



HIGHLIGHTS

To create the Beloved Community by inspiring and empowering all souls to live bold and compassionate lives.

Happy Holidays!

By Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr., Minister



We are in the season of AWE with Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza. Some call all three holidays [Christmahanakwanzika](#). Whether you celebrate one or all, each is sacred to millions, representing faith, hope, and love in something that may be a deity or humanity in general. Awe means that we stop and stare which is an important part of any religious tradition. As Unitarian Universalists, we value the sacredness of holy time and space to think about big questions. For us, questions are often answers. The holidays are times to break bread, sing, and share gifts; a moment to watch Christmas movies and visit relatives. It's a time to laugh and cry as we remember those who are no longer with us. But mostly, it is a time to give to something besides ourselves. The holidays offer us the opportunity to be generous with our time, talent and treasure. Giving is indeed the reason for the season.

How can you be more present with your presence and presents this year? Eckhart Tolle says, "It is through gratitude for the present moment that the spiritual dimension of life opens up." Gratitude is the path inside so that our love flows outside. We can get caught up in all the shopping lists, malls, and toys, but what if we got caught up with appreciation and thanksgiving while we are out and about? How would the holidays look then?

As you consider what this time of year means to you, please also ponder what the UU Church of Annapolis means to you and why your financial support is needed to sustain our institution in these troubling days. We would appreciate it greatly, if you are behind, that you catch up on your annual pledge. Hardships are real and if you are experiencing one and cannot complete your pledge, please email the office. Additionally, you may have already received your "End-of-Year" appeal letter. We have a goal of raising \$15,000 to end the year strong. Your gift to this congregation during the holidays ensures that our work will continue in Annapolis and beyond in a time when our voice is needed more than ever before! I am confident that if each of us gives something, financially, we will meet this year-end goal easily. Please consider putting the UUCA on your Christmas list!

With love and joy,

Rev. John

Voting for 2020 Share the Plate Now Online

By Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Interim Minister

UUCA members have an opportunity to vote on Sharing the Plate organizations that they wish UUCA to support. We are allowing for on-line voting, as well as the ability to cast a paper ballot. There are several organizations which we have already promised funds to in our 2020 budget, and have already been assigned a month. On all fifth Sunday months, the entire collection is directed towards UUCA's operating budget.

Do you have an organization that you would like to be on the Share the Plate ballot? Are you the leader of an organization and would like to request a different month? If so, please write up a couple sentence description of the organization and send it to Kathleen Rolenz by December 5th. On December 8th, we will have paper ballots in the office and on-line voting through December 16th. The results of Share the Plate will be revealed in January! Thanks so much!

January: Emergency Response Fund
(formerly Minister's Discretionary Fund)

February: UU Legislative Ministry

March: ACT (Anne Arundel Connecting Together)

April: The Lighthouse

May: Annapolis Immigration Justice Network

June through December is still available.

Sunday Services at UUCA



December 1 - *The New Transcendentalism*

Rev. John Crestwell, Minister

As a continuation of his last sermon on the primary and secondary stories undergirding religion and reality, Rev. John continues to explore why Transcendentalism in the 19th century is re-emerging in the 21st century and what that means for the future of our congregation and religion as a whole.

December 8 - 9:00 am Service: *The State of Our Union*; 10:30 am Congregational Meeting

Revs. Kathleen Rolenz and John Crestwell

As we look ahead to 2020, Revs Rolenz & Crestwell will explore the UUCA's past, present and ponder the future in this engaging and lively dialogue service.

December 15 - 10:00 am Service: *Everything's still Awe-full*

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Interim Minister

December's Soul Matters theme is "awe" - a theme which invites us to reflect on the places which we find awe-inspiring. At the same time, the daily news brings one alarming and distressing reality after another. Couple that with the fact that the holidays are not always awe-some, how *do* we find awe and wonder? The answer may surprise you.

December 22 - 10:00 am Service: *Making Soup from Stones*

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Rev. John Crestwell & Julie Burman, Director of Faith Formation

For many years UUCA has enjoyed an evening of crafting and creating "Stone Soup," which culminates in a shared meal. Instead of holding that in the evening, we are creating an interactive, multigenerational service for all ages which ends with – what else – sharing a bowl of soup, bread, desserts and other treats on Sunday morning.

