

the Sunrise

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas Newsletter

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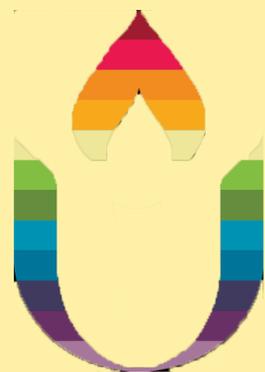
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Monthly Theme: **Courage**

Sunrise Contributors:

Rev. Rachel A. Baker, Courtney Dufford, Gail Knapp,
Linda Farley, Bill Jacobs, Cooper Garrett,
Laura Chamberlin, Tina Anderson, Eric Bliss.

Sunrise Editor: – Steve Winkel <mailto:uu-clveditor@gmail.com>

Contact Us: E-Mail: admin@uuclv.org

Web: <http://www.uuclv.org> **Telephone:** (702)437-2404

Mail: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas
3616 East Lake Mead Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89115-6306

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About Our Monthly Theme: Courage

Rev. Kirk Loadman-Copeland

Courage is a word that comes from a root that means “heart.” To “encourage” is to “put heart into” another person. “Courage,” wrote Martin Luther King, Jr., “is the power of the mind to overcome fear.” This is a good starting point from which to begin an exploration of courage. To truly appreciate the paralyzing power of fear we need only ask in some situations, “What would I do in this situation if I was not afraid?” The answer can be enlightening; an answer that reveals how fear shrinks the options that we believe are available to us. It is in this sense that Anaïs Nin said, “Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.” For the Greek philosophers, courage was one of the cardinal virtues. Given the fear, hatred, and despair in the world, courage is essential to survival. That there is so much fear, hatred, and despair also suggest that courage is a virtue in short supply. We should, however, take heart because courage can be enhanced.

The concept of courage has traditionally involved two types: physical and moral. In the long history of humankind, physical courage emerged first and was decisive for the survival of our species. Physical courage involves acting in situations that are dangerous, physically challenging, and/or painful, situations that may involve bodily harm or even death. It does not involve the absence of fear, but the ability to act in the face of fear. No fear, no courage; foolishness or recklessness perhaps, but not courage.

Aristotle saw courage as the fulcrum between deficient and excess, by which he meant the deficit of cowardice, on the one hand, and the excess of recklessness, on the other, which looks like courage, but which is an unreflective combination of indifference to the dangers of a situation or for the consequences of one’s actions.

Mark Twain wrote, “It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare.” While we associate physical courage with the military, it is notable that both types of courage are highly valued by the armed services. A Department of the Army employee “pointed out that consistent moral courage is every bit as important as momentary physical courage.” He said, “Situations requiring physical courage are rare; situations requiring moral courage can occur frequently. Moral courage is essential to living the Army values of integrity and honor every day.”

Rushworth Kidder said that while physical courage may be related to principles, moral courage is driven by principles. Kidder talks about three strands that, when braided together, result in morally courageous action: “a commitment to moral *principles*, an awareness of the *danger* involved in supporting those principles, and a willing *endurance* of that danger.” Moral courage emerges where principles, danger, and endurance intersect. In the end, moral courage is the courage to be moral.

Pursuing a vision is never easy, and the more audacious the vision the greater the difficulty. A compelling vision tends to emerge out of a **holy curiosity**. Albert Einstein said, “The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when contemplating the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.”

But holy curiosity is not enough. It does not, to use Sam Keen's phrase, put "fire in the belly." A compelling vision becomes a great vision because of a **holy discontent**. In his play *Back to Methuselah*, George Bernard Shaw had the Serpent in the Garden of Eden say to Eve, "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'" Senator Robert F. Kennedy used these words as a theme in his 1968 campaign for the presidential nomination.

The combination of holy curiosity and holy discontent can create a commanding vision, but more is needed. Toni Cade Bambara's novel, *The Salt Eaters*, is a story about a black community in the south, its terror and fear, its strength and desire. Velma who was sturdy and dependable fell into the depths of despair. As Bambara reminds us, "people sometimes believed that it was safer to live with complaints, was necessary to cooperate with grief, was all right to become an accomplice in self-ambush." Minnie, the wise, eccentric healer asks Velma, "*No sense wasting each other's time, sweetheart.... Can you afford to be whole? Can you afford it, is what I'm asking you, sweetheart...?*" With Minnie's help, Velma moves through despair in the direction of healing and wholeness. Velma takes up dancing and finds freedom, a freedom so powerful that she could, writes Bambara, "*with no luggage and no maps ...go anywhere in the universe on just sheer holy boldness.*" **Holy boldness** is the final ingredient to combat fear and bring a bold vision into being. Holy, holy, holy!



