

In This Issue

- A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF UUCLV
- A WORD FROM THE MINISTER
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - Worship Committee Report
 - Membership Committee Report
 - Social Justice News for UUCLV
 - UUNO Liason Report
 - Pastoral Care Committee
 - Life Span Religious Education at UUCLV
 - Facilities Update
- WAIT A GREEN MINUTE
- SUBMISSIONS
- UUA NEWS
- ONGOING EVENTS
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- COMMUNITY EVENTS



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF UUCLV

Dear Members and Friends of UUCLV:

Spring is almost upon us once again, and it has me in an optimistic mood. Maybe it's the rain washing away the old, or the wind bringing in the new, but I am very excited for all the things I can see on the horizon for UUCLV.

In the spirit of spring, you should know that your Board of Trustees is hard at work modernizing our organization. It is important for the long-term health of UUCLV that we regularly update our bylaws, policies, and digital tools to keep pace with the rapidly changing world and the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Reinvigoration is also particularly important at this juncture now that the Covid-induced slump in congregational activities is (mostly) behind us.

Spring also means that our congregational year is almost over. The annual meeting will be held Sunday, April 30 after service, followed by our usual end-of-themonth potluck. I hope you will join us on March 26 for a townhall meeting where you can ask questions about our leadership structure, give suggestions, and maybe even find a way to let your talents shine in our community.

As stated by Margaret Weis, the church is not a place; it is a people. It is my wish for UUCLV and all the people who call it their spiritual home that we move forward together, into new opportunity and greater growth, united in our love of the people who are UUCLV.

Megan Walls, President

Continuing Conversations by The Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey

"Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul."

-Coretta Scott King



Above is a powerful statement by Ms. King. More to the point, what am I going to do to entertain it? Here we are on the verge of another season of looking at half of the human family. So often we look back, remembering female giants, and purportedly lifting up women so as to support our girls in their search for truth, meaning and the pursuits of happiness. What about the Me Too Movement? How are we embracing the new realities? Or should I say the old stories that never seem to end!

Well enough of that. Like those people of old that came to open eyes or lift a voice I too come to engage you and challenge some common assumptions about the status of women today and the lives we lead together.

We as Unitarian Universalists have a long, proud history of women on the cutting edge of the fight for equal rights. We claim the first ordained woman, Olympia Brown. We can be very proud of so many of our sisters in the struggle and yet the fight continues.



Continuing Conversations continued...

Women in the U.S. are too often the victims of abuse. We know this. We as a nation tolerate it. This is disturbing! I am the proud son of a strong mother, the brother of a powerful sister, the husband of an activist for justice, the father of young women on the move and the grandfather of a girl that has the right to be who she wants to be free from male dominance or aggression. Yet let me say this unapologetically I know the struggle continues.

So often I look to my faith, my spiritual home, to our congregation that is full of dynamic women to lead and guide my perceptions of what is and what can be for my sisters in this human drama. I need your voices, your witness, and your power to help me and other men become truly equal partners in the march towards a world free from oppression.

Coretta Scott King is right. If we are to change the world or save the souls it will come when women and their allies (men) are fully able to embrace the concept of one world, with one destiny, brought together out of need.

So often I look to my faith, my spiritual home, to our congregation that is full of dynamic women to lead and guide my perceptions of what is and what can be for my sisters in this human drama. I need your voices, your witness, and your power to help me and other men become truly equal partners in the march towards a world free from oppression.

Continuing Conversations continued...

Coretta Scott King is right. If we are to change the world or save the souls it will come when women and their allies (men) are fully able to embrace the concept of one world, with one destiny, brought together out of need.

Made stronger because united there is no room to separate us. Brothers and sisters, fathers, and mothers, teachers and pupils, lovers and friends, all committed to one step, one cause, one human enterprise; a lifelong commitment to love.

To get information about historical figures, search the Internet. Materials from Beacon Press and the Unitarian Universalist Association are also available, and the Unitarian Universalist Women's Heritage Society publishes papers and wall calendars about notable UU women and has published the book Notable Unitarian Universalist Women, which describes 400 historical UU women.

Learn more about the #MeToo movement and moment as we navigate the changing climate of a nation and world that has had enough of the oppression. The info is everywhere and I intend on speaking about Transformation this month with that Im leaning into March is Womens History Month. This means my mind is on Girl Power, Feminism, economic disparities, women's rights and so much more I'm hoping men can stand up for women. If youhave, great. If not, It is high time!

