

the Sunrise

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas Newsletter

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Monthly Theme: Balance

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UUCLV Board of Trustees

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Introduction to the Monthly Theme: Balance

The Paradox of Balance by Michael Leuchtenberger

All of us are involved in many balancing acts each day. Life is at its core an attempt at balancing. We know we need to balance how much we sleep and how much we are awake. We know we need to balance our appetite for food with our ability to metabolize what we take in. We know we need to balance what we wear and the temperature around us.

There is no question that finding the right balance is critical to our wellbeing. Many books have been written to explain to us exactly how we can achieve balance, what we need to have to be balanced, what we need to buy to be balanced.

Balance has become another commodity we would like to acquire and then be done with it. But balance is no commodity.... Balance is a skill. It implies motion, motion to adjust to the never ending changes that threaten to throw us and all of life off balance....

Getting to the point of perfect balance and holding onto it may seem impossible – because it is impossible. Yet balance has to remain the goal despite the understanding that perfect balance can never be achieved, despite our awareness that perfect balance will never last. Such is the paradox of balance, the recognition that we are required to strive for what is impossible to achieve, and we are sure to lose at the end.

Luckily, many of the balancing acts we face each day are forgiving and don't require perfect balance.... Nothing drastic will happen if we miss the point of balance by a little. If we stay awake for a few minutes after we get tired we will not suffer greatly. If we eat another spoonful after our body tells us we are full, we will not suffer noticeably. If the temperature is comfortable and we put on an extra pair of thin socks, we will probably be just fine....

If every small misstep resulted in terrible consequences, few of us would still be around. Yet, the forgiving nature of the balancing we do most of the time can create the illusion that no matter where we step we will remain balanced and will avoid falling. We become complacent. We stop paying attention....

We take out a little credit to make a particular moment more pleasant or help smooth over a tight spot in our finances. No big deal. We pay it off next month. Then we do it again. And again, only this time we didn't get to pay off what we owed from before. No big deal.... Yet suddenly, we look at a credit card statement that tells us we owe three months' worth of our salary.... Suddenly the stakes in our balancing act have become a lot higher and the skills required to remain balanced a lot more complex....

But we can and ought to practice our balancing skills right where we are. It begins with an honest look at our responsibilities, our priorities, and how we spend our time and energy.... Whether we lack awareness of what we are doing or the will power to change it, we can and should hold each other accountable more creatively....

The more we accept that striving for balance remains essential despite the impossibility of ever achieving it, the more we are willing to embrace the paradox of balance, the more it becomes possible to imagine a world where harmony and peace within people, among people and with the earth are more than a dream of the future.

Topics for Upcoming Services

The theme for February is **Balance**. Join us this month in balancing our anticipation for worship with a known topic and the unknown. This month worship will be led by our minister, the Rev. Rachel Baker, lay leaders, and guest UU seminarian, Mathew Taylor.

Feb. 02, 2020: *UUTopia – Cooper Garrett*

In the mid-1800s, there were 3 Unitarian and Universalists communal societies. The founders and supporters wanted to build a society that upheld their most sacred principles. Unfortunately, they didn't last long. What can we learn from their failures to help our congregations grow strong and not widdle away? Join Worship Associate Cooper Garrett as they delve into this quizotic topic.

Feb. 09, 2020: *Opening the Door of Discomfort – Mathew Taylor*

As we move into this election year, the melting pot of corruption in our elected offices and hate felt in our media, we constantly are feeling this discomfort. Journey with us as we take a look at how discomfort grows and how we can get used to this discomfort and still thrive in our own ways. UUCLV is proud to welcome Mathew Taylor, UU Seminarian at Starr King School for Ministry. Mathew P. Taylor is a California native, has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. Mathew is a Community Organizer, Pagan High Priest, and Author. He will be seeking ordination in Parrish Ministry. Mathew is the former Board of Trustees President of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside. He believes that his brand of Mystical Ministry gives voice to the voiceless and will help find a home for the spiritually homeless.

Feb. 16, 2020: *Weebles Wobble, But They Don't Fall Down – Rev. Rachel A. Baker*

Weebles wobble but they don't fall down. Today we consider resiliency in uncertain times.

Feb. 23, 2020: *Plant Seeds for Trees You Will Never Sit Under – Rev. R.A. Baker*

The congregation is in the middle of the search process to find a new minister. An important part of welcoming in a new minister is grieving the loss of the outgoing minister. Today we take another step on the journey through this change.

February 2020 Sunday 50/50: Foster Kinship

In February 2020 50% of all offerings not designated as pledge donations will be shared with **Foster Kinship**. Nationally recognized, **Foster Kinship** is the only non-profit in Nevada exclusively serving families caring for the children of relatives. Since its inception, Foster Kinship has proudly served over 6,000 children and 3,000 families across Southern Nevada. Foster Kinship advocates for all kinship families to receive access to services and improved caregiving options through training, partnerships and advocacy.



