

the Sunrise

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas Newsletter

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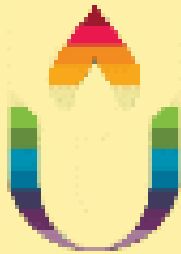
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Monthly Theme: Transformation

Sunrise Contributors:

Rev. Rachel A. Baker, Lisa McAllister, Rick & Lisa Bleyle, Gail Knapp, Diane Brinson, B.L.W, Sig Palasek, Bill Jacobs, Terry Sokey, Erma Zurita, Smith's Inspiring Donations Staff, and UU World.

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UUCLV Board of Trustees

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Bruce Turner – VP	Lisa McAllister— Program Rep
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Kathy Espin – Treasurer	Stewart Webster — Finance Liaison

UUCLV Staff

Rev. Rachel Allen Baker – Minister
 Erma Zurita – Office Administrator
 Athena Anderson – Religious Education
 Joy Phan – Choir Director

Topics for Upcoming Services

April 07, 2019: *Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Service*
– Our YRUU Group with Charlie Mara



The YRUU teens will offer a whole congregation worship service to the congregation.

April 14, 2019: *Two Hundred Years as Unitarian* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker



Sunday, May 5, 2019 is the 200th anniversary of the Baltimore Sermon when William Ellery Channing claimed the name Unitarian for the liberalizing movement in the New England churches. During service we will hear some of what Channing imagined for the future of Unitarianism.

April 21, 2019: *Easter Sunday* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker



Looking at Easter traditions and the idea that spring time is a time of new life and transition, we will welcome change and transformation in our lives.

April 28, 2019: *Tile Making Workshop* – Lisa McAllister



Together the congregation will make a new set of tiles to add to the tile wall in the hallway. From time to time we gather together for workshop, rather than worship. Come decorate tiles and celebrate community.

April 2019 50/50 Sundays: [The Rape Crisis Center](#)

In April, we will be sharing our non-pledge offering with [The Rape Crisis Center](#). The #metoo movement has raised many powerful voices over the past year. Many survivors are speaking out and coming forward who had felt too alone or afraid to do so before. If you need help and support at this time, whether you experienced sexual assault or abuse days or decades ago, the Rape Crisis Center is here for you. Please reach out. Call the hotline – 702-366-1640, come to support group, reach out for counseling, or join us for yoga. There is no wrong way to join us or get help for the first time, or the fiftieth. Please remember – you are not alone. There is hope, help and healing here for you. If you want to get involved to help, there is a place for you. Volunteer, donate, bring education to your community – all are ways to help turn the tide so that voices in the future don't have to say #MeToo.



From the Boardroom

UUCLV Board Meeting February 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Keith McMillen at 6:30. Rev. Rachel read the chalice lighting. Members present included Keith McMillen, Mary Jane Brustman, Lisa McAllister, Bruce Turner, Gail Knapp, Kathy Espin, and Shannon Porter. Rev. Rachel Baker was also in attendance. A quorum was present.

Accountability: Keith led the review of the list from last month, and members explained the things they had done from last list. Mary Jane said that the women's retreat is coming up, and it is going to be financially sound with 25 women coming. Rev. Rachel provided a list of her activities and their status. The covenant signature banner was done by Bruce. The nominating committee is looking for ideas for future board members.

Minutes from last month were approved and distributed. The approval committee for this month is Shannon, Mary Jane and Lisa.

REPORTS:

Rev. Rachel's report- Rev. Rachel reports that the congregation has two major projects underway. One is the Annual Pledge Campaign, which runs between February 24 and March 25. The second is the Focus Groups, asking who UUCLV envisions itself to be in the future, which runs during the same time frame. So far members and friends of the congregation have greatly enjoyed the group process. Since the New Year we have seen an increase in attendance up to between 75 and 95 people present. UUCLV is currently running the Senior OWL program, coordinated by Athena Anderson, Faith development Educator. This year we are running three adult faith development formation series. Building Your Own Theologies, Resistance and Transformation, and Me and White Supremacy. Rev. Rachel will be participating in a UNLV class, Strong Financial Oversight and a Collegial Learning Group looking at best practices of faith development for children and youth in congregations in the current social and political environment.

Treasurer's Report- We need to increase our income to meet our expenses. January was very much below expectations, and so far February is not looking better. Kathy moved that we transfer the money from line item 2.500.135 Sunday coffee hour into 2.500.001 growth and renovation fund. The board believes that this \$900/+ account was left over from when it was a restricted account. Motion adopted unanimously.