December 24 - *Holiday Services*

5:00 pm Family Multi-generational Christmas Eve Service; 8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

UUCA Ministerial Staff

Join UUCA members, friends and guests for one of our two Christmas Eve services. The 5:00 pm service will be especially geared towards families and children; the 8:00 pm service will feature traditional carols and readings about the Christmas Story. Come celebrate with us!

December 29 - 10:00 am Service: *After the Good News*

Rev. John Crestwell, Minister

In this message, Rev. John brings in the new year with an analysis of present-day Unitarian Universalism. Will there be many happy new years for us? Are we in trauma or transformation as a religious tradition? Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd's book *After the Good News* will be used as the main source for this message. Please pick up a copy in the book store. A guest pianist will provide music.

January 5, 2020 - 10:00 am Service: *Ten Rules for Living*

Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Interim Minister

Happy New Year! If you're like most, you see the new year as a fresh start; a chance to break an old habit and start a new one. Jean Vanier, a spiritual leader of the L'Arche communities was asked the secret of life and by way of response, he provided "ten rules for living." Let's start living!

One Service For Most of December

By Reverends Kathleen C. Rolenz & John T. Crestwell

Last year we noticed lower than average attendance after December' congregational meeting, held on **December 8th at 10:30 am**. So, this December, the ministry team wants to try something different.

We are going to ONE SERVICE on December 15, 22 & 29 and January 5 at 10 AM. See Order of Service and website for more details.

Adult Faith Formation Offerings - Middle & After Hour

Middle Hour is UUCA's time for Adult and Children's Faith Formation. It is designed so that every session can be a "drop in." The Inquirers' and the 8th Principle Practice Series are the only series which have multiple sessions. All others have a three session limit. There is no charge to attend. If you would like to offer a program for Middle Hour some-time, contact Rev. Kathleen Rolenz.

Middle Hour Classes

December 1

Inquirer's: Caring & Connections - Library

Songwriting Workshop - Young Room

Chair Yoga - MacLean Room

Parenting Faithfully During the Holiday Season - FF Sanctuary

December 8

Faith Formation Holiday Crafting - FF Sanctuary & Young Room

After Hour Classes

December 15—(11:15—12:15)

Inquirer's: UU History - Library

December 22

Hanukah & Hope—Young Room

December 29— no after Hour this Sunday

8th Principle Practice Series

December 1

Microaggressions - Sanctuary

December 8

Not Meeting

December 15

Tools for Being a White Ally - Young Room

December 22

Not Meeting

December 29

Not Meeting

Ministerial Search Committee By Thornell Jones



The Ministerial Search Committee is thankful for the great turnout, almost 80 members, who participated in the Beyond Categorical Thinking seminar on Saturday, November 2, and for all of you who attended the services on November 3rd. The lessons Rev. Keith Kron imparted to help us accept the minister yet to be added to our ministry were wise and insightful.

We are also appreciative of all who took the time to answer the survey. We will have a summary of the survey results on-line shortly, if they are not already up when this gets published.

What's next? The MSC will be compiling all of the documents, completing an extensive questionnaire including what we have learned from you to submit to the UUA Transition Office. All ministerial positions are open to qualified candidates on December 1. Our MSC begins to review applications submitted to us after January 1, 2020. We will review all of them, and conduct interviews through March. The final candidate will visit us in Annapolis for **Candidating Week April 25 – May 3, 2020**. This will be 9 days when the congregation can meet and interact with the ministerial candidate selected by the Search Committee.

Worship services on Sunday April 26 and Sunday May 3 will be led by the ministerial candidate. On Sunday May 3 after the service, the congregation will vote at a Congregational meeting to accept the candidate (or not) while the candidate and family are out for lunch.

Share the Plate: December 2019

Charting Careers helps youth envision their futures and achieve pathways to independence and career success. Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty in Annapolis by working individually with youth and their families, while also addressing the systemic issues leading to poverty and inequities in the first place.

Middle Hour Classes for Winter 2020 By Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Interim Minister

What is the purpose of Middle Hour? When I arrived, I was told that strict guidelines had been developed by Rev. Christina Leone Tracy and the Connections Team. Those guidelines were that

- 1.No “institutional” meetings were to be held during Middle Hour. What was meant by that was that meetings whose purpose was to further the work of the church instead of furthering our faith development was discouraged;
- 2.No on-going practice or small groups were permitted space during Middle Hour unless they offered a class;
- 3.Faith Formation opportunities during Middle Hour were intended to be open and welcoming to everyone; including the first time visitor/guest to UUCA;
- 4.No one was promised more than 3 Middle Hour slots a year.

