

the Sunrise

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas Newsletter

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Table of Contents

- [Rev. Elations! \(Minster's Message\)](#) 1
- [Topics for Upcoming Services](#) 2
- [March 2019 50/50 Recipient](#) 3
- [Stewardship Drive News](#) 3
- [Sunday Lunch Bunch](#) 3
- [From the Boardroom](#) 4
- [PSW District Assembly Registration](#) 6
- [UUA General Assembly News](#) 7
- [Nevadans for the Common Good Postcard Campaign](#) 8
- [Many Voices Feb. 2019 Meeting](#) 8
- [Las Vegas Bookies Book Club](#) 9
- [HUUmanist Forum](#) 10
- [Another Way to Donate to UUCLV](#) 11
- [UUCLV Annual Trivia Contest](#) 12
- [Final Thought](#) 12



Monthly Theme: Acceptance

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Rev. Elations!

Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

March
2019

An Introduction to the Monthly Theme: Acceptance

By Rev. Fred Hammond

Martin Buber, 20th century philosopher, wrote a ground-breaking text called *I and Thou*. He describes the person who declares I as having two basic word forms, I-It and I-You or I-Thou. We experience it. Whatever that something is, it is experienced by the I. He writes, "I perceive something. I feel something. I imagine something. I think something. ...The world as experience belongs to the basic word I-It."

We do not experience You, instead I-You is in the realm of relationship. There are no boundaries, no borders to the I-You basic word form. There is a border with the I-It experience. The I-It has shape, it has definition, and it may also have a past tense. However, the I in the I-You dyad impacts upon the You only in the present, in the here and now, likewise the You impacts on the I. The I-You relationship must be dealt with; the relationship cannot be ignored or placed into the background like an I-It experience.

In the movie *Avatar* there is within the *Na'vi* culture this notion of seeing the other. The *Na'vi* do not experience their world in the I-It sense but rather in the I-You relationship. They see their world in the full essence of life unfolding. Their world embodies an entity of being. They do not experience their world; they are in relationship with the world. In the movie it is stated that the sky people, the humans, cannot see. When Jack Sully finally embraces the culture of the *Na'vi*, he and his *Na'vi* mentor say to each other, "I see you," they are finally in an I-You relationship. Buber suggests that in these moments the I-You relationship is also addressing the eternal You. I see you.

The sky people, the humans, are not in relation with the world *Pandora*. To them the world is an It. They experience the world. They know what the world can offer them in resources and in potential experiences. But the world is an It and all the beings living on the world are an It, as well. *Pandora* to the sky people is of no consequence to them. They therefore are blind and do not see *Pandora*.

Extrapolate this not seeing the other as a You to the United States stance and quest for oil in the Middle East or our stance on immigration and undocumented citizens. Or our long-embattled history with the indigenous people of this land. All of these are I-It experiences. This is not simply a political analysis this is as spiritual as it gets.

There is a Hindi word that also expresses this I-You relationship, *Namasté*. It has been translated in many ways from the simple "The god in me recognizes the god in you." To "I honor the place in you in which the entire Universe dwells, I honor the place in you which is of Love, of Integrity, of Wisdom, and of Peace. When you are in that place in you, and I am in that place in me, we are One." Saying *Namasté*, the person is acknowledging the I-You relationship.

Live with an attitude of acceptance, of welcoming in people where they are instead of an attitude of tolerance, of putting up, and enduring the pain of life's diversity. By so doing you may enter into the realm of I-You and even encounter the eternal You in the process. *Namasté*.

Topics for Upcoming Services

March 03, 2019: *How to Be Silent*– Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd



UUCLV is proud to welcome UU Ministerial aspirant, Greg Boyd. Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd is a religious educator and seminarian who studies at Claremont School of Theology. He serves on the Board of Trustees of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Originally from Central Pennsylvania, Greg enjoys how his spirit is growing here on the West Coast. Greg also works as the Coordinator for More Than Sex-Ed, a Greater LA-based sexuality education collective that brings the UUA- and United Church of Christ comprehensive sexuality education curriculum, Our Whole Lives, to schools, home school groups and the greater community.

