

# the Sunrise

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas Newsletter

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May 2019

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## Monthly Theme: Hope

### Sunrise Contributors:

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

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Submission Deadline: 12 a.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> of previous month

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### UUCLV Board of Trustees

Keith McMillen – President	Mary jane Brustman — Program Rep
Bruce Turner – VP	Lisa McAllister— Program Rep
Gail Knapp – Secretary	Shannon Porter — At Large
Kathy Espin – Treasurer	Stewart Webster — Finance Liaison

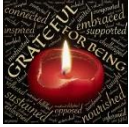
### UUCLV Staff

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



# Topics for Upcoming Services

## May 05, 2019: *Long-Haul People* – UUCLV Board of Directors



Each year the Board offers a worship service to celebrate the service of the members and friends of the congregation to the congregation. Come celebrate the life of this congregation together.

## May 12, 2019: *Taking a Twenty* – Kate Weinberg

## May 19, 2019: *Lessons in Adulthood* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker



Today we celebrate an important life transition. The seniors in our Youth Religious Unitarian Universalism program will be bridging out of their high school age group into their lives as young adults. Rev. Rachel will share some touchstones of UU faith to return to throughout life. The congregation will welcome new members.

## May 26, 2019: *Finding Hope* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker



Hope is the theme for the month of May. We will explore losing and finding hope again and again...

## May 2019 50/50 Sundays: [Temple of Goddess Spirituality Dedicated to Sekhmet](#)

In May, we are sharing our non-pledged donations with our 50/50 partner, the [Temple of Goddess Spirituality Dedicated to Sekhmet](#). This Pagan gathering space provides desert renewal and spiritual sustenance. The high priestess conducts public rituals throughout the year for holidays, full moon, and new moon. Gift economy and support of peace work are values it holds dear. The Temple has been in this location near Indian Springs since 1993.

**The Lunch Bunch** will take a break on May 5<sup>th</sup> due to the Congregational Meeting but afterwards will meet regularly on the first Sunday of the month at the Desert Pines Golf club located at: [3415 E Bonanza Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89101](#) Phone: (702) 388-4400 Here is the [menu](#). We hope everyone can join us in June.

-- Rick and Lisa Bleye



# From the Boardroom

## UUCLV Board Minutes March 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Keith McMillen at 6:30 p.m. at the church. A quorum was present with members Keith McMillen, Gail Knapp, Kathy Espin, Bruce Turner, Lisa McAllister, Mary Jane Brustman, and Rev. Rachel Baker.,

The chalice lighting was led by Rev. Rachel.

**Accountability-**The following items were completed during the past month: Rev Rachel reported that the gratitude service has been moved to May 4; Lisa is studying for the food handling card, and is working on craft project for our meeting on April 28; Kathy said that budget reports have been provided in Drop Box; and accounts are changed; Bruce has updated Rev. Rachel on focus groups; and was going to check with Mark Hall-Patten about a time he might be available and willing to do a fundraiser. He is looking for a date in October near Nevada day; Keith did not find an opportunity to talk to Adela Oppenheim about the possibility of a fundraising talk on Egypt; Mary Jane has not yet gotten her food card, but she has worked on the Sunday lunch fundraiser on the 31 of March which is the fifth Sunday. Pest control has been hired and has completed the first service. Gail has completed minutes.

**Minutes-** approved minutes were distributed. Gail will add the minister's report that has been sent to her by e-mail. New minutes approval committee for this month will be Rev. Rachel, Bruce, and Mary Jane.

### REPORTS:

**Rev. Rachel Report-** Rev. Rachel Baker reported new energy and enthusiasm with the focus group discussions, the food pantry project, and the recent ways to serve the congregation survey. The Annual Pledge Campaign launched in February. Pledges are lower than they have been in recent years. Rev. Rachel suggested that the Board think about doing a second ask. A Path to Community series of two classes has been scheduled. Rev. Rachel has begun a four-week Strong Financial Oversight class through the UNLV Continuing Education program and has joined a Collegial Learning Group on Faith Formation and the Future of Sunday School.

