seeber, Laura Reeb, Marsha Borders, Meg Herman, Molly Surowitz, Nile Wendorf, Paul Geiger, Ralph Earlandson, Ruth Babcock, Susan Huizenga, and Tracy Welin





Rev. Colleen Vahey
Faith in Action Coordinator
cvahey@unitytemple.org

From your Restorative Justice Team

Please mark these dates.

Winter Leadership Council

March 16th, 9:00am-1:00pm

Learn how bills become laws in Illinois. Learn how to talk to legislators. Train to become a team captain for the Day of Faith ... and more! Location not yet set. We will car pool from Unity Temple.

Day of Faith at the Capitol

March 26th

Bring justice to Springfield! Join us for prayer, action and face-to-face visits with your legislators. Transportation is provided by Community Renewal Society. Bus or car pool from Unity Temple.

For more information, contact - restorativejustice@unitytemple.org - so that we can update you as more details become available.

Both these events, as well as the in-district legislative meetings that we will be holding before and after, will be a key part in passing our legislation this general assembly. This year, we will champion continued reform that will help the formerly incarcerated, the end of money bonds throughout Illinois, the creation of a Fair Tax, and so much more!

Immigration & Refugee Response Team

Each newsletter we feature one of the teams in our Faith in Action Network. This month we learn more about our dynamic Immigration and Refugee Response Team. Questions? Please contact team co-leaders: Clara Lewis, Joshua Ridenour, and Gavin Kearney.

Spiritually grounded, deeply relational, strategically effective – these are the three guiding principles of the UTUUC Faith in Action Network which the Immigration and Refugee Response team tries to make real in our actions and relationships with others. IRR Team members acted on the deeply relational guiding principle by attending the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights Annual Summit on February 2. The summit introduced ICIRR's legislative platform for 2019, which includes improving healthcare access in Cook County, pushing to make Illinois the most welcoming state in the country, and fighting for citizenship for all. We will be appealing to Attorney General Raoul, Congresswoman Schakowsky, Congressman Garcia and twelve other elected officials throughout the state. The IRR Team will be called on to “show up” in support of these efforts, so attending the summit was a great opportunity to learn the details of the initiatives and to hear the stories of people who are directly impacted.

Another opportunity to show up for immigrant and refugee communities is presented by the Chicago Immigration Transportation Assistance (CITA) program. As our immigration system at the Mexico-U.S. border continues to detain and separate families fleeing violence, many people are asking how they can help. In response, a collective of organizations and advocates formed CITA, to help asylum seekers leaving detention centers with ground transportation needs.

CITA is asking volunteers to for support in the following ways:

- Our greatest need is for Spanish-speaking volunteers to provide care and support to asylum seekers at the Harrison Station.
- Volunteers also are needed to sort through donations, prepare comfort kits, and help coordinate additional assistance to families. Donations are being collected at the ICIRR office, 228 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.
- This **Amazon wish list** contains useful items for asylum seekers. All items purchased will be transported to the CITA volunteers' storage area for distribution to the migrants.
- Financial contributions can help maintain a storage unit close to the Harrison Station and provide an emergency credit card on hand to cover medication and other expenses. Link for financial contributions **here**.
- We need savvy-tech professionals who can create an efficient system of volunteers, donations, and tracking.

To volunteer with CITA, please register **here**. Volunteers at the station will be asked to complete a brief background check. If you cannot volunteer in-person but would like to be a part of this effort, please contact the Family Support Network at ICIRR at fsn@icirr.org.

Contact us or subscribe to the IRR Team newsletter at immigration@unitytemple.org.

Community Renewal Society

Thanks to all who participated in the Community Renewal Society's Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly. It was a packed house at the historic Liberty Baptist Church, with approximately 1000 people from 120 congregations and coalition partners - including 100 UUs from Unity Temple and Third Unitarian! We heard from the Chicago mayoral candidates, and an inspiring keynote from Rev. Veronica Johnson. Rev. Alan Taylor thanked State Senator Harmon and everyone in attendance for the 16 years of tireless effort to pass the Combating Illegal Gun Trafficking Act. Rich Pokorny introduced the offering.



Springfield Advocacy Days - Save the Date!