March 10, 2019: *On Being a Beacon of Love and Justice in the Desert* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

The congregation calls itself a beacon of love and justice in the desert. What are ways that we can be that beacon? How do we live our Unitarian Universalist values in our lives and in Southern Nevada?

March 17, 2019: *Service to Self, Service to Church* – Mark Bergtholdt, Andy Hall, & Jim Brustman

Join us this Sunday as we explore the spiritual practice of lay leadership. See how you can add your skills to our growing community.

March 24, 2019: *The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith: Hearing Black UU Voices*– Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

What would it be like if our UU worship service centered entirely around the voices and the experiences of black Unitarian Universalists? What truths might we hear, however difficult? What might we learn? How might these black UU leaders teach us to be better allies, better siblings in faith, and even better citizens in our community? Today is a turning moment, a choice to listen deeply to the stories in our movement that have not been heard, and taken to heart, by all Unitarian Universalists. It's a lamenting of what our Unitarian Universalist tradition and congregations have lost by being unable—or unwilling—to center people of color (or even, at times, to merely include them). The Promise and the Practice is a celebration of our shared commitment to live into a new chapter in the story of our UU faith.

March 31, 2019: *Topic to Be Announced* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

March 2019 50/50 Sundays: Minister's Discretionary Fund

Our March 2019, 50/50 donations will be shared with the **Minister's Discretionary Fund**. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is used to assist members and friends of the Congregation and members of the larger community in meeting their basic living needs (such as shelter, food, utilities, medical) and other exigencies (such as transportation, fees). Funds may be given as a loan or a gift, depending upon the person's ability and the circumstances. The minister has discretionary and confidential use of these funds within guidelines.



Stewardship Drive News


Mark Bergtholdt – Stewardship Chair

I cannot believe that it's already the middle of January and that you are reading this in the March **Sunrise**. I still have the three seeds that I was given from the first service that I use to keep myself on track with what I set out to do during this year. It is working!!!

As Stewardship Chair, I want to thank everyone who has taken some time and bravely stepped up to share with the congregation how you have lived your UU values. I have found each one of these mini-testimonials to be inspiring and strengthen my sense of community in this Congregation. I know that I am not alone in being affected by these talks. Thank you. If you have not already done so, take some time and think about how you live your UU values, then write those ideas down so that you can share them. If you are not inclined to speak in front of a crowd, just going through the exercise may give you something to talk about with somebody new during Social Hour. If you are interested in sharing, please send an e-mail to a Worship Associate.

It is now that time of year where the Congregation is asked to pledge for the coming Church Year that starts on July 1. We usually start this at the end of January but decided to postpone it a month so that there is a good break between calendar New Year and the start of the Pledge Drive.

For this Annual Pledge Drive, we will be doing something a little different to inspire you to give. Between the first week of March and Commitment Sunday, when we kick off the drive, there will be something 'growing' in our Welcome Hall. I challenge each of you to guess what it is. We will be using what has grown as an analogy for our annual pledge drive. Please come to Church on March 24th, prepared to commit (in the analogical way) and getting your hands dirty (if you so desire) to ensure that our church is healthy for another year.



The Lunch Bunch

will gather at 12:00 PM on **March 3rd** and regularly on the **first Sunday of the month** at the Desert Pines Golf club located at [Address](#): 3415 E Bonanza Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89101 **Phone**: (702) 388-4400 Here is the [menu](#). We hope everyone can join us. -- Rick and Lisa Bleyle



From the Boardroom

UUCLV Board Meeting January 15, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Keith McMillen and a quorum was present with the following members present: Keith McMillen, Gail Knapp, Lisa McAllister, Bruce Turner, Mary Jane Brustman, Kathy Espin, Shannon Porter, Rev. Rachel Baker and guests: Jim Brustman and Bobby Chambers.

