

# the Sunrise

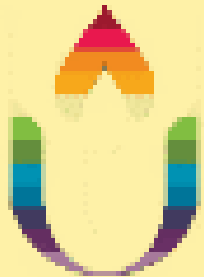
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas Newsletter

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## Table of Contents

- [Rev.Elations! \(Minster's Message\)](#) ..... 1
- [Topics for Upcoming Services](#) ..... 2
- [June 2019 50/50 Recipient](#) ..... 2
- [Sunday Lunch Bunch](#)..... 3
- [Congregation Annual Meeting](#) ..... 3
- [June Food Pantry Distribution](#) ..... 3
- [Social Justice Sunday Lunch Fundraiser](#) ..... 4
- [Many Voices May 2019 Meeting](#) ..... 4
- [UUA General Assembly News](#) ..... 5
- [Las Vegas Bookies Book Club](#) ..... 6
- [HUUmanist Forum](#) ..... 6
- [Nevadans for the Common Good News](#) ..... 7
- [Another Way to Donate to UUCLV](#) ..... 8
- [Help Choose Our 50/50 Recipients:](#) ..... 9
- [Final Thought](#) .... 9



## Monthly Theme: Transcendence

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# Rev. Elations!

Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

June  
2019

**Introduction to the theme of the month by Kirk Loadman-Copeland:**

## Transcendence

In everyday language, transcendence has the sense of “going beyond,” while self-transcendence means going beyond a prior form or state of oneself. Mystical experiences represent a heightened reality in which the sense of a separate self is abandoned.

In philosophy, Rationalism was a school of philosophy that concluded that we can gain knowledge of the world through thinking alone, without experiencing the world. By contrast, the school of Empiricism claimed that our knowledge of the world only comes from experience

As one writer notes, “Extreme rationalists suggested that we avoid emotions and focus on rational thinking, extreme empiricists claimed there was no objective rational truth at all and thus all is simply subjective experience.”

Immanuel Kant synthesized these conflicting positions with the introduction of a philosophical system called transcendental idealism. In the opening words in *The Critique of Pure Reason*, Kant suggests that: “There can be no doubt that all our knowledge begins with experience. ...But though all our knowledge begins with experience it does not follow that it all arises out of experience.”

While we depend on experience to know anything at all, we are also able to reason and reach logical conclusions that aren't necessarily dependent upon a correlating experience. Such knowledge is a priori; that which we know regardless of sense-experience. For Kant, the “transcendent,” as opposed to the “transcendental,” is that which lies beyond what our faculty of knowledge can legitimately know. With others, Kant concluded that it was impossible to achieve any knowledge of the reality we call God, thus we could neither prove nor disprove God's existence.

In theology, the concept of transcendence is related to the idea of God being wholly other and existing beyond the world. Our first Unitarian Universalist source does not use the word “God” as the object of transcendence. Instead, it refers to the “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.” As with Kant, this source is agnostic, while pointing to mystery itself.

Paul Tillich, a German American theologian, immigrated to America in 1933 and taught at Union Theological seminary, Harvard Divinity School, and the University of Chicago's Divinity School. He came to believe that the word “God” as a symbol pointing to a transcendent reality had ceased to be meaningful or useful. He even said, “The God of theism is dead.” In place of the word God, Tillich spoke of both the Ground of Being (Where do you stand and why? What are your roots? What values connect you with the depths of life? What anchors you?) and Ultimate Concern (What transcends you? What commands your loyalty? What do you live for? What would you die for?). Assuming a vertical dimension between these two, you can construct your own theology.

Pantheism imagines that God interpenetrates every aspect of nature and extends timelessly beyond the universe, while pantheism holds that the divine is not a distinct being but is synonymous with the universe itself. Moving along this continuum, we arrive at religious naturalism, which views elements in nature as sacred, but does not find God a useful construct.



## Topics for Upcoming Services

**June 02, 2019:** *Reaching Beyond Ourselves*— Rev. Rachel Allen Baker



Transcendence is the monthly theme for June. As we head into the summer months, we will explore what it means to reach beyond ourselves to that which is transcendent.