**Finance-** Kathy has provided a written report that is attached to these minutes. Last month the income was greater than expenses. So far this month is also looking good. She will be posting the audit report in Drop Box.

**Facilities-** Jim Brustman is going to arrange to have the floors stripped and waxed. Stu is in the hospital and unable to work on this. The shop door is not working properly.

**Vice President-** Bruce explained that he is trying to find an electrical fixture for the sign. He has identified two florescent lights, but he has been looking for LED options. He has had some success. He has purchased a rack for robes and stoles for Rev. Rachel's office. But he was unable to install them this past month.

**Board Liaison Report:** Mary Jane reported that the Women's Retreat was a great success for building community and ended up financially sound. In addition, Keith and Mary Jane reported that we are now officially a Three-Square partner. We will be doing what they call a farmer's market. Food will be delivered on pallets to be distributed that day. We will have produce and nonperishables. We will be on the website at Three Square, and there will be handouts at local schools. There will be a banner sign or sandwich board to put out when it is time saying something like "food pantry today." Our first distribution will be April 20 in the morning.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Black Lives Matter Banner-** There is a consensus that we should eventually put it outside, but there are some concerns and issues that need to be resolved before this is presented to the whole congregation. Issues included the need to discuss a plan for what happens if or when it is vandalized, and how it is displayed. Gail agreed to check with Congregation Members about the opinions of SURJ members about our display of the banner outside of the church.

**Next Congregational Meeting-** This will be the announcement of the results of the focus groups on April 14. We will also be looking at the budget two weeks before the actual budget vote. There will also be a conversation about whether to offer Rev. Rachel an additional two years on her contract.


**Future Board Planning:** We need to start planning for gratitude Sunday on May 5.

**Delegates for GA and DA-** we need to know how many delegates we are entitled to have. District Assembly is at the end of April in Long Beach, CA. GA will be in Spokane, Wash 19-23 of June.

**Accountability-** Rev. Rachel will upload the minister's report and serve on minutes approval; Keith will work with focus groups, do a presentation on the budget for the meeting on April 14; obtain delegate counts for GA and DA, and bug the nominations committee. Mary Jane- will get the list of long time members and the list of things accomplished on long term plan. Kathy- will write the treasurers report by Thursday before the board meeting, and close out last year's church year. Lisa- will make food panty signs; get tiles and supplies for April 28. Bruce will ask Coleen to ask Mark about a history lecture fundraiser; serve on approval of minutes committee, and do a focus group analysis; Gail will complete minutes, and contact the members who have worked with SURJ..

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Gail Knapp, Secretary



**Focus Group Results Shared on April 14:** Congratulations UUCLV! We have successfully journeyed together through the Focus Group Process. Quite a few members and friends expressed joy in sharing deeply with each other. One of the goals of the focus group process is to provide an opportunity for members and friends to build deeper relationships between and among the congregation. The Focus Groups do not always provide clear goals and next steps; the focus groups point towards who we are and who we want to be. Next steps include delving deeper into the question, "Who do we want to be," followed by "How do we get there?" [The summary of the focus groups is available here.](#) [The twenty-one pages of notes from all the groups is available here.](#) Questions and or comments can be sent to the Office Administrator, Erma, at [admin@uuclv.org](mailto:admin@uuclv.org). Erma will forward your e-mails to the Board.

# New to UUCLV?

All newer-to-the-congregation folks are invited to our two-session *Path to Community*. The first session was held at UUCLV on **Saturday, May 6 from 9:45 to 12:00**. In the first session we had 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](mailto:minister@UUCLV.org)



## Many Voices Meeting

April 2019

Reported by B.L.W.