Beloved Community, Covenantal Relationships and Restoring Connection from your Safer Congregation's Team

Heartstorming

Throughout the month of March, the congregation will agree upon 5-6 shared values based on the responses to our questions. There will be a poll in the Facebook Hangout group as well as a tally from the values that are added to our Heartstorming wall in the Sanctuary at UUCLV.

- "What is most precious to you as part of this community?"
- "What values can help us work through our differences in the best way possible?"

Creating Covenant

In April, we will discuss and agree on specific strategies we would like to practice as a community.

- "What specific strategy or behavior would you want us to commit to practice, in order to nurture and express our community values?"

Keeping the Covenant Alive

On a regular basis, we will take time in community to inquire about how effectively the covenant is nurturing and expressing the community's values. We will inquire if anything in the covenant needs to be updated based on this feedback from the community.

Returning to the Covenant

We will develop a set of restorative practices as a resource for the inevitable times when we depart from covenant, so we have a clear path to restoring relationships & returning to our shared values when disconnection occurs.

Topics for Upcoming Services

March 04 2018: *Raised UU – Courtney Dufford*

Only 10% of Unitarian Universalists were raised as UUs, Unitarians, or Universalists. What happens to all our UU children and youth when they grow into adulthood? How can UUCLV be welcoming to the experiences of young adults and raised UUs? As a young adult, life-long Unitarian Universalist, and friend of UUCLV, Courtney Dufford will offer a reflection on growing up UU and the formative role Unitarian Universalist congregations can play for people of all ages.

March 11, 2018: *Improving Bread with No Yeast – Rev. Rachel Allen Baker*

In her reading, *Ready*, inspired by Exodus 12:34, Rabbi Rachel Barenblat offers these words on not being ready for courageous action: “So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls wrapped in their cloaks upon their shoulders (Exodus 12:34).” You’ll need to travel light. Take what you can carry: ...a battered tin cup, your child strapped to your chest.... So the dough isn’t ready. So your heart isn’t ready.... But if you wait until you feel fully ready you may never take the leap at all and Infinity is calling you forth.... Learn to improvise flat cakes without yeast.” Are you ready to take courageous action? What holds you back?

March 18, 2018: *Celebrating African American Spirituals: Sorrow, Joy, Escape, and Freedom – Binnie Wilkin*

Commentary and narratives will be presented with a sampling of African American Spirituals. The service will be led by Binnie Wilkin, Writer and Storyteller.

March 25, 2018: *Taking out the Death Star– Rev. Rachel Allen Baker*

Using the Star Wars universe as a lens we will consider the implications and challenges of resisting empire and social change.



March 50/50 Sundays:

The Fifty-Fifty recipient for March has not been decided as of this publication and will be announced later.



From the Boardroom

UUCLV Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, January 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Keith McMillen at 6 p.m.

Chalice lighting- Lisa led the reading.

Members present included Mary Jane, Stu, Lisa, Shannon, Keith, Cassie, and Gail. Guest was Karin Metcalf.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved by committee. The new approval committee for this month is Shannon, Lisa and Mary Jane.

Reports:

Treasurer- A financial summary was distributed by Shannon. There is a problem with networking the new computer. Our accountant suggested that we need a network person to solve the problem and use the old computer in the meantime. The board briefly met in executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Board member liaison, Mary Jane, distributed a draft of a new policy on special committees and groups. The policy was approved by unanimous consent as amended.

She further reported the following: Rita Ransom has reported that the kitchen swamp cooler needs to be repaired before summer, and Betty LaCombe asked that the Board try not to schedule events after church in conflict with the First Sunday Lunch Bunch. Rescheduling the restaurant for a different day is difficult.

Personnel Committee- Karin Metcalf reported on the new policies from UUA on salaries. Mary Jane and Gail will join with the Personnel Committee as board representatives.

Safer Congregations- is working on developing a new covenant. **Safe Congregations Task Force** will work on individual issues where their safety concerns, and the Building Safety Committee will work on the physical plant issues. These assignments were moved by Cassie and adopted.

Social Justice Committee- The committee is experiencing some interim growing pains since while there are enthusiastic new members, they wish to work on specific projects rather than attend general meetings. The Social Justice Committee is defined as groups that actively engage in social justice work. These groups currently include Interweave, Giving Project, 50/50 giving, The ? group on race relations, and Nevadans of the Common Good. Others may be established in the future. Each group must regularly report to the board liaison. It was proposed that the Social Justice Committee be defined as including all groups that actively engage in social justice work. A decision on this new policy is postponed to the February meeting by unanimous consent.