Continuing Conversations continued...

I look forward to continuing our conversation about transformation, and seeking ways to assist all women to reach their full potential.

In faith, Rev. Gordon

Worship Committee Report by Mark Bergtholdt

Hello from the Worship Committee.

Hope you all have had a good and healthy start to the New Year. During the past few months, we have made some changes to the order of service and our routine rituals so that it is easier as a religious community to lean into our values.

Changes include, a suggestion for learning about indigenous peoples at both a national and local level, a call to action where you can take small steps to live our collected values and continue to improve moving the service to the 21st century. I hope you find these changes helpful in providing a spiritual experience Sunday mornings. We are a community that leans heavily on our service.

I know it is a lot of work to be a worship associate and may not be something that is for everybody, but we can always have more folks participate in the committee.







Worship Committee Report continued...

f you want to participate in the service, but activities of a WA are too demanding for you, there are other opportunities for you to help with the service. You do not need to be up front having those two microphones stare back at you and pick up everything you say.

You can help in being an usher, coming forward during the passing of the plate, making sure that the plate is passed then bringing it back to the pulpit after it has circulated the sanctuary. If that is too much public exposure for you, and you have the means, you can bring in flowers on a Sunday morning to help provide some changing beauty within the sanctuary.

You can bring them in to honor a person, just because you like the flowers, or bring them in anonymously, you do not need to worry about taking them home if you do not want to.

There are always others who would enjoy the flowers.

The only thing we ask is that you sign up so that we do not end up turning the sanctuary into a florist shop.

Finally if you have a musical talent you want to share be that lifting your voice in song or playing any musical instrument (no matter how unconventional it may be) you can help with the musical portion of the service.

If you would like to join the WA team, be an usher, bring in flowers, or participate in the musical you can send an e-mail to Mark at nvquercus@gmail.com

Membership Committee Report

by Susanna "Kim" Monette

The Membership Committee welcomes New Members:

Zion Hill
Chinere McDaniels
Will Anderson
Charles Anderson
Alita Schwab
Theresa Bartoldus
Gino Ferrari
Sky Houston



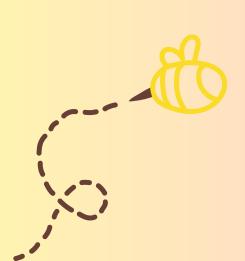
Prospective member forums scheduled for the Second Sunday in April and May. The next New Member Sunday will be the first Sunday in June.

Being a member of the UUCLV community enables you to have a voice in matters of community importance, pastoral support, rites of passage and spiritual development.

Social Justice News for UUCLV by The Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey

Dear UUCLV,

We need to energize our social justice committee. Who will step forward with ideas on how to lift up our efforts like the food pantry and the 50/50 but to also help us take the next steps to more activities, higher ground.



Social Justice News for UUCLV continued...

Here are a few ideas I have.

Join us at the next meeting on April 18 at 6 pm on Zoom. Every Third Tuesday

Building a Social Justice Committee: Some Tips and a Sample Mission Statement

By social justice we mean changing policies, structures, and institutions so they work on behalf of the common good.

The core planning group gets things started for the parish, provides opportunities for parishioners to get involved, regularly visits with members of the community to surface issues, and organizes them for actions that lead to effective social change.

Common Steps in the Formation of a Social Action/Justice Committee

- 1. Convene (personal invitation and appointment) a beginning core committee of seven to ten Members. (Maybe more?)
- 2. Develop a brief vision statement and some operating guidelines to be approved by our membership. (Keep the board with you. They too must own the development of the social justice effort. Use every opportunity you can to keep them informed and moving with you).

Social Justice News for UUCLV continued...

- 3. Compile a list of the activities currently happening in our congregation which are involved in social action, needs/outreach. Distinguish the works of charity from social change projects. Keep the focus of the justice/action committee on long term, structural and systemic change.
- 4. Provide educational experiences for the committee and gather information:
- Foundations for UUA social teaching
- Basic principles from World Religions social teaching
- UUA, SURJ programs and resources for justice work
- Skills workshops and training of volunteers for effective action
- 5. Contact existing justice committees at neighboring congregations. This is an interfaith opportunity for us.
- 6. Conduct visits with members to surface key issues of interest in your local community.