These were good guidelines. However, legitimate and important demands for space during Middle hour for Inquirers, BBC (the 8th Principle Practice Series), Board, Budget, By-law, Building Expansion, Search and Congregational Conversations all mean that the kind of programming originally envisioned for Middle Hour is becoming increasingly difficult to schedule.

This winter, your staff team (Rev. John, Julie Burman, Joshua Long and I) have taken seriously the need to create programming for other, equally important demands: the need of people to get to know one another in community; the opportunity for members and visitors to connect via small groups; and to share common concerns, resources and strengths to help us navigate our lives.

Here are some programs we have planned for Middle Hour in the upcoming months:

At least once a month – we will schedule a “Parenting Faithfully” class. The purpose of this class is to enable parents to reflect and connect with one another around a common theme of interest.

At least once a month – one of your ministers will offer a class geared towards the various ages and stages of our lives. Some examples include a class on dealing with the empty nest; navigating parenting and aging parents; grief, loss and loneliness; the spiritual challenges of Alzheimers and other brain-related illnesses; finding joy amidst struggle; emotional and spiritual maturity; etc.

Every week (except for a mandatory two week break) we will continue to offer the Inquirer’s Series about the inner workings of UUCA and Unitarian Universalism; and the 8th Principle Practice Series – to help our members engage more deeply with UUCA’s commitment to anti-racism.

We are also exploring the possibility of doing a few classes via ZOOM so as to take some pressure off of Sunday mornings and encourage those with children to be able to attend (while keeping an eye on/being available to their families if necessary)

If you wish to submit a proposal for a Middle Hour class please contact Rev. Kathleen Rolenz by December 1, 2019. If you have any questions about this approach to Middle Hour, please contact Rev. Kathleen Rolenz – or sign up to attend a coffee with the Revs. As always, looking forward to the conversation, Kathleen Rolenz

Update from your Business Administrator By Pam Ausiello

One of the things that I’ve found both challenging and rewarding about my time as Business Administrator at UUCA so far, is the huge responsibility for church finances I share with the ministers and the Finance Committee. In my former life, when I was a Director of Education at area churches, I had to oversee my budget lines, each year taking part in our big book sale fundraiser to generate more revenue for my lines. At UUCA, I get to see the church budget as a whole and how every group is impacted by giving and spending.

I care deeply about both saving the church money and finding ways to increase the church’s revenue. I believe every single line of UUCA’s budget helps the greater good we all want to see in the world. Yes – even paying electricity bills in the office is part of that and needs to be looked at that way!

December is the biggest month of a church’s collection time. Just around the corner in January we will see areas in which we saved, areas in which we surpassed revenue and areas where we fell short. It’s too early to know if we will encounter a deficit or a surplus but we certainly always hope for the latter.

Fall Fest Update By Diane Ratcliff & Patti Patterson

What a tremendous evening! We couldn't have done it without such a terrific team, all the many, many donors, and all the "winners" who gave so generously! The FUNdraising Committee of Pam Ausiello, Charlie Gross, Jackie Heimbuch, Patti Patterson, Diane Ratcliff, Evelyn Spurgin, and Chris Wien had such fun working with all their fellow church members who brought Fall Fest to UUCA!

Our committee has had three objectives for church fundraising:

1. Raise funds for the Church's FY2019 budget. ACCOMPLISHED!! After expense, we raised about \$15,000.
2. Build a template to develop an ongoing fundraising program for UUCA. ACCOMPLISHED!! We plan to develop future fundraisers.
3. Incorporate a social event into our fundraising efforts to foster fellowship. ACCOMPLISHED!! From the many, many comments, it seems that Fall Fest was a successful social event where folks could relax and have fun.

We want to acknowledge especially our team members who worked so tirelessly:

- Jack Anderson who staffed the sound booth keeping mics and slideshow running smoothly.
- Pam Ausiello provided such incredible support on so many fronts from knocking on business doors to coordinating payment, etc.
- Julie Burman coordinated childcare provided by Deborah Hubbard and Sue Kohler
- Charlie Gross who provided bid paddles, bid sheets, etc.
- Jackie Heimbuch with Charlie and Doris Gross, Pam and Lanie Ausiello, and Liz Yoder provided for registration, checkout, and payment.
- Josh Long, Owen Morse and Wes Smith provided wonderful musical entertainment.
- Charles Mahanes whose amazing auctioneering was skillful and entertaining.
- Rob Malone and his assistants Jocelyn and Dan Moreau provided yummy bites which were the perfect finger food.
- Dan Moreau was also our excellent bartender.
- Dianne Moreau and her set-up and clean-up team of Tara Been, Paula Degen, Susan Eckert, Caroline Hadley, Tricia Hopkins, Jean Mitchell, Karen Murphy-Kedell, Nilda Roth and Chris Wien transformed the church into a festive, inviting fall festival.
- Jannina Ortiz produced our many publicity notices as they changed constantly.
- Laura Schrank whose excellent sales skills made the 50/50 raffle such a success.
- Evelyn Spurgin whose coordinating of ALL the many auction items: tracking, sorting, putting in order, etc. was exceptional. Her team of Diane Mairs, Jo Mack, Sara and Steve Moulton, and Abby Ratcliff provided the necessary support for displaying the auction items.
- Chris Wien who got us all started on thinking bigger about fundraising from his UU experience in Ithaca.
- And to Gary Christopher, Eric Machinist, and Don Patterson whose support enabled Evelyn, Diane, and Patti to accomplish as much as they did.
- Thanks to Revs John and Kathleen who provided excellent guidance and support throughout this process.

This is a fun group to work with. We'd like to encourage your creative ideas" so join us! Send us an email!

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!! Diane Ratcliff (dratcliff940@gmail.com) & Patti Patterson (prpatter@comcast.net), Co-Chairs



Update From Your Business Administrator by Pam Ausiello

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Whether it's contributing to the Year End Appeal, checking in to see if your pledge is fulfilled (*take note – if you submitted a current year's pledge you might still owe on last year's*), or a simpler gift you choose to make, now is the time before the year runs out.

Stewardship is giving of time, talents and treasures so there are other ways that so many of you give to UUCA and we want to express our sincere gratitude for that. But, also – let's keep the lights on so to speak and help balance this year's budget by getting all these end of year payments in. Your continued stewardship impacts so many in both big and small ways.

Faith Formation News at UUCA By Julie Burman, Director of Faith Formation



I attended the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Fall Conference in Baltimore, MD last month. The conference was titled, “Theologies of Suffering and Wholeness: Companions in Liberation.” Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte, and Rev. Sofia Betancourt were the keynote speakers and I was challenged to wonder about how we can acknowledge our suffering and experience wholeness. I had signed up for this conference and approached it with the same excitement and anticipation to teaching conferences that I attended in the past. I assumed it would be a time to brainstorm with colleagues and gather several tools and resources to implement back in our Faith Formation Program at UUCA.

Church work is beautiful and complicated work. I am in my first year as your Director of Faith Formation, and although managing volunteers, selecting curriculum, communication and assembling calendars are all necessary components of my job, there is more. We are in a faith community; spiritual and faith development isn’t as straightforward as teaching third graders about multiplication. Our job here isn’t to make sure that everyone leaves knowing that $3 \times 6 = 18$.

Yes, I gathered some tools from experienced colleagues in other Unitarian Universalist churches, but I was also invited to learn more.

I reflected on the hope and expectation that drew me to becoming a Unitarian Universalist, that it could be an organized religion free of harm, hurt, complications, or conflicts that occur in the larger world. I’ve discovered, realistically, suffering can enter our beloved church and even within us personally. We aren’t immune to suffering but we can hold one another in love as we journey together towards wholeness.

With colleagues, I began to wonder more about our current UU programs and structures, specifically who created them and who they are intended for. How can we work together to make sure our Sunday morning programs are intended for and welcoming to all? And not just for our children that are here now but for the families and children that haven’t yet arrived, the people we are hoping will join and feel at *home in our community*.

I am in awe of all the work we have done and continue to do as a faith community especially right here in our own church. I am in awe of those in our community that have experienced suffering and wholeness together. I am in awe of what’s to come.

Re-Start of the UUCA Humanists and Freethinkers Group

The UU Humanists group is restarting and rebranding as the UUCA Humanists & Free Thinkers Group. We are a group of UU’s who meet regularly for sharing of potluck dinner, videos, book discussion, free and open exchange of ideas on issues of Integrity, Science, Naturalism, Wonder, Respect, Compassion and Community. We make a special effort invite leaders to provide spiritual and intellectual inspiration as we examine the way religious humanism and free-thought can guide us in living our lives and building a better world. Our goals are to self educate on issues of ethics, integrity, science, naturalism, wonder, respect, compassion and community and educate and make aware the UUCA community and the community at large of the importance of these principles. Our meetings are open and we welcome newcomers. This group meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Rd, Annapolis, MD.