50/50 Donations: Lisa moved that the 50/50 donations be limited to groups in the Las Vegas Area. Motion adopted. The following charities were accepted for the coming months: Black Lives Matter for February, Rape Crisis Center for April; Animal Charity to be identified by Stu for March; Critical Care Comics for May; The Giving Project for June. The January donations will be sent to the Center for their teen program.

Communications- Our website is being updated.

Unfinished Business: Keith will continue to look for an attorney to review our building use policies.

An announcement looking for hand chime choir members will be put in the weekly announcements.

New Business: Lisa moved that March 18 be another "Find your Passion" activity after church with "Get Lucky" as the theme. Motion adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Gail Knapp, Secretary

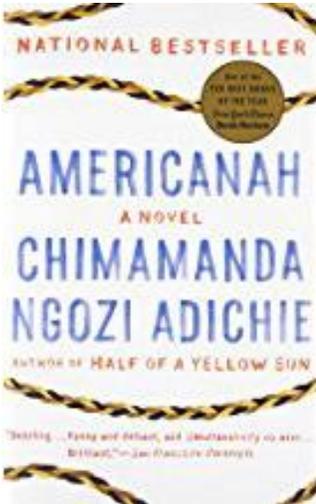


Las Vegas Bookies



The Las Vegas Bookies will meet from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, to discuss *Americanah* written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Moderator: Binnie Wilkin **Hosts:** Lucy Rey and Sig Palasek
Contact: Linda Farley bookiesuucv@gmail.com



What’s the difference between an African-American and an American-African? From such a distinction springs a deep-seated discussion of race in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s third novel, *Americanah*, which tells the story of a smart, strong-willed Nigerian woman named Ifemelu who, after she leaves Africa for America, endures several harrowing years of near destitution before graduating from college, starting a blog called “Raceteenth or Various Observations About American Blacks by a Non-American Black,” and winning a fellowship at Princeton. Ever hovering in Ifemelu’s thoughts is her high school boyfriend, Obinze, an equally intelligent if gentler, more self-effacing Nigerian, who outstays his visa and takes illegal jobs in London. When we first meet her, Ifemelu is getting her hair braided at an African salon in Trenton N.J., 13 years after coming to America. From her chair at the hair salon, the book unfolds in a series of flashbacks.

Ifemelu’s journey in America is informed by experiences of race that won’t seem new to black Americans, though they are new to her. As an African, and more specifically, as a Nigerian Igbo, she’s not black until she comes to the US. Beyond race, the book is about the immigrant’s quest: self-invention, which is *the* American subject. The book’s ultimate concern isn’t the challenge of becoming American or the hyphenation that requires, but the challenge of going back home. Ifemelu makes her return home to Nigeria, changed by all she has seen and done in the United States. In America she was black. Back home in Nigeria, she’s an *Americanah*.

(Summary quoted from the New York Times Sunday Book Review and The Washington Post Book Review.)



Trump and the Religious Right
Sunday, March 25 12:15 pm

“Lovefest between Trump and the Religious Right”. With the vast difference in ideology why does it seem Trump and Evangelicos are joined at the hip. We will hear from Franklin Gram and Cory Lewendowski. What is the impact of their relationship on the political landscape.

Share your thoughts at our next **HUUMANIST Forum**, Sunday March 25 at 12:15 p.m.

Save the date! Registration goes live at midnight on March 1, 2018.

**“Live, Love, Music: The Magic of Family Camp”
Sunday, July 29 — Saturday, August 4, 2018
Dean: Kathryn Deal**

Ahhhh, Family Camp! For over 50 years families have been coming together at Camp de Benneville Pines to experience the life and love that is our *Family Camp in the Pines*. New families...please! Returning families...yes, of course! Join us as we once again come together in the joy of community.

Rejoice in the spirit and song that we create as we explore, sing, learn, worship and play together—a lot of playing together—and rediscover the sense of real family love, as well as that wonderful kinship we know as Family Camp love!

All the traditional camp activities will be offered: archery, tie dye, hiking to the lake, canoeing, camp-fire stories, group singing, capture the flag, worship, swimming and dancing. And a few new surprises too!

Families sleep in family rooms and dine together in Homet Lodge. No dishes and cooking for a week, and all the family-fun you can squeeze in. Come join UU's and their friends from around the district for this intergenerational camping experience. *Live, Love, Music: The Magic of Family Camp* is sure to carry your soul into a place of love and harmony, joy and exaltation!