Join us for two powerful days of action at the state capitol:

- **March 26** - Community Renewal Society Day of Faith at the Capitol - meet with legislators to advocate for a just economy, and bills to increase employment, housing, and education opportunities for people with criminal records. Contact: restorativejustice@unitytemple.org
- **May 9** - Environmental Advocacy Day with Faith in Place - meet with legislators to advocate for a bold new clean energy and clean jobs bill. Contact: ecojustice@unitytemple.org

More details about transportation and registration will be available soon.



Community of Congregations Gathering Rescheduled

Friday, April 5 (rescheduled from January 31)
Priory Campus Auditorium of Dominican University
7200 W. Division, River Forest (Harlem and Division)
6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:15-8:30 p.m. - Program

8:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting

Join us for the Community of Congregations Gathering at Dominican University. We will hear brief reflections from some of our leaders whose congregations have been cultivating relationships across theological, ethnic, and even geographical boundaries, and then share with one another at our individual tables. RSVP to oprfcoc@gmail.com. Suggested donation: \$15 per person to help cover expenses

Prison Ministry Ambassador Program

One powerful way you can deepen your understanding of our criminal justice system, and support someone living in prison, is by being a pen pal. If you are interested in learning more about the new Illinois UU prison ministry pen pal program, please review the materials and application form [here](#). Support is provided. Questions? Contact: restorativejustice@unitytemple.org



Rev. Scott Aaseng
Executive Director of UUANI
uuani@uuani.org

We rolled out our UUANI 2019 Campaign for Justice on Valentine's Day because, as Cornel West says, "**Justice is what Love looks like in public.**"

Based on UUA Social Justice Empowerment criteria¹ and recent UUA statements, we're focusing on these campaigns in 2019:

- **Environmental Justice: Clean Jobs** legislation creating jobs, training and economic development for disadvantaged communities, a million fossil fuel vehicles off the road, a carbon-free power sector by 2030 and 100% renewable energy in Illinois by 2050. In partnership with Faith in Place and others in the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition.
- **Immigration Justice: Welcoming Illinois** legislation to end the criminalization of immigrant communities and expand opportunities for education and health care for all. In partnership with UUSC, Protected by Faith and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
- **Racial Justice: Criminal justice reform**, including voting access for prisoners, eliminating prison medical fees, ending cash bond and ending solitary confinement. In partnership with the UU Prison Ministry of Illinois and others in the Criminal Justice Advocates coalition.
- **Economic Justice: Fair Tax** legislation to reduce income inequality and provide adequate revenue in support of the common good. In partnership with Community Renewal Society and others in the Responsible Budget Coalition.

Here's how you can participate:

1. Respond to and share **UUANI Actions of the Week** by email or Facebook. Hundreds of us doing this every week add up to thousands of messages each year. Several UU congregations make these available on Sunday mornings with laptops.
2. Sign and collect **Clean Jobs petitions** in support of 100% renewable energy and a green economy, online or on **paper** (send paper copies to Scott Aaseng at 18 S. Menard, Chicago, IL 60644, or scan and send to uuani@uuani.org, by May 1). Look up your state legislators [here](#).
3. Sign up to meet with your **state legislators** in your district over spring break April 15-26.
4. Join statewide advocacy days in Springfield on **March 26 for racial and economic justice** and **May 9 for environmental justice**.
5. **Donate to UUANI** and support us in building community for justice and a healthy planet. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past!

To learn more:

- Join our 2019 Campaign for Justice statewide conference **call** at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28 or call in (646) 558-8656 – meeting ID: 721 991 843.
- Attend our **Statewide UU Justice Gathering** at First Unitarian Church in Alton from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 5 (just prior to the start of **MidAmerica Regional Assembly** across the river in St. Louis). We will also have a UUANI reception at Regional Assembly on Saturday evening, April 6.

Peace and Power,
Scott

¹**UUA Social Justice Empowerment** GAFO criteria: Are we Grounded in our values and commitments as UUs? Are we in Accountable relationships with organizations representing those most impacted and marginalized? Does this campaign Fit and build our capacity to make a difference? Is there an Opportunity for real change to happen?

Intern Minister Reflection

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote one of the most beautiful prayers I have ever read. In it, he uses the language of humbleness and patience, asking the Divinity to teach him the magic of small steps... An important request in times of struggle! When I set my goals, most of the time I set a time frame to it also, so I can keep myself accountable. However I've learned that my idealistic world is not always perfect, and sometimes I need to adjust and rewrite the time-frame of my goals. In other words: I need to learn the magic of small steps.