Lighting the chalice- Rev. Rachel read the opening words

Presentation by guest who has some interesting ideas about the church future. He provided a two page list of ideas for church growth.

Accountability- Board members gave ideas to Rev. Rachel for her minister's report. The Town Hall Meeting was successful: Notice was completed with help from Gail, and she provided the minutes. Keith presided at the meeting and made all the arrangements for it. Bruce provided a photo of himself for the board. Shannon will be providing an avatar of herself. Stu sent his report just before the meeting although he was not able to be present at this meeting. Lisa sent out the December minutes, and did the presentation of the new covenant. Kathy completed her work as treasurer that is described in the attached report.

Minutes- The minutes from the Town Hall meeting on January 13 were approved by the board as presented. Minutes approval committee for this month will be Kathy Espin, Mary Jane, and Rev. Rachel.

REPORTS:

Audit Committee appointment- Dave Richards is appointed to the audit committee to fill the vacancy. Moved by Shannon and approved by unanimous consent.

Minister's report- The covenant was adopted at the Town Hall, but she emphasized that the comments of members who made suggestions at the meeting must not be ignored or forgotten. The pledge campaign is underway and the kickoff will be February 24. This will include an all congregation signing of the new covenant. Erma is settling into her new job, and is doing very well. We are still looking for a new nursery person. Athena is organizing the OWL program, and the required teen parent meeting will be next week.

Treasurer's Report- Kathy's written report is attached to these minutes

Facilities- Stu only posted just before the meeting so members had not yet read his report. Keith reported that Solar panels are repaired, but some of the inverters are not working. Jane is checking to discover if they are still under warranty.

Vice President- Bruce reported on his activities during the past month. He provided a written report. He has arranged with Rev. Rachel for some new furniture including chairs and clothes racks.

Mary Jane- reported on the women's retreat. Registrations are going on right now.

Food Pantry Update- Jim Brustman has been working on this project. We are accepted as a partner by Three Square, and there will be visits to some existing sites to see how the process works. Some funding will be needed—perhaps 5th Sunday lunches.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jan Christian may be coming in February. She is willing to discuss the future of the minister.

Announcements during the service- it was agreed to leave this in the lap of the worship committee who will try new ways of doing them.

Focus groups- Rev. Rachel is starting this process. The nominating committee is interested in helping to run the focus groups. She will be meeting with them and starting the training.

Individual responsibilities for this month:

Lisa- Send covenant language to Bruce and Rev. Rachel. Fix the two elements of covenant for Feb 24.

Shannon- Call the center and talk to Erma to get a flyer Help Kathy with budget and financials. Make deposits for next two weeks and get timesheets this Sunday.

Kathy- Call audit committee and go over duties with them. Show them last years' reports. Pitch a story on OWL to media. Check on problem with donation report for Gail. Check on Fidelity account and check on feasibility for CD.

Keith- Talk to nominating committee. Work something out with Jan Christian. Work with Jane on replacing Inverters. Send in numbers for the UUA.

Mary Jane- work on the women's retreat.

Rev. Rachel- NPR blurb. Emergency phone list. Mark and board stewardship conversation. Connections team/ communications. Board photos. Review covenant words. Chalice circles facilitator meeting. Theme and mission challenge. Small group in Order of service. Stewardship stickers. Focus group training. Office chairs. Covenant sign on commitment Sunday.

Bruce- Continue the list emailed. Covenant signature banner creation. Front wall redesign investigation.

Gail- Write minutes and send to review committee. Participate in visits to other food distribution centers.

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Gail Knapp, Secretary



2019 PSW District Assembly Registration Goes Live Feb. 1

The keynote speaker for the 2019 PSW District Assembly has been announced and he has a few simple questions for every member of every UU community:

- Are you engaging your congregants on the deepest and most meaningful levels possible?
- Are you impacting their lives through your worship services to the point that they want to go out into the highways and byways to spread compassion, grace and radical hospitality?
- Are you ready to “upcycle” your community’s worship?

