

the Sunrise

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas Newsletter

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Monthly Theme: Circle of Life

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Rev. Elations!

Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

January
2019

An Introduction to the Monthly Theme: The Circle of Life

Excerpts by Rev. Robert Bowler

Edwin Markham's poem *Outwitted* expresses ...our task as Unitarian Universalists in American culture: "He drew a circle that shut me out / Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. / But Love and I had the wit to win: / We drew a circle that took him in!"

I call the practice of drawing ever larger circles of inclusion the "religion of the circle." The religion of the circle is a process that respects life in all its diversity, a practice that celebrates nature's abundant web of relationships, and a set of principles that strives to build a human community of equals.

I use the word circle because there is power in a circle. Nature seems to function in circles, from the orbits of the planets and the spiral galaxies, to the round earth and sun, to the horizon and the continuous cycles of the seasons, of birth, life, and death. Looking to the example of nature, it is a sacred pattern in which all life is held.

Black Elk described the religion of the circle based on his vision of "the whole hoop of the world." He saw the religion of the circle wherever power moves, in everything natural and flowing with life: "Everything the power of the world does is done in a circle. The sky is round and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars. Birds make their nests in circles for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same, and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a person is a circle from childhood to childhood, and so it is in everything where power moves."

With simplicity and elegance, Chief Seattle, as well, warned those who were taking the land of his people: "This we know. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves."

Though Chief Seattle's words are so familiar, so simple, and so obvious, they, sadly, remain very radical in our culture. We have fragmented ourselves from the earth and from each other. Community is an ideal lost, a practice forgotten, an art ignored. My religion calls me to work for human community, to yearn for a shift in human culture, to heal the egoistic fragmentation from which we suffer.

Religion feeds fundamental principles, it inspires worldviews and lives. If our religion is going to be circular rather than linear, holistic rather than fragmented, we need to learn to see ourselves as part of nature, as a circle within a circle. We are parts of the whole, inextricably woven into its fabric of interconnectedness. Likewise, our challenge is to weave human circles, sit on the rim with others and offer ...[respect to all].

Topics for Upcoming Services

**Jan. 06, 2019: *Releasing the Old and Welcoming the New*
– Rev. Rachel Allen Baker**

As we enter the New Year, we may look back over the year and decide to make some changes in our lives. On this Whole Congregation Sunday, we will release the old ways that no longer work for us and welcome in the new year and our future selves

Jan. 13, 2019: *Circle of Life* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

The theological theme for January is the Circle of Life. Today the congregation will explore the turning of the earth.

Jan. 20, 2019: *Be the Change* – Rev. Amy Beltaine



UUCLV is happy to welcome back the Rev. Amy Beltaine. Reverend Amy Beltaine is a traveling spiritual director providing Sunday services, retreats, and spiritual mentoring as a UU ministry: Supporting helpers who worry about making a difference to learn and live their spiritual superpowers. When Hawthorne and Amy are not pulling their little home behind them, they are in Portland, Oregon with beagle (Zim) and cat (Annie). A graduate of Meadville Lombard School for the Ministry, Amy is on the steering committee of the UU Spiritual Directors' network. Amy is an accredited Spiritual Director, certified Transitions Specialist, nearly life-long earth-honoring Process-Pagan, and recent President of the Covenant of UU Pagans. Amy aspires to become a Love-Ninja.

Jan. 27, 2019: *Looking Back to Move Forward* – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

Unitarian Universalism has a long history in this country. Today's worship service will celebrate moments in our religious past. We will compare the choices of our religious ancestors as we move into our shared future.

Commented [A1]:

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

January's 50/50 donation will be shared with two asylum-seekers who are being sponsored and are living here in Las Vegas. SURJ is coordinating efforts to support these asylum-seekers, who need everything from personal supplies to assistance with legal issues. Rev. Rachel will share our donations with the recipients via the Minister's Discretionary Fund.



From the Boardroom

UUCLV Board Meeting Minutes, November 20, 2018

Call to Order- President Keith McMillen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The minister, Rachel Baker and guest, Jim Brustman were present. The following members were present Bruce Turner, Keith McMillen, Lisa McAllister, Mary Jane Brustman, Kathy Espin, Stu Webster and Gail Knapp, and a quorum was established.

Chalice lighting was led by Rev. Rachel and the agenda was adopted.

Accountability from last month: The list of accountability items from last month were reviewed by each of the members and the minister.

Minutes Approval Committee- The October minutes were approved by last month's committee. Bruce, Mary Jane and Lisa will be the committee this month.

Reports:

Special Committee: A presentation about the possibilities of our participation in a food bank program was given by Jim Brustman. Motion to send in an application to Three Square was adopted unanimously.