Themes:

*Humor & Transformation*

Smiles, giggles and hilarity reigned throughout the evening beginning with responses to stories “from the ‘liberry’(library)” by the session leader. The antics of two inebriated library patrons began the session but a librarian’s response when encountering a flasher, “May I help you?”, elicited raucous laughter.

Others contributed pithy one liners and one person experienced being the brunt of laughs when substitute teaching, entering a classroom and stepping in the trash can. Performances of humorous scenes in a play can bring surprising results as reported by one participant. Audiences laugh in the wrong places or not at all. Scenes which seemed extremely funny to the players may be met with entirely different results. Everyone agreed that humor is a necessary ingredient in life, sometimes regenerating our energy and positive activity. One teller faced today’s rigorous process of securing a passport with humor. For her, maintaining dual citizenships made negotiations more complex. Imagine having an application returned stating, “Your eyes can’t be closed” when the picture clearly shows eyes open. Finally, the group was informed about a “laughing meditation” at UUCLV. The meditation leader simply went to the podium and began laughing. In minutes the whole congregation was laughing.

Although *Transformation* was a more serious theme, one person revealed that, after viewing a picture of aging with scowls and developing lines of depression, she concentrated on humor and “accentuating the positive.” Her improved persona was evident in the lovely picture shared with the group. Transformation held a different meaning for the storyteller who once owned a vintage clothing store. Bulky sweaters, sought out and restored at his business were purchased and worn by a celebrity using the sweaters as his “transformative” calling card.

# 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 May 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. PST at [www.uua.org/ga](http://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

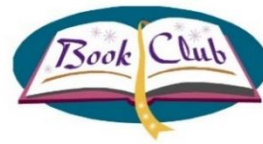
GA will offer more than 100 programming selections over the course of five days. This year, in addition to Theme-Based Programming, the schedule will feature Role-Based Track Programming, including time for discussion among attendees, sharing inspiring models and stories, and concrete suggestions for how to further the work or "take it home." More programming details are available at [www.uua.org/ga](http://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](http://uua.org/ga) in the month of May to learn about scholarships to support delegates - particularly those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).



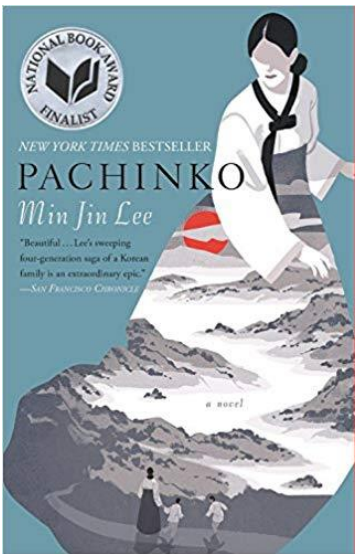
# Las Vegas Bookies



## Las Vegas Bookies will meet from 7 - 9 pm Tuesday May 21, 2019 to discuss: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

**Moderator:** Binnie Wilkin; **Hosts:** Kelly Webber

**Contact:** Sig Palasek [palsig98@gmail.com](mailto:palsig98@gmail.com)



In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant--and that her lover is married--she refuses to be bought. Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations.

Richly told and profoundly moving, *Pachinko* is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters--strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis--survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history.

*Pachinko* is the second novel by Korean-American author Min Jin Lee. *Pachinko* was a 2017 finalist for the [National Book Award for fiction](#). [Apple TV](#)'s streaming service has purchased the rights for a television adaptation of the novel. (Book review excerpted from [Goodreads.com](#) and [Wikipedia](#).)



***A Star-Trek Civilization***  
– Erland Wittkotter  
**Sunday, May 26 12 noon**  
Convener Bill Jacobs

“**A Star-Trek Civilization**” is possible in our Lifetime?” Erland Wittkotter will be visiting us from Panama and present a thought-provoking conversation on what can and needs to be done to accelerate the technological progress so we can have a thriving industrialization of space. It’s been 50 years since the first moon landing and in the next 50 years many could call space their home. As the great American thinker Dirty Harry once said: “man needs to know this limitation.”