I have been attending pilgrimages since my childhood. They symbolize beautiful stages of our individual and collective lives: we walk with a group of people, we try to be of help to each other, but then there are times during

our walking when stress and tiredness accumulate in our body and we would like nobody around us. At those times, I choose to go faster or slower than usual, to keep a distance from the group, so I can dictate my own pace and be not dependent on the group. After some time I feel alone, so I reconnect again with the group of pilgrims. This is a strange, yet beautiful cycle of our mind and soul. When we organize our pilgrimages, we don't know exactly what it will bring to us. It's the journey that teaches us who we are, how we act in different situations, and what our response is to the challenges of a longer trip.

Our life is pretty similar to a pilgrimage. We are walking along, we are part of communities, sometimes

Zsolt Elekes
Intern Minister
zelekes@
unitytemple.org



we get closer, and sometimes we get further from our fellow walkers. We are all in search of meaning, of Divinity, of reason. We all know what we want to achieve, but we also rely on a teacher: the journey itself, the time spent between the sparkle of a thought and the success of achieving our goals. Our bodies, minds and spirits are the holy teachers we need to listen to and understand. We don't do it for credits and grades, we do it for our well-being, and for the well-being of our communities! I'm glad to be a pilgrim with you!

Sunday Morning News!

Ex Libris Bookstore

Ex Libris continues to be open after each service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Come browse for titles about Unitarian Universalism, social activism, meditation, children's topics and others.

Name Tag Requests

Newcomers, friends and members alike are invited to wear a name tag. If the name tag fairy has made off with your name tag and you need a new one, please add your name to the list at one of the welcome tables located in the foyer or contact Tina Lewis at tlewis@unitytemple.org.

Entering and Exiting Unity Temple

The back door by the kitchen will remain locked at all times to ensure safety and security. If you need assistance unloading items, please ring the doorbell. Our front doors will generally be open from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. depending on activities planned for the afternoon. Please exit through the back door if the front doors are locked. If you are unable to exit through the back door, please ask for assistance in order for the front doors to be locked behind you. Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation.

Coffee Hour Signup

Please sign up to bring cookies. We now have online sign up at [here](#). Our goal is to have 2-3 households sign up for each Coffee Hour. No nuts please.

Gluten free options appreciated. For more information, contact coffeehour@unitytemple.org.

Congregational Life Tables

If you would like to reserve a table to promote a UTUUC activity, event, volunteer need, or fundraiser during Coffee Hour, please contact tlewis@unitytemple.org or 848-6225 x102.

Call For Volunteers

Information on and contact for all volunteer needs should be directed to Tina Lewis tlewis@unitytemple.org.

Sunday Morning Breakdown Team ::

We could use help after second service each week. If you have an extra 20-30 minutes to spare after second service and would enjoy helping with basic breakdown needs once a month please be in touch, THANKS!

Wise Elder Luncheon :: We would like to bring back our Wise Elder Luncheon this spring. Reach out if you are available to help host the event at the Unity Temple Community Center on Thursday, April 18 from 11:00-2:00

Bulletin Boards :: You may have noticed our very sad and under utilized bulletins boards near the restrooms in Unity Temple. If you would enjoy bringing them back to life with lovely decorations and updated information about the congregation, contact Tina Lewis.

Day in Our Village :: That's right, Day in Our Village is coming up.

June may seem like it's far away, but it will be here before we know it. Let us know if you would like to decorate our booth, host a shift, or breakdown our booth.

Home Stays ::

Would you enjoy hosting visiting UU's in your home overnight? From time to time we need to extend hospitality to fellow UU's who are joining us for special events and workshops. If you have space in your home and would like to make new UU friends, please contact Tina Lewis.

Front Desk Hero :: Warning . . . it's not arduous nor back-breaking, and it's not very hard. If you're looking for derring-do, adventure, or swash-buckling Unitarianism, this isn't your gig. By the way - If you're a telecommuter (that is, you can work anywhere) this is the place for you! WiFi, desk space, few Interruptions. Every week has open slots. Please consider the Sunday slots - very important! Here's where your genius comes in, through SignUpGenius!! Read what to do. Start taking shifts! Sign up [here](#).