Three Square- We need to find a pest control contract and are currently taking bids. With Jim Brustman's help we have a contract with Three Square, and he has earned his food handler card. He is willing to help anyone else who wishes to do this. It can be done online. We will need to have someone with that card whenever we distribute food. We have the second Saturday in April as our first day.

Vice President's Report- VP Bruce reported that we have vertical blinds, visitor chairs, two-drawer locking file, and rack for robes have been bought and installed in minister's office. We are still looking for windows for the study and office. We have some issues with the zoning on the property if we wish to sell it. These issues also apply to improvements in the façade. His report is attached to these minutes.

Standing and Special Committees- Lisa is doing a social justice overhaul. She is updating our Internet presence that has some things that are seriously out of date.

Focus Groups- There will be a meeting of the congregation to discuss the result of these discussions. It has been moved to April 14 instead of the current date in March, since it is an opportunity for the board to present what it has learned. Then the board and the minister will discuss what the priorities for the next actions should be.

Our Realistic Aspirational budget- It will be based on the actual pledges received. The drive starts next week. The board worked on creating the framework as a goal.

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance- Motion to increase our insurance to \$142 additional annually for the building, This will keep us on track to be able to replace the building at code if needed.

Gratitude Sunday- The board discussed some ideas.

Accountabilities- Rev will check calendar for gratitude service, minister's report uploaded on Thursday. Lisa- get her food handler card, make calendar change for congregational meeting, and prepare crafts idea for April 28. Kathy will have budget reports done before the next meeting, and will find out about dropbox default; move money into building usage instead of rental. Bruce will send focus group notes to Rev Rachel; closet bar up for Rev. Rachel, check the cost of millwork for windows in doors; check with Colleen Hall-Pattern about availability of husband, Mark, for a fundraiser; and complete VP reports. Gail will prepare and distribute minutes. Keith will sweet talk Adela (Gail's sister) into providing a future fund raising talk. Mary Jane will finish earning her food handler card, work on the fifth Sunday fundraiser; and complete work on the women's retreat. Shannon will approve minutes, work on advertisement with Erma for the Center (the LGBTQ center); get quote for pest control; and earn a food handler card.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Gail Knapp, Secretary



New to UUCLV?

All newer-to-the-congregation folks are invited to our two-session ***Path to Community***. The first session will be held at UUCLV on **Saturday, April 6 from 9:45 to 12:00**. In the first session we will have an opportunity to meet those who are newer to the congregation; learn about the Unitarian Universalist principles, sources, and history; and discuss some of our theological ideas. The second session will be held at UUCLV on **Saturday, May 4 from 9:45 to 12:00**. During the second session we will discuss how to get involved in the congregation, begin to understand how the congregation makes decisions together, and learn about the benefits and responsibilities of congregational membership. There will be an opportunity to sign the membership book to join the congregation after the second session, but there is no pressure to join the congregation at this time. The ***Path to Community*** sessions are not a requirement for membership in the congregation, but are highly encouraged, especially for those who are newer to Unitarian Universalism. RSVP to Rev. Rachel Baker at minister@UUCLV.org

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 April 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 April to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).



Many Voices Meeting

Reported by B.L.W.

March 2019

Themes: *School & Acceptance*

“School days, school days, good old golden rule days...” The school experiences of attending storytellers were not all “good.” Initiating the evening, the story leader told of being a doctor’s daughter and therefore singled out as a probable leader or worthy associate. Her desire was to be left alone unencumbered by baggage from her father’s community position. As a result, the storyteller skipped school but still excelled in classes. After filling her days with poetry and creative writing, all courses were passed. Not allowed to graduate because of low attendance, her diploma was received by taking the GED exam. With some similarity another speaker’s father was loved and respected in the community. Doing poorly in her classes for no apparent reason, the teller was considered mentally challenged. After muddling her way through elementary and high school, this low achiever surprised everyone by entering and finishing college. Much later in adult life, it was discovered that this female’s learning and work were hampered by Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). With this knowledge, she progressed with much improved self-esteem. A male participant, who loved poetry and art, added his tale of school antipathy. Like the story leader, he was truant until mentors astutely allowed him to participate in writing, art and other creative classes where he excelled.

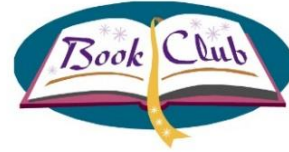
For one person, school days were in England at a school for girls. There everyone wore the same uniform daily. Although expectations for her success were not high, elementary, high school and pre-medical classes were completed. After marrying and moving to the United States, she entered and finished courses at a medical school in the Midwest under less than perfect circumstances. After many years, to her chagrin, a letter was received from the medical school congratulating her long-past graduation and soliciting funds for the school.