 What are some of the problems you hear? How do the various issues relate to one another?

 List and discuss as a group.
- 7. Establish goals and plans for action with a simple timetable.
- 8. Procedural items to be decided quickly include

See you on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, Rev Gordon

STARTING SUNDAY, APRIL 16 AT 8AM COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

will be served in the social hall for us and more so for our NEIGHBORS.
Volunteer to help via Geoff Pool or the Reverend and/or join us for breakfast

UUNO Liason Report

by Bette LaCombe, UUCLV Representative for UU@UN

From involvement in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level.

The Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations is a non-governmental organization in association with the United Nations Department of Global Communications and in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The UUA Office at the UN represents the UUA and the Canadian Unitarian Council at the United Nations, where we promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. Through targeted education, advocacy, and outreach, we engage Unitarian Universalists in support of international cooperation and the work of the UN.

Pastoral Care Committee by The Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey

Sharing the love:

We as UU's are all called to care for people. I believe it is how Inherent Worth and Dignity are made real. It's not just a congregational / association wide cliché, but it really is a mandate that ought to be a given within a UU context.

Pastoral care isn't just restricted to the pastors at a church or congregation, but in one way or another, we're all called to care for people. One of the best ways our congregation can care for our community is to create a strong volunteer pastoral care team.

Our beloved UUCLV is in need of a few available and caring souls to help with the work of this important committee. As your minister Id like to have a conversation with you. Who you might ask? The answer is you the reader if you have a few hours a week to make phone calls. Or maybe you have some time to send emails? Or maybe just maybe you are willing to go on a few home visits with me.

I'll be looking for you ready to serve UUCLV care givers.
The need is real and the time is now.
If you know you have the time and the compassionate heart join us. THANKS!

The Pastoral Care Team meets on 4th Wednesday of the month.

Next Date 4/26/23.

Life Span Religious Education at UUCLV by The Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey

Kids and Adults:

The RE Committee, or better known as a life span education team is primarily responsible for helping to establish curriculums, plans to support the goals of the program and reviewing of it annually to include new materials, writing the program budget, writing appropriate policies, and working with the minister/DRE, and administrator on calendar and scheduling.

We at UUCLV are very fortunate to have parents and others who have given of themselves for the enrichment of children and others as we reimagine and rework our faith formation and religious education program.

We need a few dedicated folks to step forward to help. Let's have programing for children and adults that will assist us on our journeys as Unitarian Universalist and as citizens of this nation and world.

If you are interested in serving please contact me. If you would like to offer an adult class or a mixed generational program please see me. We will build a new team with inclusive and open sharing, responsibilities and UU values.

More information will follow but as Ive heard many a time - get on board this train is ready to go!



Facilities Update by Larry McAllister

October was a busy and exciting month for our facility! On October 7 a new concrete A.D.A. ramp was poured for our front entrance at NO COST to our congregation, thanks to a generous gift from LGI Homes and their trade partner, Desert Concrete. The iron hand railing came from another of LGI's partners.

The front door has been replaced with a wider, automatic power door thanks to Nancy & Rose Czar.





















On October 13, Jerry King and Larry McAllister power washed our roof in preparation for a new coat of elastomer sealant, which is needed about every 10 years in order to preserve our roof.

Then on October 16-18 Joanne Leovy, Mark Bergtholdt, Suzanne's partner Mark and Larry McAllister patched all cracked areas on the roof and applied a new coat of 12-year sealant on the front half of the roof over the sanctuary and front wing. Due to the time and effort required, the roof project is being broken up into two phases, with the rear half of the roof - over the social hall and RE areas - scheduled for coating in the spring. This highly reflective, white roof coat will not only prevent leaks, but will also lighten our air conditioning load and reduce the heat island effect in our neighborhood, which is one of the hottest in the valley.



Facilities Update continued...

Also in October the broken block fence at the east side of our front lot was repaired and painted. This cost was covered by our property insurance, aside from a small deductible.

If you would like to become involved in maintaining or improving our facility, please email Larry McAllister at larrymcall@gmail.com. Volunteers at all skill levels and availability are welcome!

Presidential Forums Coming in 2023 from the PWR Newsletter, March 2023

There will be a series of four presidential candidate forums, starting in March, to allow delegates and members to learn more about Rev. Dr. Betancourt.