Note: Our first meeting will be during Middle Hour on January 12 (Emerson Room- Fahs House), followed by an evening gathering on Monday February 3rd, 6:30 pm. Contact: Peter Morse peterjmorse@icloud.com.

Arts in the Woods Presents...

Sunday, January 5, at 3:00 p.m. Brian Ganz kicks off the Arts in the Woods Concert season with a solo piano performance that previews his latest Strathmore performance. The new program, “Musical Gardening,” will be devoted to examples of early works of Chopin that contain the seeds of his genius, followed by mature masterpieces in the same genres that demonstrate the full flowering of that genius.

Music Matters By Joshua Long

The Holidays are among us! That means holiday music! Some of you may cringe this time of year and some of us (yes me) love to hear these classic jingles. While we may all have different reactions to the season, I hope that we all can embrace our community and enjoy the festivities.

The Children's Choir (6 years old+) will perform twice this month, both on Stone Soup Sunday and for the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service. If your child likes to sing, please bring them to our rehearsal on select Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm. We sing, laugh, and then have a potluck dinner. I hope you will join us. As always the Adult choir is available if you yourself would like to sing. If you play an instrument and want to sing with an ensemble please contact me so we can have you participate in a worship service.

Here are the following dates for Children's Choir

Rehearsals:

Wednesday, December 4th - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, December 11th - 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 15th during 10:00 am service

Wednesday, December 18th - 5:00 pm

Performances:

Sunday, December 22nd - 10:00 am service

Tuesday, December 24th - 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service

There will be UUCA Symphony Ensemble rehearsals on December 1st, 14th and 20th to practice for our performance on Sunday, December 22nd during the service. Please see *in the Know* for more information.

I am looking for strings and horn instruments to play some holiday tunes. If you would like to join us please contact send me an email jlong@uuannapolis.org

High School Students can participate as leaders / helpers or do an occasional solo or join the Adult choir.



Membership By Joshua Long

There is much happening in the realm of membership during the month of December. The Inquirers class will be wrapping up its series with our Care and Connections class and the Membership 101. We will take a 2-week break for both Christmas and New Years, and then have our new member's Ceremony on January 5th. Classes have been well attended with an average of 15 people per session.

We have also made some changes to our small group ministry policies. Small Group ministry has been one of the most successful programs of the church. I can personally attest to the relationships that are built within these shared sacred spaces are nothing short of a blessing. We now have groups in almost every part of Anne Arundel County. There are also more affinity groups. All small groups, covenant groups, and practice groups are welcome to utilize our Soul Matters Curricula. If you are a small group facilitator/leader, we will be meeting December 1st after the second service. For those who are not in a group but interested please contact me and we can see if there is a group for you!

Lastly, I am really grateful to the many people who volunteer in our congregation. We have quite a few greeters and are always looking for more. The ushers help our services run smoothly. Our group leaders, event coordinators, and all the hands, hearts, and souls that go into helping to co-create the beloved community here among us. Thank you for all that you do. We are currently looking for someone to help around the office once a week for an hour or two. This is to assist in the data keeping of our membership, Inquirers class, and small groups.

My contact info is jlong@uuannapolis.org Peace and Blessings for you during this holiday season!

UU Theists Holiday Offerings By Joshua Long

December 15th, 9 am: Advent candle lighting Ritual

We will celebrate the ritual of Advent with a small liturgy and reading before the service. Come and join us.

Contact: John Fisher | Location: Young Room

December 17th, 7 pm: UU Theist Bible Study-Christmas

We will look at the Christmas Story through the lens of Unitarian Universalism. What does this story have to say to us religious liberals?

Contact: John Fisher | Location: Young Room

December 22nd, After Hour (11:15-12:00)

Hanukkah & Hope

Come join the UU theists as we make space for the celebration of Hanukkah. We will read through the biblical narrative, say a prayer, and talk about hope in dark times. If you identify as Jewish, you are welcome to help shape this After hour offering.

Contact: Josh Long | Location: Young Room

Board of Trustees Holds Congregational Budget Meeting on Sunday, 12/08/19

By Stan Haavik, Trustee At-Large

The end of 2019 approaches and we arrive at the time when your Board of Trustees hosts the Congregational Budget Meeting. All members are welcome to attend and vote on important business before the church. On Sunday, December 8th, there will be one worship service at 9 AM followed by the Congregational Meeting at 10:30 AM held in the Sanctuary. Grab a cup of coffee and come on in!