For general information, contact Janet James, Executive Director, director@uucamp.org or call (909) 435-6298. For information on Family Summer Camp 2018, contact Geoff Anderla, Camping Ministries Director, pswdcmd@gmail.com or call (623) 252-5619. For information on registration, contact Laura Chamberlin, Registrar, registrar@uucamp.org or call (909) 794-1252. Web page: <http://www.uucamp.org/camps-retreats/family-camps/pswd-family-summer-camp/>

Registration goes live at midnight on March 1, 2018. Save the date!



March Birthdays



- March 04 Danette Barber
- March 04 Bruce Turner
- March 07 Maggie Mooha
- March 07 Tony DeGrazia
- March 07 Cassie Wallis
- March 22 Joyce Patterson-Rogers
- March 28 Dave Richards

Did we miss your birthday? Do you or someone in your family have an upcoming birthday? So we can add your birthday to our database send it to: admin@uuclv.org



PWR Justice Journey Is Open for Registration!

Regional Mission Trip for Youth and Adults next summer!



- Do you have a passion for environmental justice?
- Have you been interested to partner with grassroots organizations to create a lasting partnership in solidarity with local communities?
- Have you ever wanted to make a real difference while learning hands on skills and concepts?

Pacific Western Region Justice Journey: Roots, Reflections and Relationships - An Environmental Justice Journey

A week long immersion experience focusing on Environmental Sustainability through service, learning, and through a meditation practice designed to be reflective and to sustain future justice work.

Logistics: Sat. night, July 14 - Sunday afternoon, July 22, 2018 at Throop Unitarian Universalist Church [300 S. Los Robles Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101](https://www.throopuu.org/)

You are invited! 25 multigenerational participants - youth (rising 9th - rising 12th graders), YA's and adults. Families with youth, YA's and adults welcome. Cost is \$550.00 per person for 8 days. All meals, lodging at the church, local transportation. (Air and ground transportation to the Throop Church is not included.)

Staff: Eric Bliss, PWR Youth Specialist, Rev. Jaelynn Scott, Buddhist minister and U.U. Religious Educator, Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead.

[Scholarships](#) are available!

The Pacific Western Region Mission:

Trip provides an opportunity to practice environmental sustainability in the unique permaculture urban garden at Throop, as well as a variety of community projects and events. In addition, the group will engage in centering meditative UU and Buddhist practices as developed by Rev. Jaelynn Scott's Mutuality Movement as a way to build a lifelong foundation for justice work and compassionate understanding.

Registration: <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pwr-mission-trip/>

Contact: Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead at katiecovey@gmail.com.

More Information: <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/calendar/pswd/rore2-pwr-justices-journey?month=2018-07> Hope to see you in Pasadena!

In faith and in the spirit of love,

Eric Bliss | Youth Ministry Specialist, Congregational Life Staff

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3. Find and select Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas (Organization # 70396) and click 'Save'

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UUCLV has established a business relationship with **Amazon.com**, the world's largest retailer. In exchange for the placement of an Amazon Store on our web site, UUCLV will receive money back, in the form of rebates in proportion to the amount of sales, via our shopping portal. All you have to do is shop like you normally would, but through the Amazon portal – page on our UUCLV web site. The purchase amounts will be credited to UUCLV without other information being shared with us.

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iGive is another opportunity for you to support the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas. Do your shopping like you usually do and participating stores will rebate a few cents to UUCLV on your behalf. The donations are tracked by your e-mail address, otherwise anonymous if you want them to be.

Download an "iGive Button," an add-on to your web browser. Easy to install and uninstall, it automatically kicks in when you're at a participating store web page. Or, just start your shopping trips by going to [iGive.com](http://www.igive.com). UUCLV has a set-up link on our web site on the *Support Us* page; or go to <http://www.igive.com/> to sign up and for more information.





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Congregation of Las Vegas**
3616 East Lake Mead Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89115-6306





Contact Us: E-Mail: admin@uuclv.org Web: <http://www.uuclv.org> Phone:(702)437-2404 Fax: (702)437-0176
Mail: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas, 3616 East Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89115-6306

Come Worship with UUs!!

Sunday Morning Service held at 10:30 am.

Youth Life Span Faith Development ("Sunday School") is provided at that time, as well as competent nursery care for pre-schoolers and toddlers.

Children are always welcome in Worship Services.

Visitors are always warmly received....

You will be welcomed!



Vision Statement

As a beacon in the desert, we gather as a multi-generational, spiritual community to build a place of love, acceptance, and justice dedicated to worshipping, learning, and working together here and throughout southern Nevada.

Mission Statement

To achieve our vision, we pledge to strengthen our worship experience, to improve our physical surroundings and to continue to provide an environment of lifespan faith development. We will strengthen our commitment to collaborative social justice work. We will support volunteers in all areas of congregational life. We will deepen fellowship and hold true to our Covenant of Good Relations.