**June 09, 2019:** *Flower Ceremony* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker



In June the congregation celebrates the arrival of summer with a Flower Communion. This ritual celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Maya Capek, Norbert's widow. In this ceremony, everyone in the congregation brings a flower. Each person places a flower on the altar or in a shared vase. The congregation and minister bless the flowers, and they're redistributed. Each person brings home a different flower than the one they brought.

**June 16, 2019:** *Summer Solstice & Father's Day* – Terri Boling

**June 22, 2019:** *Bicycling through the Countryside Living Our Values.*  
– Mark Bergtholdt



Come and hear how a machine from the 1880s can help one live our values.

**June 29, 2019:** *Topic to Be Announced* – Rev. KC Slack

**June 2019 50/50 Sundays:** [Sierra Club—Southern Nevada Group](#)

Our June 50/50 recipient is the [Sierra Club—Southern Nevada Group](#). The Sierra Club has served Southern Nevada for well over 50 years. They work to fight for Nevada's environment and more clean, renewable energy. They also host quarterly mixers, environmental education programs, and members attend tabling events and cause-related political activities





## The Lunch Bunch

meets 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 on June 2, 2019. -- Rick and Lisa Bleyle

# Congregation Annual Meeting II

Please plan to attend Part II of the Congregation Annual Meeting Sunday, June 9, immediately after the service. We need to approve the adjusted budget, so a quorum is needed. Refer to the e-mail from Board of Directors Keith McMillen for more information.

Finding yourself a little short  
towards the end of the month?  
*We Can Help!*

# FREE GROCERIES

*Every Third Saturday of the Month*  
Provided by UUCLV in conjunction with Three Square

3616 E. Lake Mead Blvd. 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

**June 15, 2019**  
from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

# Social Justice 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch Fundraiser

The next Social Justice Lunch is Sunday June 30, 11:30 - 12:30. Come join us for a lunch to raise money for the new UUCLV Food Pantry and other future projects. More cooks would be great! Ongoing fundraisers will be on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Contact Mary Jane Brustman [mbrustman@albany.edu](mailto:mbrustman@albany.edu)



## Many Voices Meeting

May 2019

Reported by B.L.W.

Themes:

*Trains & Hope*

WHOO-E-E-E, the whistle sounded, and off storytellers traveled with tales about trains. Beginning with the story leader of the month, almost everyone had tales about train travel to share. The lead narrative was that of young woman who, in 1907, met the conductor when traveling alone by train from Davenport, Iowa to the Seattle World Fair. On another trip, sometime later, the young woman met the same train conductor and eventually married him - the storyteller's great grandfather. We were then taken on a historical trek to Washington when the state was still a territory. The most popular train ran from Olympia to Port Townsend. When the train was discontinued, the thriving Port died and never recovered. The same teller had pleasant memories of day trips by train with her grandmother, and a trip to Tasmania on a very old, rickety, mail train. This vehicle traveled very slowly as people sent and received mail through the windows. On still another trip from New Jersey to Niagara with her father, this same person was humiliated when having to return a stolen viewfinder. Another traveler, while studying in New York, took the train from a New Jersey suburb. On one occasion she was given a wrong ticket for the return trip home. When the mistake was discovered, as she was the last passenger late at night, her fears did not materialize - she was not kicked off the train.

Any saga about trains includes dangers faced by children. As a child, one person with her friend placed coins directly on the metal tracks, retrieving them later flattened and miss shaped. When diesel trains began arriving in stations much faster, she and her friends abandoned the practice.

Other colorful encounters with and on trains included: being on the train with members of a symphony orchestra who played during the trip; being "bumped" from a sleeper and having money returned for cost of the entire trip; traveling on a troop train during the Korean War years; and a trip with prisoners being taken to Sing, Sing. Only one person present had never traveled by train. Her experience with trains was in museums and viewing set-ups of toy trains.

The evening's storytelling adventure ended on the second theme with no responders. Most agreed that "Hope" was much too "passive" and "intangible" to engender many stories.

