

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February UUniverse News



Key Activities

- **Vacationed in California** including attending services at Neighborhood Church UU in Pasadena where members of the Board of Trustees led the worship service sharing their personal Statements of Faith.
- **Participated** in the second #MeToo service on January 28th singing in the choir and preparing the congregational survey on what a Faithful Response to the #MeToo Movement in our congregation might be.
- **Practiced Intentional Denominational Connecting** sorting through information from the UUA and sending it to key leaders in our congregation e.g. info on Youth Scholarship applications to Shahan, and Hymn Contest to musicians in the congregation. I got a lot of thanks for that.
- **Supported the Ed Thompson Anniversary** fundraising committee in writing an appeal e-mail.
- **Sang** at Denny Davidoff's Memorial Service and hosted out of town guests including Carolyn Lavender's daughter Stacey.
- **Supported the TUCW Women's Group** Brown Bag Lunch focus on Healing Journaling; compiled background information for the volunteer who will be writing a Currents article, and contacted potential leaders for a Sacred Healing Circle event at a neighboring congregation.
- **Prepared materials, reports, packet items and education session** for February BOT Meeting.

What Keeps Me Up at Night

[Connect the Dots](#)

[My Campaign](#)

Anti-Racism the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Commission on Institutional Change was charged by the UUA Board last June to analyze structural racism and white supremacy within the UUA. Their February Report, just published, is not an easy read: [Statement from the Commission on Institutional Change: February 10, 2018](#)

Our Free Faith In 2018 American UUs are learning more about our theological history in hundreds of congregations featuring services to mark the 450th anniversary of a landmark in religious freedom –[The Edict of Torda](#) a key part of our UU theological DNA. Geeky I know, but kind of cool too.

Side With Love Since its inception, **Standing on the Side of Love (SSL)** received feedback from disability rights activists within Unitarian Universalism about the exclusionary and ableist language of “standing”. SSL committed to changing its name because of its history of injury and exclusion. Staff from the UUA, in collaboration with [EqUUA Access](#) and other stakeholders, worked on the name change proposal. We now Side With Love and Rise in Body or Spirit.

Moderator of the UUA (not) The UUA Board of Trustees is unable to announce a candidate for nomination to the position of UUA moderator by the February 1 deadline. In their search and deliberations, the Moderator Nominating Committee discovered that the job of moderator requires more time than many volunteers are able to give to the Unitarian Universalist faith movement. [*I wonder what Denny would have said about this.*] Read the Nominating Committee's reasons: [Statement on the 2019 Moderator Election](#)

For People Interested in Denominational Involvement the Appointments Committee of the UUA Board of Trustees is seeking candidates for appointed positions on a variety of boards and committees. The deadline for submitting names in February 24th. If you want to see what's open go to this link: [Apply online for UUA Appointment](#).

Why do I ❤️ my church? Attending Sunday service at Neighborhood Church last month I remembered my first time there almost 50 years ago. It was love at the opening words by the Rev. Dr. Brandoch Lovely who always preached in his Harvard crimson academic robes. I loved Brandy's sermons and Neighborhood's stunning setting.

When Paul and I moved to Connecticut from Southern California I was certain I would never find another church like Neighborhood so I didn't even try. But then TUCW found me. It was through volunteering on the Clinton/Gore campaign that I met members of who invited me to church! This church!

So, one Sunday in September 1992 I went and – it was love at the opening words by The Rev. Frank Hall. The building, the familiar faces I already knew from campaigning, the choir the – welcome I got. Jane Bickford greeted me, Doris Brenner invited me to join the Membership Committee (!) and Denny invited me out for lunch.

Here the returns on my investments in service have been abundant. I have learned and gotten to try out new skills, laughed, cried, cooked, cleaned, gardened, performed, raised money, sung, preached, organized a lot of stuff, taught classes, wrote reports and experienced the holy of community, the gift of commitment and the joy of this saving faith. Now I have even been given the privilege of serving as Board President .

As a rule I try not to overuse the word “love” – for example I *like* the taste of chocolate and the color red, I *appreciate* good movies and plays, and *enjoy* playing bridge. I ❤️ Paul, Aimee and Jake, my grand twins, friends, our dogs and I really do ❤️ this church.

Lynda