Planned in concert with the Election Campaign

Practices Committee with support from UUA staff, each forum will offer both on-site and virtual participation.

There will also be an additional forum during General Assembly in June.

All Unitarian Universalists are welcomed and encouraged to engage with the presidential candidate forums and the process as a whole, to ensure our next UUA President may establish the foundation for their leadership with broad participation.

March 18, 2023 1p ET Arlington, VA

April 29, 2023 1p CT Evanston, IL

May 20, 2023 1p PT Santa Barbara, CA

June 3, 2023 1p CT Dallas, TX

A Letter from Susan Frederick-Gray UUA President from the UUA Newsletter - March 2023

Dear Leaders,

You all are so much in my heart. These are heartbreaking and terrifying times. An onslaught of oppressive laws and policies are threatening the well-being of our children, young people and adults, and the very fabric of communities. I know how hard you all are working to care for your people and communities while also organizing for justice. I see you. I love you. And you inspire me in your witness and your depth of pastoral care and commitment.

I am praying especially for all our trans and nonbinary+kids and adults, their families, and the communities supporting them. Too many trans and nonbinary+people are living in an environment where policy makers are criminalizing their very existence.

My heart is also with all of you in frontline communities and states. I know you are holding so much – too much. We are in the fight to provide support and safe harbor with you, as we have been so many times throughout our history. We may not win every battle but we are in this work for the long haul. And we are digging deeper to expand our partnerships, find new ways to support people, and organize for a future where everyone can fully be who they are and flourish in their identities.



A Letter from Susan Frederick-Gray continued...

As Unitarian Universalists, we are clear and unapologetic. Our LGBTQIA+ siblings are sacred, whole, and divine. We understand the full expression of the diversity of gender and sexuality is a gift. As progressive people of faith, we know this is a fight for everyone's humanity.

As an Association, we have shown up for trans and nonbinary+ youth and individuals through words and actions. I want to make sure you are aware of these resources for your own efforts and as additional support for members of your communities. Please visit Side With Love's UPLIFT Action webpage to see our ongoing work and ways your congregation can participate. UPLIFT also sponsors monthly gatherings for trans and nonbinary+ people of all ages. You can also stay connected to this work, and receive pastoral messages and opportunities to take action by joining our UPLIFT newsletter and following the blog. Also please visit the **UUA's Five Practices of Welcome Renewal for** Welcoming Congregations page for ways to ensure that members of the LGBTQIA+ community can feel fully welcomed, centered, and embraced in your congregation.

I am with you as we confront these devastating challenges – and hold you all close as we work to protect our loved ones, our families, our communities and neighbors.



A Letter from Susan Frederick-Gray continued...

I pray that each of you, in your own way, is doing something to care for your spirit, to lean into community and love, to tend to your own need for gentleness and care - that we might be nourished for the work that continues.

Yours in love and faith,
Susan

P.S. Here are some additional resources that may be helpful:

From Side With Love

- Webinar recordings on <u>combatting anti- trans</u> <u>legislation</u> and <u>spokesperson training</u>
- Upcoming training on <u>showing up for trans justice</u> and a <u>Trans Day of Visibility party</u> for trans/nonbinary families
- Video blessing of solidarity with trans and nonbinary people

From the UUA

- <u>UUA statement</u> in response to attacks on trans, nonbinary and LGBTQIA+ community
- UUA publisher Skinner House Books will release the groundbreaking book Authentic Selves in May. A visually moving celebration of trans and nonbinary+ people and their families, it can be pre-ordered at UUA's inSpirit UU Book and Gift Shop.



2023-2024 UUCLV Pledge Letter by Megan Walls

Hello Friends!

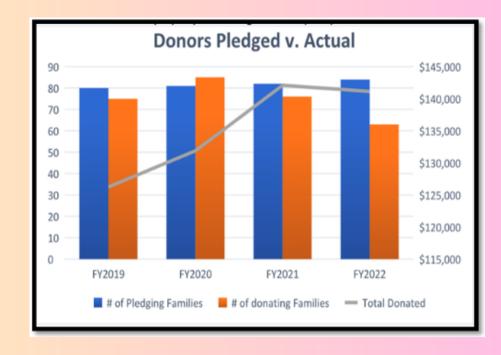
This letter comes at the time of year when we commit ourselves to the continued wellbeing of our congregation through our annual Stewardship/Pledge Campaign. This is the time when we are called on to generously give our Time, Talent, and Treasure to the service of UUCLV. Although all three are needed, it is our financial gifts that will secure our future.