Shirly Lundin, Vanessa Crowder, Tory Ondrla and Kate Dempsey



Please remember that from time to time we all have needs that are exceptional, and may require the support and acceptance of our beloved community. For those whose struggles are made evident in our worship or congregational activity, may we respond with love and compassion.

Pastoral Care

UTUUC's Pastoral Associates augment the pastoral work of our ministers, providing a ministry of presence and promoting the spirit of community among members of the congregation. Their role is to provide support, companionship, and attentive listening during times of stress, illness, or major life transition such as disability, job loss, divorce, or death of a loved one. They also call and visit hospitalized and homebound members. If you or someone you know could benefit from the services of a Pastoral Associate, please send information to pastoralassociates@unitytemple.org or call Kathy Clark at 708-218-4463. Pastoral Associates are Alice Ocrey Brent, Kathy Clark, Diana Coates, Jay Cohen, Carol DiMatteo, Judy Gaietto-Grace, and Jay Petersen.

Care Coordinators

UTUUC is a place where you will be cared for and called upon to care for others. Care Coordinators organize caring needs that include meals, rides, and dog walking. If you or someone you know is in need of care, please contact caring@unitytemple.org or 848-6225 x102. Care Coordinators are Vanessa Crowder, Aisha Ellis, Shirley Lundin, Tory Ondrla, and Marianne Protesch.

MyHAT Support Group

MyHAT Support Group is for individuals living with mental illness and those who care about them. Our group meets for deep sharing and deep listening on the fourth Monday of each month. Our group is always open to new participants and participation is confidential. Childcare is available with advance notice (email request to myhat@unitytemple.org by the Wednesday prior to the meeting). Meets at Unity Temple Community Center located at 1019 South Blvd at 7pm.

Grief Support Group

If you have experienced the death of a loved one or friend and would like to share and process that grief in a safe, confidential and supportive setting, you are welcome to join us in Gale House, 124 N. Kenilworth, at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of every month. For more information contact griefgroup@unitytemple.org.

Refuge Recovery

Meetings are appropriate for anyone in recovery, or interested in recovery, from an addiction of all kinds. We are a community of people who use the practices of mindfulness, compassion, and forgiveness to heal the pain and suffering caused by addiction. Meeting time is 7:00pm every Thursday at the UT Community Center located at 1019 South Blvd. For more information contact refugerecovery@unitytemple.org & visit www.referecovery.org.

Spring Soup Drive

Stay tuned for our annual Spring Soup Drive! Twice a year, we ask members and friends of the congregation to make homemade for those who are under the weather or have a short term care need. Soup made with love is labeled and stored in the freezer at Unity Temple and can be accessed as needed. More details to come! Contact caring@unitytemple.org.

The MyHAT Annual NAMI RECOVER '19

was received well by the Unity Temple community as well as by NAMI members and supporters and other communities from the area. A range of talent was displayed and enjoyed by all age groups. An abundance of food through the sponsorship of THRIVENT was catered by Peter Mazza. Patrons were so inspired that several wanted to give donations, even though none were requested. The amount was divided between NAMI and MyHAT to facilitate upcoming events.

The MyHAT Annual Tea Party

will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 2-4pm. Participants will rotate between several tables which will provide information on various issues within the Mental Health Community.

Unity Temple Gives

The generosity of our congregation is making a difference in people's lives. Every Sunday our collection plate offerings are donated to a worthy charitable organization in support of our mission and values. Your weekly collection donations contributed the following amounts to these organizations:

Jan 6	Meadville Lombard: \$841.00
Jan 13	Austin Scholarship Fund —Third Unitarian Church: \$1,417.06
Jan 20	Community Renewal Society: \$1,491.30
Jan 27	UTUUC Emergency Fund: \$1,242.00
Feb 3	UUANI Advocacy Network: \$1,378.40
Feb 10	Planned Parenthood: \$1,724.00
Feb 17	UUSC Service Committee: \$945.61
Feb 28	Faith in Action Network: \$1,136.25

Board of Trustees board@unitytemple.org

Kimberly Brumirski	Teresa Powell
Bill Crozier	Willa Shultz — Vice President
Karen Haskins-Brewer	David Willard — President
Lynne Hensel — Treasurer	Julie Willoughby
Stephanie Kiesling	Erik Wise – Secretary

Unity Temple	Gale House	U.T. Community Center
875 Lake Street	124 N. Kenilworth	1019 South Blvd
Oak Park, IL 60301	Oak Park, IL 60301	Oak Park, IL 60301