Dr. Wittkotter is a mathematician and entrepreneur with a Ph.D. in physics and was a previous organizer of the HUUMANIST Forum. **The HUUMANIST Forum will be 12 noon on Sunday May 26.**



## Circle Supper

**Picnic 5:30 pm+**

**Saturday, May 18**



Centennial Hills Park  
6851 North Buffalo Drive  
North of Highway 215/95 interchange,

[MapQuest directions](#). [Google Map](#) Look for Karin's blue Mizuno Tent, we will get as close to the water playground as possible while maintaining accessibility. Our frugal church is not reserving a picnic area, this park is huge with things to do for all ages.

Everyone is welcome and this a great opportunity to bring families you want to introduce to UUCLV. Please bring one food dish to share. We will not grill or chill. No glass please. Yes, bring folding chairs and lanterns. Questions or help call or text Karin Metcalf. Only serious rain at 4 pm will cancel our picnic.

## Nevadans for the Common Good News

**Karin Metcalf & Joanne Leovy**

*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.*

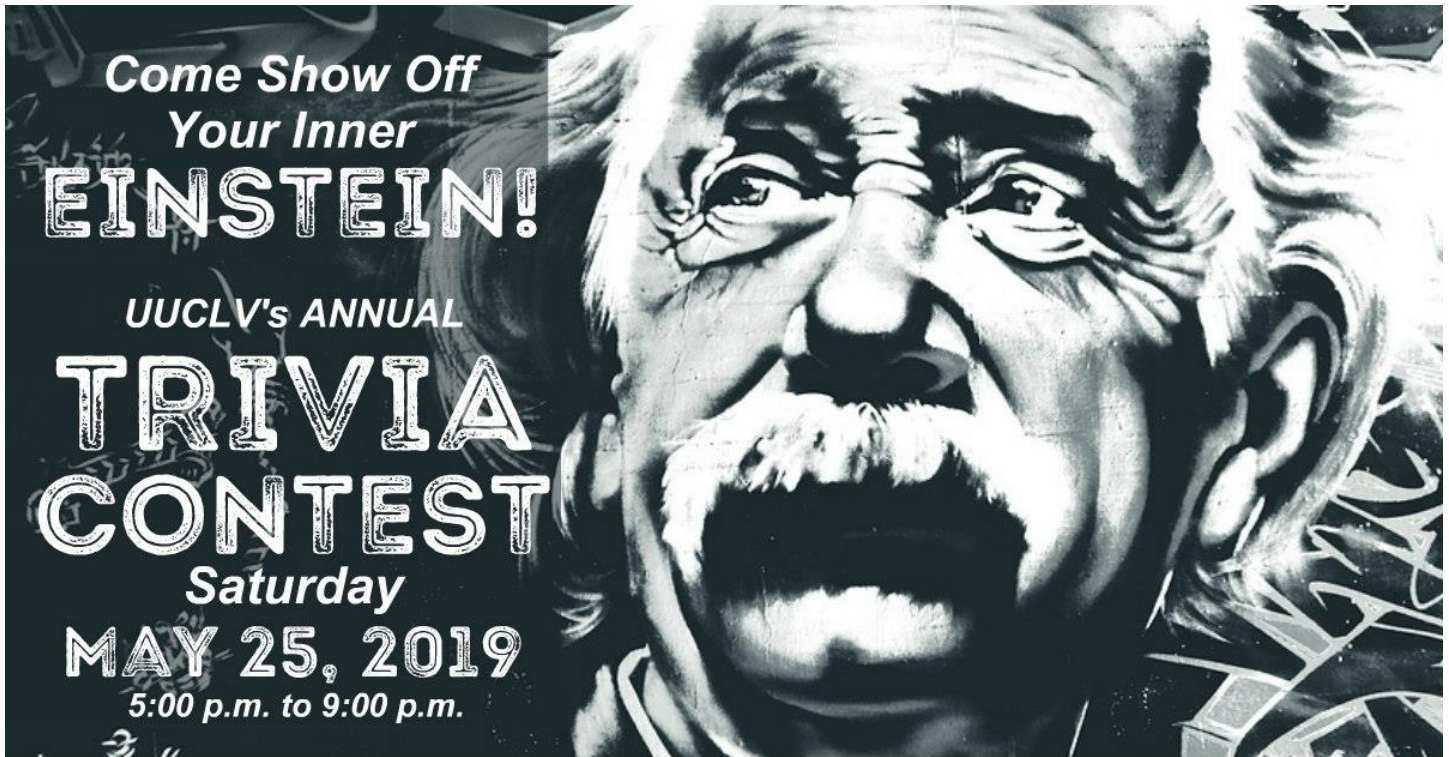


Nevadans for the  
Common Good

**Postcard campaign to our Legislators update:** two of the three Bills we were endorsing have passed out of their Committees. The \$40 million in tax credits for homebuilders to increase the affordable housing stock, and the Bill for a Pay Day Lending web site to prevent consumers from over-borrowing have both been amended. At last check, the amendments do not change the essence or purpose of the Bills. We will provide more information as we get it. Thank you for your support!

**More on the Payday Lending Bill SB201** to create a payday lending database to protect consumers will be heard in the Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee next week! **Payday Lending Hearing:** Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at the Grant Sawyer Building- 555 E. Washington Ave. (hearing room TBD). Please consider attending the hearing or write or call your legislators in support. Find your state Senator and Assemblyperson by entering your address at this link: [NV Legislative Map](#). Enter an opinion in support of the bill at this link, [NV Legislature Opinions App](#). Thank you for using your power as a citizen to influence policy in Nevada!

**On May 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a NCG Goodbye Party for Lital Slobodsky**, who has lost her position with them from lack of grant funding. If you'd like more information, contact [Karin Metcalf](#).



**Our annual Trivia Contest will be held May 25<sup>th</sup> at UUCLV.  
Doors open at 6 pm, Contest starts at 6:30**