Bluntly, our expenses have exceeded our income for the last two years. We have survived the financial hardship of the pandemic because we had previously built up a positive balance of savings. However, we have been drawing heavily on those savings.

In FY 2021 (ending June 30, 2021), our congregation had a deficit of \$10,459; and in FY 2022, our deficit was \$24,296. There were extraordinary expenses in FY 22 due to the water pipe leakage that necessitated repairs to the building's foundation. Building repairs and maintenance cost us \$10,219 from the general fund for that year, plus additional donations specifically to address the repairs. If these deficits continue, we will face bankruptcy.

As this graph shows, the number of pledging families has increased slightly over the past four years, but the number of families able to donate decreased dramatically during the pandemic. During the last fiscal year ending in June 2022, 25% of pledging families were unable to help support our congregation and did not pay any pledge amount.

2023-2024 UUCLV Pledge Letter continued...



At the same time, thirteen of our families, across all giving levels, exceeded their pledges, which has allowed us to sustain our budget, albeit with some spending down of our savings. We are hopeful that as our nation returns to full employment this trend will reverse and we will be able to strengthen our financial stability by replenishing our rainy-day fund.

This year, the theme of our Stewardship/Pledge Drive is "Back in the Saddle Again." This theme is a salute to our ability to attend Sunday services in person again, meet newcomers, renew friendships, and join together to serve our community and beyond.

It's time to CELEBRATE! This year's Stewardship Campaign Party will take place on Saturday, April 8, 2023. In keeping with our theme "Back in the Saddle Again", Kay Sanderson is providing her Blue Grass / Western Band. We'll have square/contra dance lessons, Southwestern wear (optional), good food, and great company. Aiding with set up, food, and games is another opportunity for your time, talent, and treasure.

In summary, please INVEST IN UUCLV's FUTURE!
Sincerely,
Megan Walls, President

Submissions

Give Me Your Hands by Stella Salazar

Give me your hands sister, sisters

Herman's a friend of mine, Mi Almas

Why? Do we each stand alone against the winds
Like grains of sand

So, many, many, of my sister, sisters

Hermana's a friend of mine. Mi. Almas

Struggling, pushing, fighting, Dying alone.

Each standing against hurricanes of social, religious, financial injustices of life

We've taken the hits:
The blast, heat, hurt, shame
Even death

All while giving birth/life. Love to this world. Through internal/external wars, forces, battles Pushing, struggling, Alone, Alone.

"You are not alone"
Looking to my past of all Women's histories
Sung and unsung heroines
Evolving, fighting battles, of all kinds,
for a very lives/existence

Looking to my Left < < < <, the pull By the force there!