From the Boardroom

UUCLV Board of Trustees Minutes January 21, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Turner at 6:31 p.m. at the church. Also attending Keith McMillen, Kathy Espin, Dave Richards, Hilary Howarth, Nancy Czar, Stuart Webster and Rev. Rachel Baker. A quorum was met.

Agenda: No changes to the agenda

Chalice lighting: by Hilary Howarth.

Review of Action Items:

Bruce

- Contact interested parties about space sharing. Done
- Respond to congregation contact about Family Promise questions. Done
- Visiting Stewards training. Done

Keith

- Post Financial reports by Jan. 16. Done
- Assist with reformatting policies. In Progress
- Visiting Stewards training. Done

Nancy

- Minutes Approval Committee Done
- Visiting Stewards training. No.

Kathy

- Present raffle idea to Seminarium. Done
- Edit and reformat policies. In Progress
- Post minutes by Jan. 16. Done
- Visiting Stewards training. Done

Rev. Rachel

- Provide names of Chalice Circle leaders to Stu. Done
- Provide names of members of the Black Lives Matter Banner Response Team for the directory. Done
- Post report by Jan. 16. No.

Dave

- Minutes approval committee Done
- Visiting Stewards training. Done

Hilary

- Meet with Fundraising Committee. Done
- Hold name contest for camp. Done
- Develop Co-housing presentation. In Progress
- Visiting Stewards training. Done

Stu

- Propose sponsoring Stewardship Cleaning Day to Chalice Circle. Done
- Minutes approval committee. Done
- Research professional to examine the rooftop solar system. Not needed
- Visiting Stewards training. Done

New minutes approval committee: Rev. Rachel, Bruce, Hilary

Consent agenda

- Reports: All reports removed from Consent Agenda
- Credit Card for Coffee Hour Manager with a limit of \$100 per purchase was approved.

Treasurer's Report

- New version of Church Windows caused a problem with donations
 - Problem fixed eventually by Church Windows
 - Records back on track
- Still researching new bookkeeping system
- Checking on recurring problem with quarterly trash bill.
- Checking into new garbage pickup day
 - Need to make sure it doesn't conflict with Food Bank

Minister – No Report

Standing Committees – No Report

Facilities

- Further research has shown no problems with the solar panels
 - There may be a data reporting problem-We are looking for a fix
- Some lights need to be replaced or fixed.

Special Committees/Fundraising

- An official list of organizations and committees is in final editing
- A presentation on Co-Housing will be ready in March
- The name of the winter camp is “UU Vegas Winter Getaway”
 - A contest will be held for logo design
- Kathy presented raffle idea to Friday Seminarium
 - They will sponsor
 - Gaming Control application and rules will be presented to Seminarium on Jan. 31
 - Will be ready to present to congregation at Annual Meeting

Secretary

- Reorganization of policies is almost finished
 - New policies will be presented to the board for approval.
 - Rev. Rachel will review edited version

Old Business

- Pledge Drive update from Mark Bergtholdt – Attached
 - New training is scheduled for Jan. 26.
- Planning for a Stewardship Cleanup Day is in progress.
 - Will be ready for the next meeting.
 - Suggested dates, March 7 or 28.
- Space Sharing
 - No interest from the church contacted.

New Business

- Preliminary budget
 - Keith will develop a tentative budget by the end of the month
 - Keith will make a formal request to all committees for budget requests for next year.
- Town Hall Meeting
 - Set for March 1
 - Funding discussion will be added to agenda.
 - Kathy will have the event added to the calendar and included in all communication.
 - Annual Meeting is set for April 19 (pending scheduling resolution).
 - Vote on the new minister will be held May 3.

Board Member Action Items

Bruce

- Will try to resolve scheduling conflict for April 19 meeting.
- Minutes approval committee
- Stewardship training

Nancy

- Stewardship training

Keith

- Continue research on new bookkeeping system
- Check on new garbage pickup schedule
- Check on garbage bill
- Develop tentative budget by end of month
- Contact committees about budget requests for next year
- Post reports by Feb. 13.
- Stewardship training

Kathy

- Continue working on policy reorganization
- Put Town Hall and Congregation meetings on Calendar
- Make sure meeting dates are communicated to congregation
- Continue to develop raffle idea
- Post minutes by Feb. 13
- Stewardship training

Dave

- Stewardship training

Hilary

- Hold logo contest for Winter Getaway
- Minutes approval committee
- Stewardship training

Stu

- Firm up dates for Cleaning Day
- Check on lights
- Stewardship training

Rev. Rachel

- Post Minister's Report by Feb. 13
- Work on policy reorganization with Kathy
- Minutes approval committee

Adjournment: 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Kathy Espin

Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

Report on the 2020 Annual Pledge Campaign

As you know, I have been focusing my stewardship efforts on educating the congregation on how our small church spends its budget programmatically using a minister's work week as an allegory for the story. I have been meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the monthly topic with Rev. Rachel and have found the process very enlightening. Each month I gain a deeper understanding of how the minister works and the church operates. I hope that the members of the congregation find the process enlightening as well and learn a little bit more about our organization. I chose this process because when I first became stewardship chair, we had a very successful drive in part because each month leading up to the drive, I spoke and wrote about the finances of the church.