Minister's report- Rev. Rachel Baker presented her report. She said that the questions for the focus groups is essential to determine what our future should look like. A new office administrator has been interviewed. We also have candidates for the child care position. Her class in Building your Own Theology is going well. OWL facilitator training was cancelled for lack of interest. There will be a good bye party for Tina on December 9 during coffee hour. There will be a Pay Pal opportunity for members to contribute to a gift for her.

Finance Report- The treasurer, Kathy Espin, presented her report which is attached to these minutes. Motion made by Bruce to ratify the emergency payment of \$835.00 for the broken door windows that was made by Kathy with a warm thank you to her for her quick and efficient solution to the problem. Adopted unanimously.

Facilities Committee report: Stu presented a facilities report for October. It is attached to these minutes.

President's Report- Keith provided information about the current issues that are pressing including leading a discussion among the members about options for increasing security of the building.

Task Force status- There has not been a written report from them. They have been told that they will need to present a report to the congregation in January. They have researched the amounts of money needed for a whole list of options. The subcommittees are being asked exactly what they want to do if they get the money they are requesting.

Special Committee reports- Mary Jane Brustman reported the following , "Planning for the Women's Retreat (March 1-3, 2019 at Casa Blanca Resort) is moving forward."

Focus Groups: There are focus groups working on what the congregation wishes to be like in the future. There are set of questions that they are considering. The facilitators are: Dave Richards, Ariel Sublet, Hillary, Jim Brustman, and Bruce Turner.

New Business:

After discussion, the following motion was adopted about a new procedure: The new admin will not have Sunday office hours. Because members are constantly in need of various kinds of assistance, that time has not proved to be very productive. Board members will be trained in assisting members before and after the service each Sunday. Since Board members have already been assigned Sundays for closing the building, this job will be added to the duties for that week.

Preparations: Plan for congregational meeting on January 13 need to be developed, and we also need to start preparing for our volunteer appreciation Sunday.

Audit Committee: We need two more people on the audit committee since current members are leaving the area and will not be able to continue.

All Board members reviewed the accountability items they will do in the next month. The next meeting will be on December 18, 2018 per our new standing rule for the board meeting date on the third Tuesday of each month.

The chalice was extinguished.

Adjournment at 9:15

Gail Knapp, Secretary



Sixth Source Round-Table:

Anyone who is curious about earth-honoring or deities-relating spirituality, or about the Covenant of UU Pagans is invited to a gathering with Rev Amy Beltane, recent president of the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs), in the UUCLV Library at 11:45 a.m. after the service on January 20, 2019.

Spiritual Mentoring (one-on-one sessions)

Spiritual accompaniment with Reverend Amy Beltane. Are you and yours struggling with the conflict in our political/economic/social/environmental world? Does it feel like the world as you know it is coming apart? Would you like help feeling more connected to the Divine while being rooted firmly on Earth? Let us flow into the work that must be done. Amy helps givers who are disconnected or dispirited connect with wisdom from our bodies, ancestors, tribes, land, and universal experience to uncover and use your spiritual superpowers. See <http://amybeltaine.info>. Or e-mail Amy at abeltaine@uuma.org.

The Lunch Bunch Is Back!

Rick and Lisa Bleyle

Lisa and Rick Bleyle will be coordinating the Lunch Bunch gathering starting January 6. The Lunch Bunch is still meeting at the Desert Pines Golf club located at:

Address: 3415 E Bonanza Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89101

Phone: (702) 388-4400

The lunch bunch will gather at 12:00 PM on the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise notified. The week of the gathering, an e-mail will be sent out as a reminder.

We look forward to continuing the Lunch Bunch and hope everyone can join us.



Me And White Supremacy Book Circle

Monday, January 14th

6:30pm - 9pm at UUCLV



Join a new book circle, reading and working through the workbook by Layla Saad, entitled *Me and White Supremacy*. On the second and fourth Mondays of each month starting January 14th, we will work through the prompts sequentially, each of us preparing our responses in advance so the together time is spent sharing and processing for growth. To respect this soulful work on White Privilege, we will be closing the group after the first session. It will be shared leadership, in fact the first lesson is the "Circle Way" of group dynamics. For more information:

<http://laylafaad.com/meandwhitesupremacy-workbook/> or lookup

#MeAndWhiteSupremacy. If you cannot join us, we encourage to do the work on your own.

We are trying to arrange child care. Questions to Karin Metcalf -jkmetcalf@cox.net
Order your workbook for free through the web site, and to pay for Layla's labor visit www.Patreon.com/LaylaFSaad (also on website/link). Hoping your New Year's Resolution embraces healthy race relations!