Connections Submissions

Connections is published every other month. Please include "Connections" along with your committee name in the subject line when submitting. **Next submissions deadline is:**

April 10th (for May / June)

If you are promoting an event or group, please use the publications submission link on the lower left-hand side of the UT leader resources page, here. Events planned to be held at Unity Temple must be confirmed for the online calendar before they can be promoted. Email publications@unitytemple.org

Electronic Cafe :: Members in good standing of the UTUUC congregation are invited to participate in our online community called "Realm". In order to do that, members are invited to Realm via email and must then claim their login within a couple of days of receiving that notice. Some congregants have not yet created their accounts so we will be emailing you an invitation soon. The email will explain the advantages of Realm participation and provide an activation link. Watch your inbox for an email whose subject is " See you at our electronic café!

We Value Your Privacy! :: We have recently gone through our UTUUC member listings in Realm and tightened up privacy settings. In no case did we loosen settings. In general, we made contact information for adults visible to staff, to group leaders and to members of groups that you are a part of. For children, we made the settings even more restrictive by setting contact information to be visible only to staff and group leaders. When you log in to Realm, you can adjust these setting for yourself and your family to the level you desire. We do not recommend setting privacy to make information visible to "everyone"! Questions, relling@unitytemple.org

Our Staff

For calls, dial 708-848-6225 and the extension:

Rev. Alan Taylor
Senior Minister
ext. 101 / ataylor@unitytemple.org

Rev. Emily Gage
Minister of Faith Development
ext. 103 / egage@unitytemple.org

Zsolt Elekes
Intern Minister
zelekes@unitytemple.org

Elizabeth Plummer
Director of Operations
ext. 100 / eplummer@unitytemple.org

Tina Lewis
Membership Director
ext. 102 / tlewis@unitytemple.org

Martha Swisher
Music Director
ext. 109 / music@unitytemple.org

Tracy Zurawski
Office Manager
ext.104 / bookkeeper@unitytemple.org

Ron Elling
Finance and Database Assistant
ext. 106 / relling@unitytemple.org

Darren Lewis
Building Engineer
ext.108 / dlewis@unitytemple.org

Rev. Colleen Vahey
Faith-in-Action Coordinator
cvahey@unitytemple.org

Jeanne Calabrese
Publications Coordinator
ext.105 / publications@unitytemple.org

Val Ridenour
Religious Education Assistant
ext.115 / vridenour@unitytemple.org

Heather Godbout
Youth Coordinator
ext. 107 / youth@unitytemple.org

Sean O'Shea
Security Guard

Kathy Galassini
Preschool Coordinator

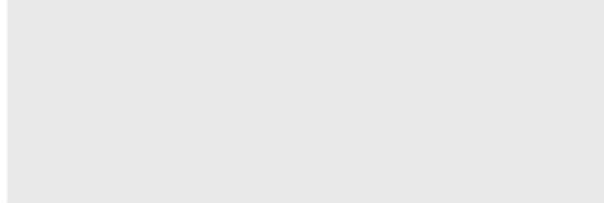
Keisharah M. Williams
Nursery Coordinator

Peter Engel Storms
Accompanist

Joan Cinquegrani
Freelance Rental Manager
rentals@unitytemple.org



Unity Temple
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
875 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301
708-848-6225



www.unitytemple.org

Join Us For Worship

March 3

An Unfolding Journey of
Unitarian Universalism
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering: Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

March 10*

On our Way
Rev. Emily Gage
Offering: Hopital Albert Schweitzer

March 17

Crossing Boundaries
Rev. Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering: UU Prison Ministry of IL

March 24

My Journey with Whiteness
Rev. Scott Aaseng
Offering: UU Advocacy Network
of IL (UUANI)

March 31

Seeking Refuge
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

***Fourth Grade Chalice Ceremony**

March Theme: JOURNEY

April Theme: WHOLENESS

April 7

Turning Toward Wholeness
Rev. Alan Taylor
Offering: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

April 14

Choir Sunday
Offering: West Suburban Action Project / Proyecto de Accion de
los Suburbios del Oeste (PASO)

April 21

The Heart of our Remembering
Rev. Emily Gage
Offering: Hephzibah

April 28

Comming of Age Worship Service
Offering: Austin Scholarship program of Third Unitarian Church