These talks will culminate on Sunday April 5 when we will hold our Commitment and Celebration Sunday concurrently. On that Sunday, we will, as a congregation commit to being good stewards of our church and celebrate the closing of the annual pledge drive. I request that the board be an active part of this service. We will have thank you cards spread throughout the sanctuary where the members of the congregation will show their commitment by writing a thank you card for one of the pledging units. We will then celebrate the closing of the pledge drive by having those who wrote cards give them to a board member at the front of the church. After the card is received, each person will be given a small gift or flower as a token of appreciation.

Two big changes this year are visiting stewards and an appreciation dinner to be held on February 29. Thanks to some dedicated volunteers, we will be hosting a dinner night at UUCLV. The dinner will be free of charge, give some thanks to some of our unsung heroes at UUCLV and develop some community. Not only will there be food and drink, but entertainment too. And maybe a few surprises.

Other highlights of the pledge drive include:

- This Sunday, we will be having a meeting of the visiting stewards where we will discuss some of the tough questions that may be posed, update on dinner, how we are going to kick off the pledge drive and work on the steward's personal message.
- February 2, we will announce the dinner. RSVPs will be located in the back pocket. They will be completed and dropped in the collection plate or e-mailed in. There will also be an announcement that all members and friends will be contacted by a visiting steward and ask that they welcome them in for a conversation about the church.
- February 16, pledge materials will appear in the seat backs. Instructions on how to complete them will be given along with the goal of this year's pledge drive.
- Every week, on the back of the order of service will be an update on the pledge drive so far.
- Every two weeks will be an announcement from the pulpit by the worship associate during the offering about how to complete the pledge forms.
- February 29, dinner
- March 7 a letter will signed by the visiting stewards will be sent to those who have not yet turned in their form.
- March 21 board members will contact those who have not yet pledged.
- April 5 Commitment and Celebration Sunday.

At this time I need a tentative budget of income that the board expects for the 2020/2021 church year. The amount of income and its source will be used for the chart hanging in the social hall and information for the visiting stewards to share with the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by

Mark Bergtholdt

2020 UUCLV Pledge Drive Timeline

Sun. January 25 Visiting Steward's training II

Feb. 2 Start of soft pledge drive.

- Visiting stewards start contacts.
- Announcement from pulpit by WA/Bruce about the 29th. RSVP in seat backs

Feb. 15 Early Caucus day and LV Phil. concert

Feb. 16. Pledge forms and envelopes appear in seat backs

- Goal is published on back of order of service (OOS).
- Announcement from pulpit by WA pointing out location of goal and instructions on how to complete and submit pledge forms.

Feb. 22 Caucus day

Feb. 29 Reception

- Sunrise is e-mailed announcing start of quiet pledge drive. Goal is published and update.

March 1

- Announcement from pulpit by WA pointing out location of goal and instructions on how to complete and submit.
- Send out letter via snail mail to those who have yet to pledge. (All visiting stewards to sign?)

March 6 LV Phil. concert

March 13 Women's retreat

March 14 Women's retreat

- Announcement from pulpit by WA pointing out location of goal and instructions on how to complete and submit.

March 7 letter sent out to those who have not pledged.

Week of March 21 Board to make contact to all who have not pledged.

March 28 Last Announcement from pulpit by WA pointing out location of goal and instructions on how to complete and submit.

April 5 Commitment and celebration Sunday. Thank you cards in the chairs the number of the pledging units. All to complete and bring forward. Board to be up front to say thank you as folks come up.



Announcements for Upcoming Congregational Meetings

Save these Dates!! Mark your calendars for the following important events.

**Stewardship
Appreciation Reception**
February 29, 5 p.m.
UUCLV Social Hall

The Stewardship Committee invites the entire congregation to a very special dinner to kick off this year's pledge drive. The committee wants to start this year's drive by acknowledging everyone who has contributed to the Congregation's success this year. Please join us.

Town Hall Meeting
March 1,
Noon to 1 p.m.
UUCLV Sanctuary

The next fiscal year will present some exciting events and challenges for UUCLV. Please join your Board of Trustees for a presentation and discussion on how we will face these challenges together. All members and friends of the congregation are welcome.