*Join us at our next session, open to all, IHOP, Summerlin, 9561 Trailwood Drive. 6:30 – 8:30 pm.S*

# 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).

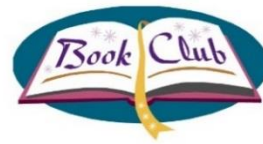
## Financial Aid Available

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 June 18, 2019 to discuss: *Unhinged an Insider's Account of the Trump White House* by Omarosa Manigault Newman

Moderator: Sig Palasek Hosts: Linda and John Farley  
Contact: Sig Palasek [palsig98@gmail.com](mailto:palsig98@gmail.com)



The former Assistant to the President and Director of Communications for the Office of Public Liaison in the Trump White House provides an eye-opening look into the corruption and controversy of the current administration.

Few have been a member of Donald Trump's inner orbit longer than Omarosa Manigault Newman. Their relationship has spanned fifteen years—through four television shows, a presidential campaign, and a year by his side in the most chaotic, outrageous White House in history. But that relationship has come to a decisive and definitive end, and Omarosa is finally ready to share her side of the story in this explosive, jaw-dropping account.

A stunning tell-all and takedown from a strong, intelligent woman who took every name and number, *Unhinged* is a must-read for any concerned citizen. (Review from [GoodReads.com](https://www.goodreads.com))



*Earth, Wind, Rain and Fire*  
– Jerry King  
Sunday, June 23 12 noon  
Convener Bill Jacobs

"Earth, Wind, Rain and Fire" is a connection to global warming?

Jerry King who has a BA in physics and a Ph.D. in earth science will point out that the implications of global warming are indisputable. Human activity of burning fossil fuels affect the Earth's energy causing warmer air which holds more moisture leading to severe rain events. The higher temperatures increase evaporation reducing soil moisture leading to drought conditions and wildfires.

Jerry is a member of UUCLV and an expert in the field, making the **HUUMANIST FORUM** at 12 noon on June 23<sup>rd</sup> very informative.