There are several important items on the agenda. While questions and discussion will be entertained, time is limited. Therefore, Congregational Conversations have been set up to inform all on the details. These dates and times are available on the church website – click on the Congregational Meeting slider – as well as in other publications. Also on this slider are additional details about this meeting.

- The 2020 Budget:

First, your Board represented by Kari Alperovitz-Bichell, Finance Officer, will present the budget for the coming year. Highlighted will be the principal areas where our funds are applied in supporting the work of the church. After discussion, a vote to approved the budget will be held.

- BEEC2 – the Building Expansion Exploratory Committee

This group of dedicated members has been working with high energy and dedication to plan our church campus and facilities of the future. You'll want to hear and see the fruits of their extensive research and planning. This work will help us grow to accommodate more members, house and sponsor progressive programs as well as create a more attractive and comfortable environment for all.

- Approval of Amendments to our Bylaws

Four proposed amendments to our Bylaws were first published November 6 on the UUCA website and in *In The Know*. *An important addition to our Bylaws inserts the word "neurodiversity" in our Non-discrimination clause. This term refers to "support (for individuals) that honors authentic forms of human diversity, self-expression and being rather than treatment which coerces or forces them to adopt accepted ideas of normality, or to conform to a clinical ideal."* (Wikipedia)

Other changes concern clarifications of language and responsibilities.

This meeting is quite important and your attendance is highly encouraged and welcomed.

UUCA Leadership Training Program

By Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Interim Minister

We are all leaders in *something*, whether at work or at home; we have gifts, experience, instincts and insight to share. UUCA has had a rich tradition of leadership, but no formal orientation and training program to nurture and support leaders. Beginning in 2020, the ministry team is hosting a UUCA Leadership Training Program. Because we take your (and our) time seriously, we ask that you apply to participate in this program and that you check your calendar in advance to determine if you an attend all or at least most of the courses. We ask that you sign up by **December 15th** so that we can assemble the team. Once you've "graduated" from the course, your name will be given to the Nominating Committee for consideration of future leadership positions.

The **NEW** dates for the UUCA Leadership Training Program:

Class Dates

Where: UUCA

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Thursday, January 23, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Thursday, January 30, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Thursday, February 6, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Opening Retreat

Where: Leadership Development at the UU

Church of Fairfax, VA

Saturday, January 4, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closing Retreat

Saturday, February 22, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

You can apply on-line by going to <https://tinyurl.com/UUCA-Leadership-Training-2019>.

If you have questions about this program, please contact Rev. Kathleen Rolenz at krolenz@uuanapolis.org

Scarf Sale for AIJN Starts December 1 By Stephanie Anderson

Just in time for holiday gift buying or to warm up your winter wardrobe, our Fiber Arts Fellowship opens its annual scarf sale on Sunday, December 1, in the UUCA lobby following both Sunday services. Note, this is earlier than previously announced. The dates for this year's sale at UUCA are December 1 and December 15. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN).

Crafters from UUCA and other groups serving AIJN have been working for many months to create a large array of hand-made scarves, cowls, hats, hat and scarf sets, and other items for adults and children. Both acrylic and fine wool items are being offered. Prices start at \$15, and all items are labeled with fiber content and washing instructions. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards.

Your purchase of items at the sale directly benefits AIJN in its mission to support immigrant neighbors in the greater Annapolis area by connecting them to legal assistance and other resources. The handmade scarves and other items make wonderful gifts. But if you are not interested in purchasing for yourself or someone on your gift list, consider purchasing items to be donated to a local organization serving those in need.

The scarves will only be available at UUCA on December 1 and December 15. If you want the best selection of items, be sure to come on opening day, December 1.

For information, contact Stephanie Anderson, UUCA/AIJN liaison, at sjacape@gmail.com.

11th Annual Annapolis New Year's Eve Interfaith Celebration

Where: **Eastport United Methodist Church**

926 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403

When: December 31, 2019

What: Gathering Music 6:30 at pm | Service at 7:00 pm

A unique New Year's Eve event that combines communal singing, musical ensembles, prayers and readings by members of multiple faith groups. In unity, we honor our differences, celebrate our interdependence, and pray for peace in our hearts and in our nation and world.

Contact Liz Vanden Heuvel for more information at liz2vh@comcast.net or at 410-266-8009.