Teaching was the focus of a few comments. One person expressed excitement about a program for high school students with serious deficits in reading. Instead of demeaning the youth by assigning them children’s books at their level of expertise, students were programmed to read books to much younger elementary school children. Another told enlightening stories about teaching in the Peace Corp, working in extremely impoverished surroundings. Although hours were long and the processes rudimentary, the experience was rewarding. A male contributor was complimentary to a teacher encountered in college. The philosophy teacher spoke of beliefs conflicting with those of the student. An assigned paper offered opportunity to challenge the teacher. Expecting to receive a low grade, the teller was surprised upon receiving an “A”. This, he said was “the measure of a good teacher” who rewarded the “thinking process” rather than his counter viewpoint. Another positive response combining “school” with “acceptance” was that of a person recruited for an acting class populated with much younger students. The class allowed students to learn about directing, acting and staging by participating in all three. After being accepted by his classmates, the narrator was selected as the play’s older main character. He wondered if this may have been the reason for his initial recruitment, which didn’t matter because the experience was extremely rewarding. Finally one speaker revealed that at a music school, seeking instructions for playing basic guitar chords, she met and married the teacher. It seems fitting to end with the old classic:

School days, school days	Taught to the tune of the hickory stick	And you wrote on my slate, "I love
Dear old golden rule days	You were my queen in calico	you, Joe"
Reading and writing and 'rithmetic	I was your bashful barefoot beau	When we were a couple of kids



Las Vegas Bookies



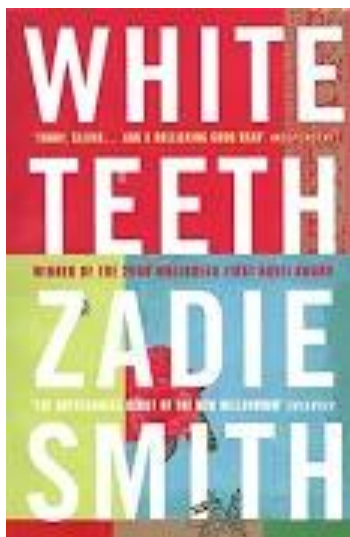
**Las Vegas Bookies will meet from 7 - 9 pm Tuesday April 16, 2019 to discuss:
*White Teeth: A Novel by Zadie Smith***

Moderator: Binnie Wilkin;

Hosts: Linda and John Farley

Contact: Sig Palasek palsig98@gmail.com

On New Year's morning, 1975, Archie Jones sits in his car on a London road and waits for the exhaust fumes to fill his Cavalier Musketeer station wagon. Archie--working-class, ordinary, a failed marriage under his belt--is calling it quits, the deciding factor being the flip of a 20-pence coin. When the owner of a nearby halal butcher shop (annoyed that Archie's car is blocking his delivery area) comes out and bangs on the window, he gives Archie another chance at life and sets in motion this richly imagined, uproariously funny novel.



Epic and intimate, hilarious and poignant, ***White Teeth*** is the story of two North London families--one headed by Archie, the other by Archie's best friend, a Muslim Bengali named Samad Iqbal. Pals since they served together in World War II, Archie and Samad are a decidedly unlikely pair. Plodding Archie is typical in every way until he marries Clara, a beautiful, toothless Jamaican woman half his age, and the couple have a daughter named Irie (the Jamaican word for "no problem"). Samad--devoutly Muslim, hopelessly "foreign"--weds the feisty and always suspicious Alsana in a prearranged union. They have twin sons named Millat and Magid, one a pot-smoking punk-cum-militant Muslim and the other an insufferable science nerd. The riotous and tortured histories of the Joneses and the Iqbals are fundamentally intertwined, capturing an empire's worth of cultural identity, history, and hope.