If so, then you need to attend the 2019 **Pacific Southwest District Assembly** April 26-28, 2019, at the UU Church of Long Beach, California.



Donald Milton III, director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, will lead the keynote presentation entitled “Upcycling Church Music for Deeper Engagement.” Together we will explore new ways of approaching hymns, music, readings, rituals and sermons to make them more meaningful, impactful and fully engaging.

Donald Milton III is the director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, the largest UU congregation in the Southeast. Milton runs one of the most eclectic and exceptional music programs in the UU movement. He wrote a chapter on upcycling church music for the recently released book, “Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities.”

Registration for the 2019 PSW District Assembly will be available Feb. 1.

The district assembly’s theme will be “From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities.”

Along with Milton’s keynote presentation, there will be opportunities for worship, workshops, a youth con, social justice field trip and plenty of chances to connect with UUs from throughout Southern California, Arizona and Southern Nevada. Plan to be there: April 26-28 in Long Beach!

Diane Brinson | Administration Manager | Pacific Western Region

UUA General Assembly News

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. PST at www.uua.org/ga

Spokane

The Spokane region is the gateway for adventure and exploration in the Intermountain Northwest. Located driving distance from Glacier National Park and Yellowstone, Spokane is nestled in natural beauty.

Spokane is located on interstate I-90, 110 miles from the Canadian border and 18 miles from Idaho. It is the largest city between Seattle and Minneapolis.

Spokane International Airport (GEG) is serviced by Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, and United Airlines. Nonstop service is offered to 17 destinations, including Minneapolis, Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix, and LAX.

Spokane is accessible by rail via Amtrak's Empire Builder route (Chicago - St. Paul/Minneapolis - Spokane - Portland/Seattle). It is also reachable by Greyhound Bus.

Excellent Programming

GA will offer more than 100 programming selections over the course of five days. This year, in addition to Theme-Based Programming, the schedule will feature Role-Based Track Programming, including time for discussion among attendees, sharing inspiring models and stories, and concrete suggestions for how to further the work or "take it home." More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

Financial Aid Available

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga in the month of March to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).

Nevadans for the Common Good Postcard Campaign

UUCLV, a 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

We are currently working on a postcard campaign; visit the table next to the “Bookstore” to participate. We are writing three sentences to our State Senators and Assembly people to tell them that we support the NCG legislative platform. That includes funding public education with \$500 Million dollars, to increase the amount per pupil Nevada spends. We want \$40 Million in tax credits for homebuilders to increase the affordable housing stock. Pay Day Lending information needs to be captured in a statewide

database to prevent consumers from over-borrowing, which would help enforce the current State laws designed to reduce victimization. You don’t have to add stamps and we can look up your legislators if you sign the postcard with your zip code. Or, for more information, contact Karin Metcalf.



Many Voices Meeting

Reported by B.L.W.

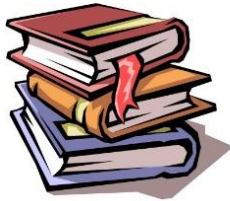
February 2019

Themes: Generosity & Anger

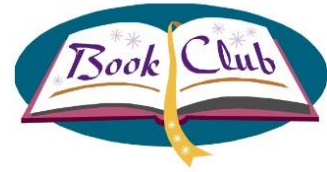
The opposing forces of generosity and anger triggered an interesting variety of story responses. The story leader for the evening began with a tale of generosity based in culture. She spoke of missing, in her American setting, the closeness and responsiveness of her middle-eastern community. Soon, she met people from the same cultural roots and a bond was formed. When the speaker became immobilized by illness, having a one-year-old child needing care, the new friends were informed. The generosity shown when these people traveled approximately fifty miles to provide assistance has never been forgotten and the long-standing relationship still thrives. Another participant delineated the years of generosity received by herself and her siblings from their mother. She is convinced and has told her parent that unbridled generosity is a quality natural to few people, her mother being one. A very different tale was told of a person who considered refusing the generosity of a friend offering her a trip to South Africa in the midst of the Apartheid movement. She is grateful for what she learned by going.