**Commitment &
Appreciation Sunday**
April 5, 10:30 to 11:30
UUCLV Sanctuary

The Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Committee will wrap up the pledge drive with Commitment Sunday by expressing our gratitude to all who contribute to making UUCLV the strong community it is and looking forward to a bright new fiscal year.

Annual Meeting

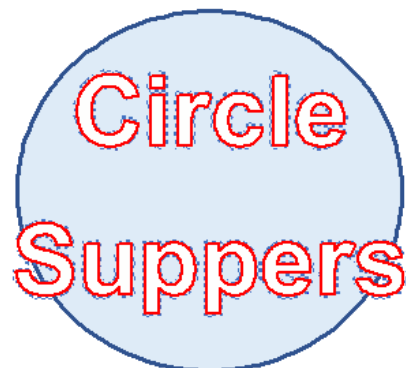
April 19,
Noon to 1 p.m.
UUCLV Sanctuary

All members of the congregation are urged to attend the Annual Meeting where we will hear reports on last year's church activities and presentations on plans for the future. At this meeting we will also elect new Board of Trustees officers and members and vote on the budget for the next fiscal year. Friends and nonmembers are welcome to attend but will not be able to vote.

**Vote to Call New
Minister**
May 3, 11:30 a.m. to
noon.
UUCLV Sanctuary

After months of work, your Ministerial Search Committee will ask the congregation to vote on accepting our new Minister. Congregation members and friends are urged to attend but only members will be able to vote. This is an important day for our congregation so please plan to attend.

Your participation is vital to our mission so please plan to attend. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Espin at kathyespin3@gmail.com



Circle Supper Saturday, February 8th at 6 pm

If you would like to have an opportunity to get to know others in our community over a casual dinner, we have two options available. The first is in a member's home, with six slots available, and the dish you bring to share will be specific. The second option is a Circle Supper at the church. We offer the church for people who need special accommodations or for those folks who thrive beyond a RSVP. At the UUCLV Supper, we are having a Valentine's Day theme and your dish to share would be for six servings. Please contact Karin Metcalf at karnmetcalf@gmail.com for information and/or to RSVP.



February Calendar of Events

Erma Zurita



Sun. Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 10:30 – 11:30 am	Miracles
Weekly on Sunday, until Mar 8, 2020 Religious Education Area	Stories from our Sources and hands-on activities engage a wide age span of participants to discern miracles, experience and express awe and wonder, and discover their own agency for miracle-making. Because this is Multigenerational, please be sure that you have a responsible trusted adult who is attending with each child and is in charge of their safety.
Wed, Feb. 5 & 19 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Wednesday Evening Chalice Circle
Rotating Members' Homes	This Chalice Circle meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. The location rotates between members' homes. Contact David Richards at djrichards328@gmail.com for more information.
Fri. Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Seminarium
UUCLV Social Hall	This Chalice Circle meets every Friday morning at UUCLV in the Social Hall. Contact Terry Sokey at nsokey@embarqmail.com for more information.
Saturday, February 8 6:00 – 9:00 pm	UU Circle Supper
Member's Home & UUCLV Social Hall	Social Gathering to support people getting to know one another better. We run 2 suppers, 1 at a member's home & 1 at UUCLV. Contact Karin Metcalf at karinmetcalf@gmail.com for more information.
Sunday, Feb. 9 12:00 – 2:00 pm	1st Sunday Lunch Bunch
Desert Pines Golf Club 3415 E Bonanza Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89101,	This lunch bunch has been moved to the 9th to accommodate Sunday's Big Football game. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Bleyle at Lbleyle@yahoo.com . Hope to see you all there!
Sunday, Feb. 9 4:00 – 6:00 pm	UU Christian Fellowship Meeting
Private Home e-mail Erma at admin@uuclv.org for the event location.	Interested in a liberal understanding of Christianity? Or maybe you are looking for an eclectic interpretation of the gospel? Or maybe you are looking to heal from the wounds inflicted by a forced childhood dogma? If any of these piques your interest, please join the UU Christian Fellowship. Come see how UUs "do" Christianity!

Wednesday, Feb. 12 6:30 – 8:00 pm	Many Voices Storytelling
HOP, 9651 Trailwood Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89134, USA	We welcome any story you're inspired to share. And remember, a storyteller is nothing without a listener. All listeners are welcome, whether or not you choose to tell Topics: Balance, Unexplainable.