Zadie Smith's dazzling first novel plays out its bounding, vibrant course in a Jamaican hair salon in North London, an Indian restaurant in Leicester Square, an Irish poolroom turned immigrant café, a liberal public school, a sleek science institute. A winning debut in every respect, ***White Teeth*** marks the arrival of a wondrously talented writer who takes on the big themes--faith, race, gender, history, and culture--and triumphs

Future Flashes

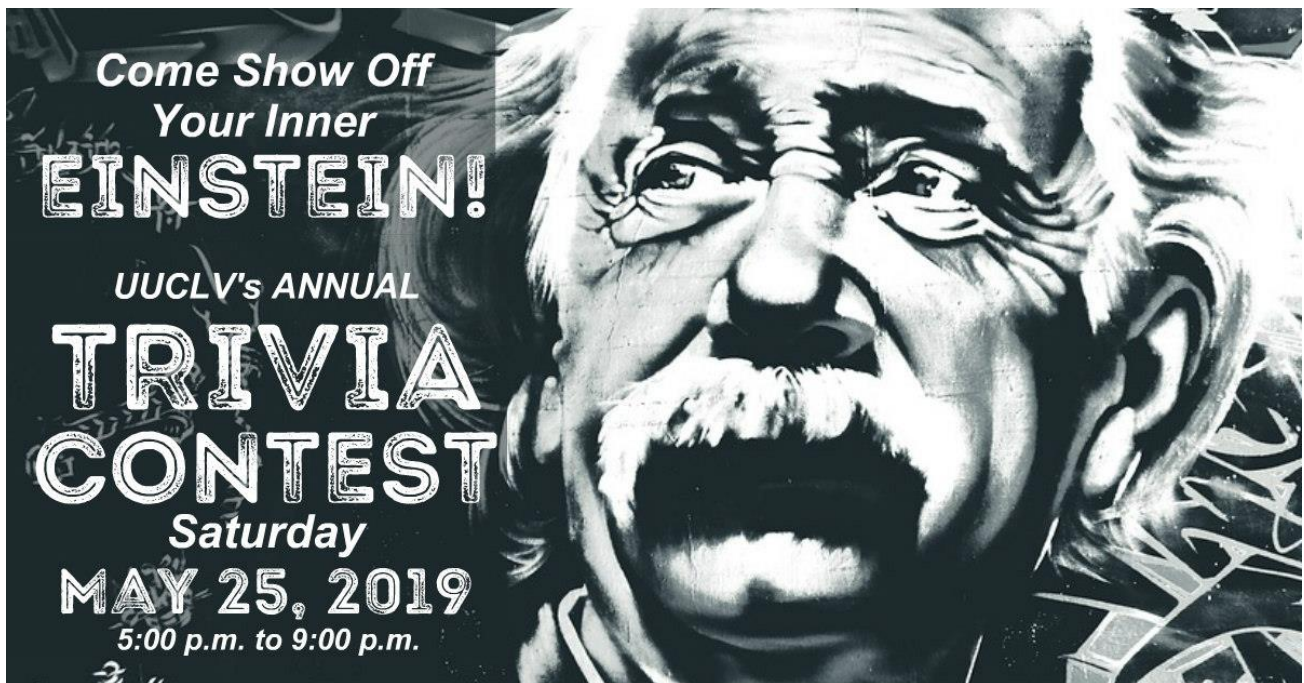
May 21, 2019 *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. Moderator: Linda Farley; **Host:** Kelly Webber



HUUMANISTS CLV FORUM

Trump – Laurence Leamer
Sunday, April 28 12 noon
Convener Bill Jacobs

“Trump” What do you think of him? We will hear some interesting anecdotes from Laurence Leamer, author of *Mar-a-Lago*. Do you have a story about the Donald? We want to hear it at the HUUMANISTS Forum 12 noon on Sunday April 28th. Child care is provided.



Our annual Trivia Contest will be held May 25th at church. Teams of six will battle it out with Mr. T (for trivia) to see who knows the most useless information in LAS VEGAS. Register your team by using the [attached form](#). The team with the most correct answers will win sixty dollars in crisp ten-dollar bills. An additional prize of one million dollars will be awarded to the team who conjures up the most creative answers. Our judges will evaluate all answer sheets and declare winners based on the dollar amount of bribes offered. Back by popular demand will be our X rated category. Come see Mr. T try to stump the floor in his ridiculous costume. There will be a complimentary food spread and cash bar with beer, wine and soft drinks. In addition, there will be several raffle items with gift coupons and other treats that always sell a lot of raffle tickets. Registration cost to enter the contest is twenty dollars per person. As this is a fundraiser, all money will go to the general fund of UUCLV. If you don't have a team, just bring your twenty dollars the night of the contest and our registrar will assign you a team at random. This is the only Trivia contest in town that requires absolutely no brain power, cause if you bribe the judges enough money, you are bound to do well. Doors open at six p.m. on Saturday, and the contest begins at six thirty. We should finish around 8 to 8:30. See Jane Feldman or Terry Sokey for more information.

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.

Final Thought

Seeing the sacred in new forms does not diminish the sacred recognized in traditional and long-held ways.

—Ali Jablonsky , *UU World*



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