- Teams of 6 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 \$10 bills.
- Additional prize of one million dollars awarded for conjuring up the most creative answers. (Our judges will evaluate all answer sheets and declare winners based on the dollar amount of bribes offered.)
- X rated category back by popular demand.
- See Mr. T try to stump the floor in his ridiculous costume.
- Complimentary food spread and cash bar with beer, wine and soft drinks.
- In addition, there will be raffle items with gift coupons and other treats.
- Registration cost to enter the contest is \$20/person.
- If you don't have a team, just bring your \$20 the night of the contest and our registrar will assign you a team at random.
- All money collected will go to the general fund of UUCLV

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.



Dear Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas (BE260),

**01-Jan-2019 to 31-Mar-2019**

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to go beyond being a part of the community to also helping create a stronger community. We recognize that every community is different and has unique causes that need support. Smith's Food & Drug launched Inspiring Donations, July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, to give customers the opportunity to donate to local causes that matter to them. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

**20**

**Households**

**\$ 86.06**

**Total Donations**

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Inspiring Donations participation as well.

**Not signed up?**

**(see next page  
for sign-up  
instructions)**

**As a reminder, Smith's Food & Drug donates .5% of every eligible purchase made by participants to the organization their *rewards* card is linked to.** The amount outlined above is the first payout through Inspiring Donations and there is room to grow your donations! We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their *rewards* card to your organization. Inspiring Donations is easy to understand and easy to explain! The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

Inspiring Donations *Staff*

# 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](http://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](http://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 ....

A heart that is concerned about closing is a heart that yearns to stay open. That's a heart that is ripe for learning and growing.

–The Rev. Dara Olandt, *UU World*

IMAGE © IPOPBA/ISTOCK