2019 PSW District Assembly Registration Goes Live Jan. 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 Jan. 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



**From the Many Voices
Meeting
December 12, 2018**

**Reported by W.F.B.
Themes: *Gifts and Spontaneity***

The Many Voices storytelling group met on Wednesday, the 12th of December, and were challenged by the subjects of Gifts and Spontaneity. The storytellers were led off with a story of a close friend who had a sad life, but the gift this sad woman gave was 25 years' worth of single earrings because both friends liked wearing one solo earring of a pair.

This tale of generosity was followed by a story one woman told about how her sisters had left her lonely, and how she latched onto her camping club for friendship. Boys from the camping club then gave her an army surplus jacket for her sweet 16 birthday, and what a perfect gift it was in her life.

One person related a tale about being the youngest in her family, and her brothers who would give with one hand and take away with the other.

Another tale followed about a member's stepson, and how he dealt with the child's learning disabilities. We were treated to an audio recording of his class' singing recitation of a holiday classic.

There were stories of spoiled sisters and bicycle trips in San Francisco and parents who buy everything for themselves, precluding gifts. One member claimed to bah-humbug Christmas so much that he would "retaliate" any gift he received. On spontaneity, one story told of a high school senior who had to recite a soliloquy on short notice, and the further he went, the less he remembered.

2019 will meld group-generated topics with those announced as monthly themes by the UUCLV congregation. Merriest season to all!



Universal Basic Income
Sunday, Jan. 27 12 noon
Convener Bill Jacobs

"Universal Basic Income" could transform our society. Just as Social Security lifted millions out of poverty, UBI could do that and more from freeing individual creativity to solving numerous social problems. This might be the solution to the lack of employment that will be caused by Artificial Intelligence? We will learn about this experiment of Free Money in Finland and find out if you think this could work here in the U. S. at our next **HUUMANIST Forum 12 noon on January 27th**



Las Vegas Bookies



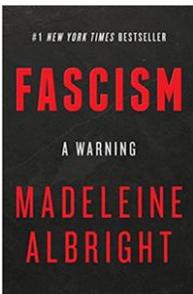
The Las Vegas Bookies will meet from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, to discuss *Fascism: A Warning*, written by Madeleine Albright.

Moderators: Lucy Rey and Barbara Gramenos

Host: Louise Kulosa

Contact: Linda Farley bookiesuucv@gmail.com

***Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright**



Fascism is back in fashion. That, at least, is the message that former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright wants to convey with her new book. In many places around the world, she notes, we see strongmen on the rise, and this authoritarian resurgence is accompanied by a conspicuous surge of ideas from the far right. Racists and xenophobes are popping up in places - university campuses, high political office - where we never expected to see them. So are we experiencing a revival of the most virulent forms of extreme right-wing ideology, of the sort that the West thought it had vanquished back in 1945? Albright believes that answering this question is crucial to understanding the current political movement and to saving ourselves from repeating the tragic errors of the past.

(Summary taken from Washington Post Op-ed Editor Christian Caryl, April 13, 2018.)



Greeter Thanks



Bobbie Lloyd

Among the many people who volunteer at the church and make this community special are the greeters. They show up early Sunday mornings and welcome people and answer their questions. I am pleased how these wonderful individuals take time out of their busy lives to show up at the greeter table Sunday mornings and make attendees feel a part of our community.

A big thanks to the following people who greeted October through December 2018:

Louise Kulosa, Cheryl Schmidt, Bobbie Lloyd, Mary Barden, Abdul, Joanne Leovy, Linda and John Farley, Diane Eskew, Robyn Isaacson, Rick and Lisa Bleyle, Frank Nishiokn, Bill Jacobs, Barbara Gramenos and Stu Webster. and Binnie Wilkin. If I omitted anyone, please let me know. I am so happy new people have joined the ranks. Thanks so much for all your work. You rock!

If you have not greeted, you're missing out on a great way to meet new people and become more socially involved in our unique community. Please contact me (Bobbie Lloyd) on Sundays at the church or at (702) 498-9595 or bobbie702@cox.net for more information. Please let me know if you're interested.

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.

Adult Faith Development News

Rev. Rachel Allen Baker

Resistance and Transformation: Social Justice in Unitarian Universalism

This series helps Unitarian Universalists delve deeper into the heart of their faith. Many people come to Unitarian Universalist congregations because of our movement's reputation for engaging in social justice work as a matter of faith. This program presents stories, activities, and questions for engagement and reflection to deepen participants' understanding of the place social justice work holds in Unitarian Universalist heritage, culture, and identity. All sessions are open to anyone, even if you have not attended previous sessions. The third Sunday of every month, October through June, 12:15 - 2:15 pm in the Learning Area. Sessions will be led by UUCLV members, friends, and staff.



Final Thought

We believe safety from harm
is the most fundamental
human right.

—The Rev. Kathleen McTigue,
UU World



uuworld.org



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