Wednesday, Feb. 12 7:00 – 9:00 pm	UUA Webinar: Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities
UUCLV 3616 E Lake Mead Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89115	Stewardship and Sustainability for the Long-Haul Jan. 15 Third of four UUA webinars for small UU congregations. Contact Bruce Turner at betguynevada@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 15 7:30 – 11:30 am	UUCLV Food Pantry
UUCLV West side of building. 3616 E Lake Mead Blvd Las Vegas, NV 89115	We are requesting that 4 – 6 strong, younger members, arrive at 7:30 to assist in setting up the tables and hauling stuff out of our storage area. Open to members of the congregation, and to the larger community, Food will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, until supplies run out. No income requirements. Contact: Keith McMillen kgmcmillen@gmail.com

Tuesday, February 18 7:00 – 9:00 pm	  Las Vegas Bookies
Members' Homes For more information: bookiesuuclv@gmail.com	The UUCLV Las Vegas Bookies meet monthly to discuss books worth reading. This month's book is <i>The Seventh Sense: Power, Fortune, and Survival in the Age of Networks</i> by Joshua Ramos

Sunday, Feb. 23 9:30 am – 1:00 pm	UUCLV Activities Fair
UUCLV Fellowship Hall	The UUCLV Activities Fair is open to everyone who would like to learn more about the congregation and how to serve the congregation and get involved in the many groups and activities. Please contact Lucy Rey for more information at admin@uuclv.org

Sunday, Jan. 26 12:00 – 1:45 pm	 Bill Jacobs, Convener
UUCLV Worship Hall 3616 E Lake Mead Blvd Las Vegas, NV 89115	"Investigation of Donald Trump" At our February 23rd HUUmanist Forum we watch an interview of Glenn Simpson, co-founder of Fusion GPS and author of "Crime in Progress" which will take us inside the Steele Dossier that led to the FBI investigation. Anyone interested in the Trump/Russia connection is welcome to the Sunday noon Forum.



In Case You Missed It

by Mark Bergtholdt

A version of the following was spoken at the January 12 service.

This is the fourth installment of this seven-month exercise in describing what the minister does to help run our congregation. So, January will be Thursday and will represent music and worship. Music and worship is the biggest part of programmatic budget that includes the staff and ministers salary, and printed materials there is also the involvement of many members of the congregation who volunteer their time and talent to make sure that services we cherish go smoothly.

Rather than talk about how our minister creates these wonderful services and her process of writing a sermon, I would like to focus on those who work to support the creation of the service. If you are interested in how our minister creates the service, please read my article in the January Sunrise. While I was listening to Bruce's and Kate's recent sermons, it brought to my mind how folks who assist and do the service are all stewards. If you remember, Bruce talked about individuals being stewards of their environs and Kate talked about the mystery of the underground symbiotic relationships in mychorrhizzal communities. These mychorrhizzal communities create a stewarding environment for most of the plants on our planet. Both their sermons alluded to this talk, where creating a Sunday service is a multi-task project that requires many stewards helping out behind, in front and to the sides of the pulpit to pull off what seems to be an "easy and routine" event. Much time is spent preparing for this "routine" event, by not only our minister, but also the worship associate, the audio-visual person, accompanist, office administrator, the folks who lead our lay led services and our guest sermon leaders.

First there are the many worship associates who help with planning and assisting with the services. They usually sit behind the pulpit, assist with the lighting of our chalice, and do the readings and announcements during the service.

There are those who run the audio-visual part of every service so that we can all hear the service. They sit in the back with a computer screen in front of them that runs the slides, along with a whole panel of buttons, knobs and sliders that control the sound. Speaking of sound, there are our musicians. Since Joy's departure last summer, we have split her job into two positions. An accompanist and a song leader who leads the choir in song. Our talented accompanist Nick fills this sanctuary each week with his music. He is a very gifted musician who can figure out a song, without music, in less than two minutes. Nick is backed up by Maggie who fills in when Nick is not here. While we continue the process of finding a good fit to fill our need for a choir director and song leader, we still have our choir whose members raise their voices in song to fill our sanctuary.

Let us not forget the greeters, and ushers and counters both young and old who also play an important part of the service. Greeting our newcomers when they first walk through our doors, passing the offering plate smoothly through the congregation then counting the collection and pledges so that we can continue to have these wonderful services. You too help make these services run smoothly.

Behind the scenes there are four individuals who make these sermons special. Suzanne is our coffee hour coordinator. There is Steve. He creates each slide for the service. There is our nursery attendant, usually Erin, who cares for our youngest members and there is our office administrator

Erma she makes sure that the order of service that you have in your hand is printed. From my heart, thank you for being our stewards. Finally, there is the leader of the service who makes sure that the service runs as smoothly and routine as possible. Usually it's our minister, sometimes it's a guest and other times is a member of our congregation like Kate, Cooper, Bruce

I almost forgot the most important group. You, the congregation. Without you, there would be no UUCLV.

When you any of the folks mentioned above, please thank them for being a steward of our congregation.

From my heart, thank you all for being our stewards.



A Day in the Week of the Minister...