An unusual story combined generosity with anger. After the sudden death of her husband, this teller felt her friends and those surrounding her while grieving were very generous. However, when she, still suffering from shock, wanted to talk about her husband, the same people were discouraging or turned away promoting feelings of anger. She was further angered when encountering an incompetent counselor, being left to find her own way through the processes of grief.

The theme ANGER spawned a humorous story by a participant who encountered a raccoon after having a large house remodeled. The raccoon found a path down one of the large columns. After the column was sealed, the angry raccoon frequently returned angering the dog and causing fights between the two animals. Finding no solution, the home owner unsealed the column, hoping to find what was attracting the raccoon. The mother raccoon soon exited the column with her new born baby.



Las Vegas Bookies

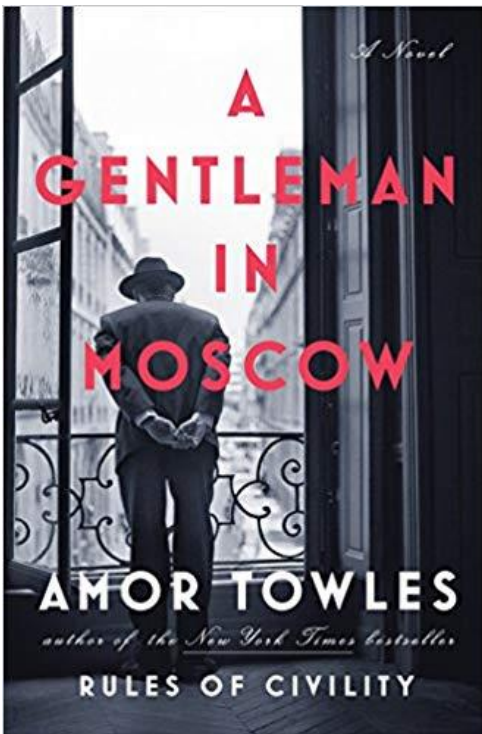


Las Vegas Bookies will meet from 7-9 pm Tuesday March 19, 2019 to discuss
A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel by Amor Towles

Moderator: Joyce Patterson-Rogers;

Hosts: Lucy Rey and Sig Palasek

Contact: Sigmund Palasek palsig98@gmail.com



Inside the elegant Metropol Hotel, located near the Kremlin and the Bolshoi, the Count slowly adjusts to circumstances as a "Former Person." He makes do with the attic room, to which he is banished after residing for years in a posh third-floor suite. A man of refined taste in wine, food, and literature, he strives to maintain a daily routine, exploring the nooks and crannies of the hotel, bonding with staff, accepting the advances of attractive women, and forming what proves to be a deeply meaningful relationship with a spirited young girl, Nina. "We are bound to find comfort from the notion that it takes generations for a way of life to fade," says the companionable narrator.

For the Count, that way of life ultimately becomes less about aristocratic airs and privilege than generosity and devotion. Spread across four decades, this is in all ways a great novel, a nonstop pleasure brimming with charm, personal wisdom, and philosophic insight. Though Stalin and Khrushchev make their presences felt, Towles largely treats politics as a dark, distant shadow. The chill of the political events occurring outside the Metropol is certainly felt, but for the Count and his friends, the passage of time is "like the turn of a kaleidoscope." This is a book in which the cruelties of the age can't begin to erase the glories of real human connection and the memories it leaves behind. (Summary from Kirkus Review.)