All souls are welcome here.

Sponsored by the Greater Annapolis Interfaith Network

Gallery 333 December 2019 Showing: Nancy Cann Shimer

"Impressions of the Sea", Gyotaku and other works of Nancy Cann Shimer continues through December. Gyotaku is an impression (or rubbing) made from an actual fish using ink and silk or mulberry paper. For more about her work, see www.CoastalImpressionsStudio.com.

Gallery 333 is located inside the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis. Self-tours are available.

View *In the Know* for more information and hours.

Holiday Hams For We Care and Friends By Stephanie Anderson

We Care and Friends serves some of our neediest Annapolis neighbors. Again this year, Jack and Stephanie Anderson will be collecting donations to provide hams for We Care and Friends to distribute to needy families. On average, you can provide a ham to one family with a \$25 donation, however donations of any amount are welcome. Tax receipts can be provided upon request.

If you wish to participate in this holiday drive, see or contact Stephanie Anderson, sjacape@gmail.com by December 15th.

Unconscious Bias Book Club By Thornell Jones



The Unconscious Bias Book Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. For answers to any questions, contact Thornell Jones at thornell.jones.16@gmail.com

The book to be discussed on **Thursday, December 12th** is ***“A Perspective on How Our Government Was Built and Some Needed Changes”*** by our own **Darrel Nash**. If you have not read the Federalist Papers and wonder why they have been in the news so much lately, read these 142 pages and discover how these papers were a marketing tool to sell the Constitution after it was written. The arguments will definitely interest you. It is to our advantage to understand the Papers because the Tea Party swears by them. The book is available from Amazon and at the UUCA Bookstore.

PUURL Programs for Winter 2020 By Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Interim Minister

PUURL Programs for Winter 2020

(Practicing a Unitarian Universalist Religious Life- Faith Formation for Adults)

Are you interested in teaching a class, sharing some wisdom, facilitating a small group conversation during Middle Hour, After Hour or during the evening? If so, please send Rev. Kathleen Rolenz an email about your idea. Just as a reminder, Middle Hour was created as the premiere time for Adult Faith Formation. We are looking for classes that may stimulate the mind (book or article or podcast discussion), the body (i.e, tai chi, yoga, etc.); the spirit (spiritual practices which include prayer, meditation, journaling, etc.) and the heart (art practice, social justice, or caring for one another) **Our deadline for the next PUURL is December 1** We hope to have a variety of offerings both from our ministerial team/staff as well as tapping the wisdom from our own church community. Not sure if you have something to offer? Talk to Rev. Kathleen at krolenz@uuanapolis.org. I can't wait to hear from you!

Annapolis Death Café Turns 20! (Sort Of, & 21!) By Phyllis Culham

Annapolis Death Café was conceived at the moment in 2013 when I read a story about the first Death Café in Baltimore in *The Sun*. Clearly, Death Cafes offered resistance to American culture's "suck it up & keep it moving" practice of denying grief & loss by shouting "Smile!" I analyzed the necessary features of a Death Café: Deep Listening to everyone & holding space for all; the 1st Principle honors "The inherent worth and dignity of every person." Openness to all views: The 4th Principle calls us to honor "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Both of those Principles interlock with the 3^d: "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth... ." It's OK for something to be a stretch or a challenge: let's talk death! I went to wave the newspaper at Bob Ertman saying, "We can do this! We do all this stuff anyhow." Bob & the 3^d facilitator, Julie Roehm, just wanted to find a good space in the calendar. We applied to International Death Café in London for official status (use of the logo & site for publicity.) We heard back quickly that UUCA's Mindfulness Practice Group was the most qualified group which had ever applied for official recognition. Tens of thousands of Death Cafes later on all continents, including Antarctica, the rules are unchanged. We eat cake & speak of death. What is said in Death Café stays there. No trying to convert anyone to another belief. Try out Death Cafés XX & XXI on Sundays Dec. 1 & 29 in Middle Hour. There'll be cake.

UUCA Outdoor Club By Eloise Hoyt

Saturday, December 7, 2019 9:00am-3:00pm

Walk at Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore. Lunch at a local restaurant. Meet at the Park & Ride at I-97 & Benfield Blvd (by Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club) at 9:00am to carpool.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Eloise Hoyt 410-768-4932 or eloisehoyt@verizon.net

Events & Happenings at UUCA

Coming to the Table: meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Dissolving racism with understanding through conversation.