Friday: Denominational Connection



by Mark Bergtholdt

This is the fifth installment of this seven-month exercise in describing what the minister does to help run our congregation. These writings will describe each of the six areas of our mission-based budget, culminating with the pledge drive kickoff and ending in April. Last month I wrote about Thursday, Music and Worship. So, February will be Friday, Denominational Connection. It is one of the cryptic categories that we spend about thirteen percent of our budget on, but as you will see it is an important category full of those dreaded acronyms.

Denomination connection is all about how our congregation is connected to the larger body of the Unitarian Universalists Association (UUA). You know that the UUA is our national organization. It provides organizing and other resources to its member congregations. There are also regional and district divisions within the national organization that serve a similar purpose and provide more regional specific programs. UUCLV is a member of the Pacific Western Region and the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD). The UUA, the regions and districts are not hierarchical. We do not answer or are told what to do from any of these organizations. Instead, all three of these organizations are our congregation and support us and our mission by providing services that we ask for based upon our principles.

Each year the UUA puts on General Assembly (GA). It is a week in June where members of UUCLV travel to a location to gather with other UUs. There those who attend are able to learn about what UUA is doing in social justice, attend workshops on our seven principles or church management. Some of the UUCLV members will represent UUCLV at the annual meeting where various proposals are made and voted on that provide direction of the UUA and set policy through amending our bylaws. You can see videos of recent business meetings at the UUA website. GA is also an opportunity for UUCLV members to network with members from other UU congregations. These opportunities give UUCLV members new ideas on what may work well for our congregation. Our minister is able to travel to these because we provide her professional development funds in our

budget. An interesting side note is that the UUA and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) are now requiring continuing education for ministers to stay in fellowship. Attendance to the GA will be one more way that a minister can gain continuing education. An aspiration would be to be able to provide a stipend to UUCLV members to defray the cost of attending GA.

UUA provides us with various educational programs and support such as UU World, Tapestry of Faith and OWL curricula, along with our hymnals and other material.

There are also professional organizations that support our staff. There is not only the previously mentioned UUMA, but also organizations for administrators, religious educators, membership professionals, and musicians. These organizations are very important to support the staff that are employed by the church. It is a place where other ministers, musicians and staff can share ideas that improve the work they do for the congregation such as development of new music or providing. It also provides an opportunity for further education and networking through their various annual meetings.

Our district and regional offices also support us through various programs. For the youth, there are various conferences where they too can network with youth from other UU congregations. There are also camps. The PSWD supports Camp de Benneville Pines. In the past because we had a religious educator, she was able to provide some support to the camp. Our ministers have not been able to because they were contact or developmental ministers. A called minister would be more likely to participate in this important ministry. More information about what Camp de Benneville Pines has to offer can be found here: uucamp.org

Our district also holds annual meetings similar to GA where members can travel to and network with other UUs and holds leadership schools and lay led education so members can receive training in management. Our district also supports the Chalice Lighters. This is a fund where members of congregations donate to the fund and congregations who have adequate participation in giving can submit grants to improve the facilities. Those blue chairs that we sit on were funded in part with an award from the Chalice Lighters. More information about what PSWD has to offer along with information on Chalice Lighters can be found here: pswduua.org

There are also two groups affiliated with UU that do Social Justice. There is the UU Service Committee (UUSC) and Black Lives UU (BLUU). UUSC is an organization that reaches out to advance human rights and around the world. Its work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity. More information about this organization can be found here: UUSC.ORG. BLUU started in 2015 and is committed to expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within our faith, providing support and resources for Black UUs and justice making and liberation through our faith. More information can be found here: blacklivesuu.org. Last year we were asked to pledge \$10 for this organization. We ended up raising much more. Thank you.

As you can see, while this is a small part of the budget, our denominational connection has both an effect on the larger world and an effect on UUCLV. It is important that we as a congregation both support our minister and staff in their participation with these groups. The ideas they share and receive from other professionals helps us in our mission. It is also important to not to forget that we, as a congregation, be as active as we can in the national, regional and district groups so that we can become a brighter light in the desert.

Next month will be Saturday and time to talk about Enriching Our Shared Lives.

"Find Your Passion"

UUCLV Activities Fair 2020

In addition to attending worship services, there are lots more activities to join at UUCLV, for members and visitors! On Sunday, February 23, 2020, representatives of ALL those activities will be at tables in the social hall from 9:30 a.m. to whenever to answer all your questions and provide sample programs!

- Interested in joining a Chalice Circle? Talk with all five of the Chalice Circle leaders and see which one might fit your needs. Or start one!
- Love to sing? Drop by the Choir table and talk with a long-time Choir member about opportunities.
- Want to help with Sunday services? Talk with others who assist by readings and other activities.
- Passionate about helping others? Find out about the committee to help the sick. Or join in Social Action at the monthly Food Pantry.
- Friendly? Sign up to Greet!