Future Flashes:

April 16, 2019: *White Teeth: A Novel* by Zadie Smith; **Moderator:** Binnie Wilkin; **Hosts:** Linda and John Farley

May 21, 2019: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. **Moderator:** Linda Farley; **Host:** Kelly Webber.



HUUMANISTS CLV FORUM

The Future of Oil
Sunday, March 24 12 noon
Convener Bill Jacobs

“The Future of Oil” will be explored as Jon Becker provides startling statistics at our next **HUUMANIST Forum**. Jon says that our current oil reserves will be exhausted in about 50 years at our current consumption rate. However, the Oil consumption rate is not constant. It is increasing about 1.8% per year (a BP rate) which means that the world faces a crisis by mid-century

Join us to discuss this dilemma **12 noon on Sunday, March 24th**. **Child care is provided**



UUCLV HUUMANIST Forum

3616 East Lake Mead Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89115

**“THE FUTURE OF OIL”
SUNDAY
MARCH 24, 2019
12:00 NOON**

freethinkerbill@yahoo.com

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.

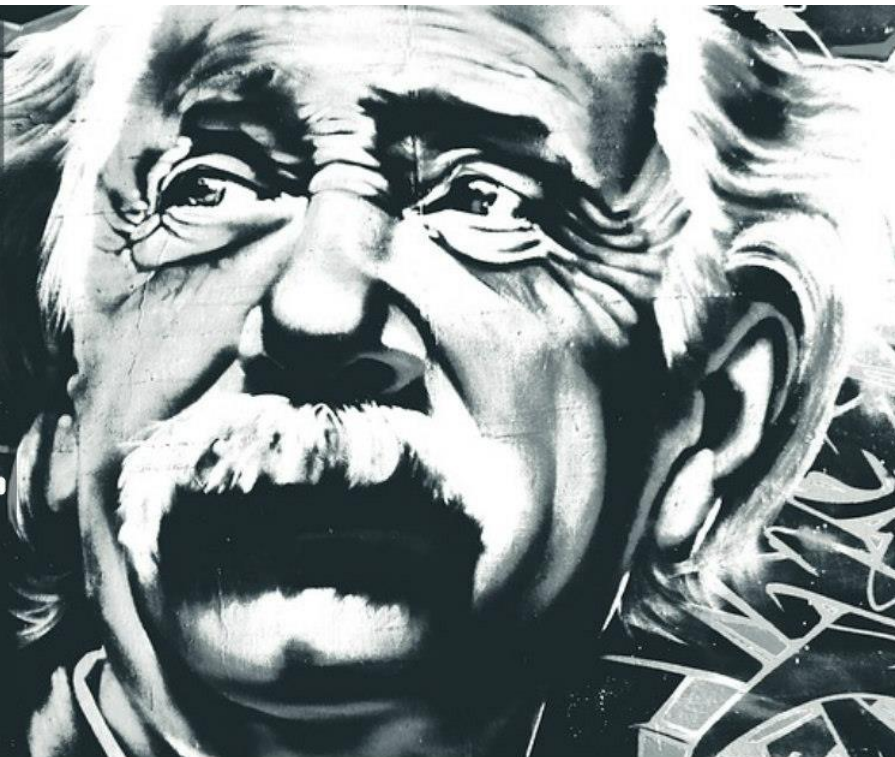
To Create a Smith's Online Account:

- Visit our website at www.smithsfoodanddrug/inspire.com Click on Smith's Inspiring Donations.
- 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 www.smithsfoodanddrug/inspire.com. 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.




Come Show Off
Your Inner
EINSTEIN!

UUCLV's ANNUAL
**TRIVIA
CONTEST**
Saturday
MAY 25, 2019
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Final Thought ...



We are called, collectively,
to this great experiment
in communal salvation.
Whether we arrived in this
faith by birth or by choice, our
everyday expression of our
values in the world matters.

—The Rev. Sofía Betancourt, *UU World*


 uuworld.org

IMAGE © JACOB AMMENTORP LUND/ISTOCK