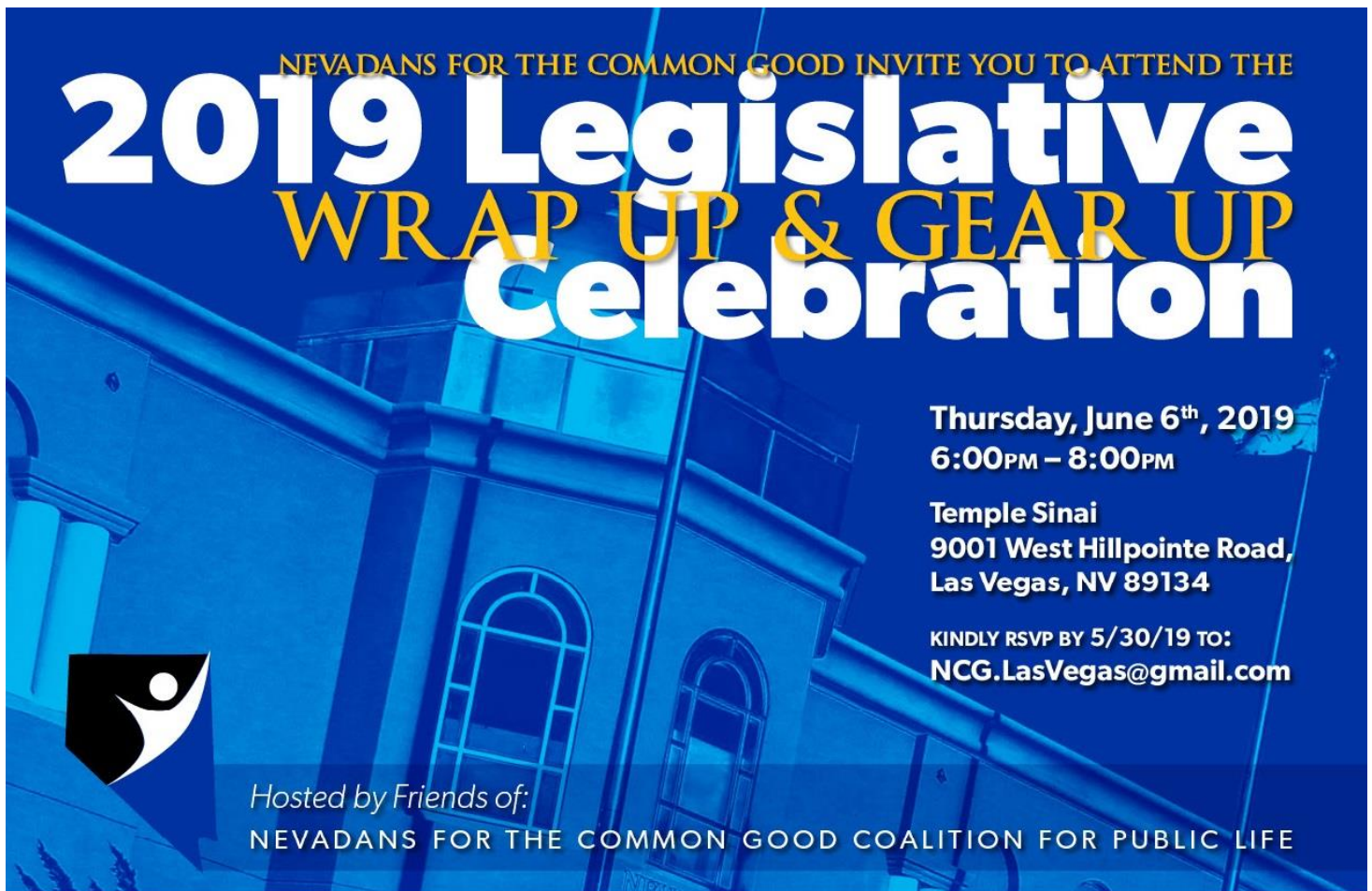
# Nevadans for the Common Good News

**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.*

All three of the Bills that are the focus of our campaign with our Legislators are getting Committee time with just a few days left for finalization. SB448, the \$40 million in tax credits for homebuilders to increase the affordable housing stock, SB543 to alter the public education finance formula, and SB201 for a Pay Day Lending web site to prevent consumers from over-borrowing. On Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm at Temple Sinai there will be a NCG celebration to review the results of this year's legislative session. It's a great way to get to know some of the other religious communities involved. To join us, contact Karin Metcalf at [jkmetcalf@cox.net](mailto:jkmetcalf@cox.net) immediately. Thanks everyone for writing and calling your elected leaders!

**You are invited to the  
Nevadans for the Common Good 2019 Legislative Wrap Up & Gear Up Celebration.  
*Let's have a great UUCLV turnout!***




NEVADANS FOR THE COMMON GOOD INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE

# 2019 Legislative WRAP UP & GEAR UP Celebration

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
6:00PM – 8:00PM**

**Temple Sinai  
9001 West Hillpointe Road,  
Las Vegas, NV 89134**

**KINDLY RSVP BY 5/30/19 TO:  
[NCG.LasVegas@gmail.com](mailto:NCG.LasVegas@gmail.com)**



*Hosted by Friends of:*  
NEVADANS FOR THE COMMON GOOD COALITION FOR PUBLIC LIFE



# 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.

# Help Choose Our 50/50 Recipients:

Every month, UUCLV shares the (non-pledged) offerings with a local charity or organization. Members of UUCLV nominate local groups that align with UU values, so that our giving reaches beyond our doors to our wider community. Organizations that we have shared our support with include: Future Smiles; Safe Nest; Transcending the Gender Box; LV Street Medics; The Rape Crisis Center; and so many more. Friends and members can submit a nomination of a local organization by requesting a form from Rosary Fitzgerald at [rosary.fitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:rosary.fitzgerald@gmail.com).

## Final Thought ...

“Old life recomposes  
into new life,  
and we are not  
separate from this  
grand, inclusive,  
regenerative  
scheme.”

—THE REV. JACO TEN HOVE, UU WORLD