These are only a few of the activities which welcome your interest and participation. See you there!

**Lucy Rey and Mary Phillips, co-chairs of the Activities Fair,
sponsored by the Membership Committee.**



UU VEGAS WINTER GETAWAY

The winner of the event naming contest is Kem Tetlow, whose entry of "UU Vegas Winter Getaway" is now the official title of this event. Lucky Kem will receive a UU tote bag as reward for her winning entry. Make sure to stay tuned, the next contest is for **Logo Design**.

Submissions should be turned in to Hilary Howarth or Erma Zurita in the congregation office by **Valentine's Day, February 14, 2020**. Designs may be as simple as a line drawing to be rendered, or as developed as camera-ready artwork.

For more information about the event itself and what will be included, please contact UUCLV fundraising committee member Hilary Howarth: hilaryhowarth@gmail.com



Zoom Party!

Stay at home and join the party! We're going to let everyone try out our new online teleconferencing software, called **Zoom**. When it's time for the party, be at your computer or have your smart phone powered up, then click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/705848809>

IF you don't see UUCLV buddies there, text Karin at 702-533-4334 and we'll try to problem solve. If all goes well, we will be able to show you the basics of how to use Zoom for future meetings. Don't you love the environmentalism of it?

Meet Our New Nursery Attendant

My name is Kathy Raible. I was born in Southern California on May 23rd. I came to Nevada in 1994. I am the mother of two daughters, one is 9 and the other is 18. You may see us around the church on Sundays as I just started as the new Nursery Attendant. I had a daycare business for several years and am now working as a Nanny during the week. Please stop by the Nursery if you get a chance to say hello.



Visiting Stewards Program

Mark Bergtholdt



"We will be doing some things new and different this year. One of the new things will be visiting stewards. During February, the team of visiting stewards will be contacting all members and friends to set up a time to discuss with stewardship. These conversations will be about what UUCLV means to you and about both financial and other stewardship. The visiting stewards want to explore with you what UUCLV means to you. Please open your hearts to these conversations."



Nevadans for the Common Good News

Karin Metcalf

UUCLV, member of NCG, is dedicated to educating and training citizens to participate in public life; to work to build relationships, find common ground on issues, and act in nonpartisan ways to improve our community.



Nevadans for the
Common Good

February 3rd Anna Eng – the new Lead Organizer starts at NCG!

February 18th Tues 6:30 pm Gun Violence at University United Methodist Church at 4412 South Maryland Parkway in Room 1. Not a discussion on gun control, sharing stories about how gun violence has been experienced by us.

February 28th Fri 6 pm - 8:30 pm Broad-based Community Organizing Training at Trinity UMC at 6151 West Charleston Blvd.

Contact Barbara Paulsen paulsenbnv@gmail.com \$100 for training, **Fri, and Sat Feb 29th 9 - 5pm, and Sun March 1st 1 - 4 pm**

March 21st Sat 10:30 am- 2 pm Financial Resources Fair at the East Vegas Library at 2851 East Bonanza Road. There will be second-chance bank or credit union accounts, education on how to rebuild credit scores, and the unveiling of a new loan product that can replace payday loans with huge savings on the interest rates. For more info, please contact UUCLV member Karin Metcalf at jkmetcalf@cox.net

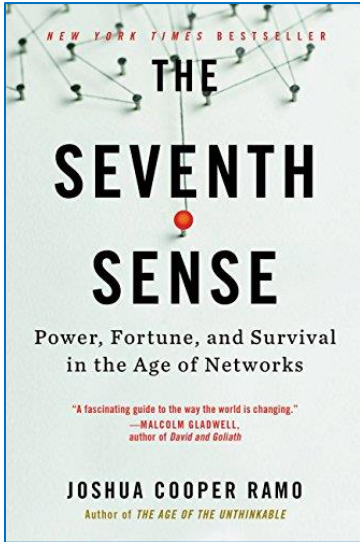


Las Vegas Bookies



Las Vegas Bookies will meet February 18 to discuss: *The Seventh Sense: Power, Fortune, and Survival in the Age of Networks* by Joshua Cooper Ramos

Moderator: Clay Wilkin **Hosts:** Stu Webster and Barbara Gramenos



Endless terror. Refugee waves. An unfixable global economy. Surprising election results. New billion-dollar fortunes. Miracle medical advances. What if they were all connected? What if you could understand why?

The Seventh Sense is the story of what all of today's successful figures see and feel: the forces that are invisible to most of us but explain everything from explosive technological change to uneasy political ripples. The secret to power now is understanding our new age of networks. Not merely the Internet, but also webs of trade, finance, and even DNA. Based on his years of advising generals, CEOs, and politicians, Ramo takes us into the opaque heart of our world's rapidly connected systems and teaches us what the losers are not yet seeing -- and what the victors of this age already know.