Contact: Jane Carrigan; janeccarrigan54@gmail.com

Community Drum Circle: A spiritual and meditative practice group open to all levels, no experience necessary. Bring a drum if you have one or use one of the group's drums. Meets on 2nd Mondays and 4th Tuesdays from 7:30—9:00 pm.

Contact: Kate Holmes; k3holmes@gmail.com

Fiber Arts Fellowship: Needle crafters who meet on the second Thursday and fourth Sunday in the Young room.

Contact: Ginger Parsons; ginparsons@aol.com

Full Moon Women's Circle: meets monthly at 7:30 – 9:30 pm on the Friday night closest to the full moon. An experiential earth-based celebration open to all women over age 18. Visit the [Full Circle website](#) or Facebook page for more information.

Contact: fullcircleuuca@gmail.com.

Gallery at 333: The Gallery at 333 is open Mon.-Thurs. from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sundays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Contact Deb Boudra; dancindebart@comcast.net

Introduction to Mindfulness and Meditation: Beginner-friendly session every Sunday at 8:30 am in the Emerson Room. For those who want to learn the basics of meditation and those who just want another opportunity to practice with a group.

Contact Phyllis Culham; mpg@uuannapolis.org

"Inquirers" Series - Classes for Newcomers: A program to educate and integrate newcomers and to serve as a refresher for long-timers. The series is 8 one-hour classes led by ministers, staff and church members during Middle Hour or after church service in the summer months.

Contact: Josh Long; jlong@uuannapolis.org

Light House Shelter Meals: UUCA members and friends prepare and serve dinner to shelter residents on the second Saturday of the month. If you are interested in helping with meals for the Shelter,

Contact Rob Malone; rmalone68@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ Small Group Ministry: We are a group that gives shared spiritual support, community building and outreach to the LGBTQ+ community.

Contact: Amanda Cardone; amandacardone@gmail.com

Mindfulness Practice Group: Meets every Thursday in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM for meditation and dharma discussion.

Contact: Phyllis Culham; mpg@uuannapolis.org

Monday Women Covenant Group: We meet once a month to pursue spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth through discussion, offer and receive friendship and create an atmosphere of trust and support. Meetings are the 4th Monday, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM in the Library.

Contact: Evie Robbins; evierobbins44@outlook.com

UU Legislative Ministry of MD (UULM-MD): UULM-MD is a statewide advocacy network comprised of individual members and affiliated UU congregations. UULM-MD provides a voice in legislative action for UU values, principles and traditions. UUCA provides leadership, resources and support to UULM-MD.

Contact: Margery Knight; margeryknight@gmail.com

UUCA Humanists & Freethinkers Group:

We self-educate on issues of ethics, integrity, science, naturalism, wonder, respect, compassion and community and educate and make aware the UUCA community and the community at large of the importance of these principles. Meetings are open. We meet the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Note: Our first meeting will be during Middle Hour on January 12, followed by an evening gathering on Monday February 3rd, 6:30 pm.

Contact: Peter Morse peterjmorse@icloud.com

UUCA Men's Group: : A covenant group of men meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 7:00 - 9:00 pm to share and experience one another's journey through life. Please contact the facilitator in advance of attending the meeting.

Contact: Ken Apfel kennethapfel@aol.com

UUCA Outdoor Club: Holds monthly outdoor activities and outings for nature observation, companionship, spiritual sharing, and exercise.

Contact: Eloise Hoyt; eloisehoyt@verizon.net

UUCA Theists Group: A group of people interested in a UU perspective of theism. Usually meets the second Sunday of the month before the first service.

Contact: John Fischer; jwlfischer@gmail.com

Women in Transition: A covenant group of women meeting to support each other with change and its adjustments. Please contact the facilitator in advance of attending the meeting.

Contact: Sara Moulton; saramoulton33@gmail.com

Young Adult Group: Ministry that is focused on the spiritual formation and well-being of people ranging from ages 18-35. This group meets once a month at the church and does particular social events and social justice works throughout the year.

Contact: Devan Costello-Mays; dcostellomays@gmail.com



HIGHLIGHTS

Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis
333 Dubois Rd. Annapolis MD 21401-2123

Return Service Requested

Dated Material; Please deliver by
12/1/2019

Next Issue Deadline: 12/15/2019

PROFESSIONAL, PROGRAM, AND CHURCH STAFF

Church Office Hours:

Monday –Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Phone: 410-266-8044 www.uuannapolis.org

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