The same to my right>>>>

ONGOING UUCLV EVENTS

Book Study: Life Among the Paiutes

Sundays 8:30 - 10:00am

Check our calendar for dates

Family Faith Development

Sundays 10:30 - 11:30am

March 26, April 2 and 30, May 21 and 28, June 18 and 25, July 16 and 23

1st Sunday Lunch Bunch

12:00 - 2:00pm Monthly on the first Sunday

PotLuck/Coffee Hour

Sundays 11:30am - 12:30pm

Monthly on the second & fourth Sunday

Prospective UUCLV Members Meeting

12:00 - 1:00pm

Monthly on the second Sunday

UU Weekly Craft Circle

1:30 - 3:00pm Weekly on Monday

Storytelling with UUCLV Many Voices

6:30 - 8:00pm

Monthly on the second Wednesday

UU Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 - 8:00pm

Monthly on the second Wednesday



ONGOING UUCLV EVENTS

UU Men's Group

6:00 - 7:30pm

Monthly on the second Thursday, until Jun 8

A Year With Rumi: Adult RE

10:00am - 12:00pm

Monthly on the second Saturday, until Jun 10

Las Vegas Bookies

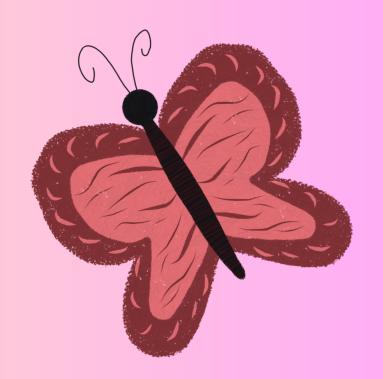
7:00 - 9:00pm

Monthly on the third Thursday

UUCLV Food Pantry

8:00 - 10:30am

Monthly on the third Saturday



Social Justice Committee Meeting

6:00 - 7:30pm

Monthly on the third Tuesday

Pastoral Care Meeting

6:00 - 7:30pm

Monthly on the fourth Wednesday

UU Membership Meeting

6:00 - 7:30pm

Monthly on the fourth Thursday

Worship Associates Meeting

6:30 - 8:00pm

Monthly on the fourth Tuesday



Ongoing - Chalice Circles

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

SPECIAL EVENTS MARCH-APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2023

Tarot Club

Friday, March 3 - 5:00 - 7:00pm

Stewardship Celebration Party

Saturday, April 8-5:00 - 10:00pm

Family UU Movie Night

Friday, April 21-5:00 - 8:00pm

Sabbat: Beltane

Saturday, April 29-7:00 - 8:30pm

Article II Dialogue

Sunday, April 30-12:00 - 1:00pm

AZ Cluster Lunch - Rev. Gordon

Tuesday, May 2

Newsletter Deadline

June 13

Summer Solstice Sabbat

June 17





COMMUNITY EVENTS

Me & White Supremacy by Layla Saad

Check our calendar for dates

SNOContra Dancers

Check our calendar for dates

SURJ

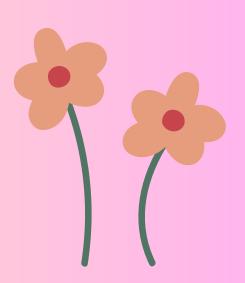
Check our calendar for dates

Las Vegas Pagan Pride Day

Check our calendar for dates

Inner Circle Sanctuary

Check our calendar for dates



Other communities utilize our space. Many UUs are involved with them or we both benefit by them being here. Consider supporting these organizations for mutual benefits for UUCLV.

If you know of an outside community that may want to rent our space, please send them to the administrator.

Our rates are low and supporting the Las Vegas community is always in our interest.

Our space is also available for weddings, parties, and other special occasions at a slightly higher rate than for non-profits. Ask the administrator for more details.



PLEDGING SEASON 2023



From January to April, the Stewardship Committee works to try to convince you to pledge to help sustain our community of UUCLV. Your money is always put to the best use, just ask around.

Fill out our online pledge form here

Online Pledge Form

Join the Stewardship Committee to help plan the upcoming Stewardship Celebration Party marking the end of the Pledge Drive. Contact Hilary for more information.



LINKS TO KNOW

New Visitor Information Form

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/97f3c5

Family Faith Development Registration Form

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/8fe221

Chalice Circle Interest Form

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/575ff8

Interest in Learning Spanish Language Group

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/f7514c

Check Out Your Breeze Church Directory Listing

https://uuclv.breezechms.com

UUCLV Volunteer Form

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/5dfbd7

Audio/Video Release Form

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/176822

Submit Announcements for Flash, Newsletter, & Sundays

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/b3fdf2

Subscribe to Our Newsletter & Flash

https://us9.list-manage.com/subscribe? u=743acf86d5487c5cc232792c2&id=8d6b38c0

LINKS TO KNOW CONTINUED...

UUCLV Start Up A Committee/Group Form https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/a81d84

Send in Your Committee Updates
https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/58d8e4

50/50 DONATION LINK:

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/give/online? fund_id=1322442

MAKE A PAYMENT TOWARDS YOUR PLEDGE

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/give/online? fund_id=1585386f0

MAKE A GENERAL DONATION TO UUCLV

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/give/online? fund_id=1309786



UUCLV: THE SUNRISE NEWSLETTER



Send in your group's updates, future events, submissions of stories, poetry, and/ or artwork for the Summer Edition of the Sunrise Newsletter by

June 13, 2023.

Email submissions to

<u>UUCLVnewsletter@gmail.com</u>

or utilize the Committee Updates Form at

https://uuclv.breezechms.com/form/58d8e4