Amazon book review

Future Flash:

March 17, 2020: *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea **Moderator:** Binnie Wilkin

April 21, 2020: *Enlightenment NOW: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress* by Steven Pinker **Moderator:** Faye Manning **Hosts:** Lucy Rey and Sig Palasek

May 19, 2020: *The World Between Two Covers* by Ann Morgan **Host:** Kem Tetlow
Moderator: Joyce Patterson-Rogers

June 16, 2020 *There, There* by Tommy Orange **Host:** Faye Manning



**HUUMANISTS
CLV FORUM**

“Investigation of Donald Trump”

**– Glenn Simpson
Sunday, Feb. 23 12 noon
Convener Bill Jacobs**

“Investigation of Donald Trump” At our February 23rd **HUUMANIST FORUM** we watch an interview of Glenn Simpson, co-founder of Fusion GPS and author of “Crime in Progress” which will take us inside the Steele Dossier that led to the FBI investigation.

Anyone interested in the Trump/Russia connection is welcome to the Sunday noon Forum.

2020 UUCLV WOMENS RETREAT INFO SHEET

Reflect - Renew - Replenish

WHEN: March 13-15 Arrive as early as 4 pm. Dinner on 13th served at 6 pm.

WHERE: Potosi Pines 10910 Mount Potosi Canyon Rd (Zip 89161)

The total cost of the weekend is \$150. This includes all meals, bed, and activities. Please return registration form to Marianne Amodeo or Mary Jane Brustman by February 1. A non-refundable deposit check of \$35 should be made out to UUCLV with Women's Retreat in note field. The balance of \$115 will be due by February 15. Please contact Mary Jane Brustman about scholarship money.

REGISTRATION FORM

WHAT TO BRING CHECKLIST:

- _____ Bedding (sleeping bag or blankets, pillow, etc.) _____ Toiletries _____ Towels
- _____ Warm coat, hat, muffler, gloves, etc. _____ Re-usable Water Bottle (Very Important!)
- _____ Beads or buttons -- ones you can string on elastic thread (donate to group pile, friendship bracelets)
- _____ Old costume jewelry -- same as above (donate to group pile, friendship bracelets)
- _____ Good Energy!

Optional:

- _____ Flashlight _____ Hangers _____ Snacks to share _____ Game(s)

Any personal items (medications, anything not included above):

THINGS TO LEAVE HOME:

- Constant social media, email, and Wi-Fi usage (plan to un-plug!)
- Drugs
- Tobacco
- Alcoholic Beverages

Questions? Contact anyone on the committee: Mary Jane Brustman (518-810-4201) Mary Phillips (702-497-6366) Mary Ann Amodeo (631-872-0065) Faye Manning (817-501-9159) Mary Barden (714-906-4305)

Another Way to Donate to UUCLV:



Did you know you can donate 0.5% of allowed purchases just by using your Smith's reward card every time you shop?

***If you were enrolled in the previous donation program through Smith's and haven't already re-enrolled, please re-enroll using the instructions below:**

Enrollment Instructions

- You must have a registered Smith's rewards card to enroll in the Smith's Inspiring Donations program.
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 3 to get your Smith's rewards card number.
- If you do not yet have a Smith's rewards card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Smith's store.

To Create a Smith's Online Account:

- Visit our website at <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/communityrewards>
- Click on **Create an Account** or use the 'Register' button at the top of the web page.
- Enter your email address and create a password.
- Enter your zip code in "Your location", select your favorite store.
- Click on **Create an Account**: a message will appear stating your account was successful.
- Enter your rewards card number and your Last name. Click 'Save'.
- You will then be directed to the Account Summary page. Under Personal Information click 'Edit' and enter your personal information then click 'Save'.
- Under Smith's Inspiring Donations click 'Enroll'. Enter UUCLV's number (**BE260**), or at least 3 letters of "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas" and click 'Search'. Click the button next to our name. Click **Enroll** to complete your enrollment.

*Already have a Smith's online account? Enroll in Smith's Inspiring Donations:

- Visit <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/communityrewards>. Click Sign in. Enter your email address and password.
- Click on your name under Welcome back! To View Account Summary.
- In **Account Summary** – the last option is **Smith's Inspiring Donations**.
- Click on **Enroll**
- Enter our NPO (Non-Profit Organization) number (**BE260**), or a few letters of the organizations' name then **Enroll**
- Select an organization from the list and click **Enroll**
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see the organization's name on the Account Summary page.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count until after you register your rewards card and link to an organization. Members must swipe their registered Smith's rewards card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Smith's rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Ministerial Search Committee

Karin Metcalf

Anyone wanting updates on the Ministerial Search can check that page on the UUCLV.org web site or contact a member of the Search Committee. Keep in mind there will be no major news until February 2020.



Final Thought

