



KUUUC NEWS

December 2018

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Worship in December

December 2
Testimony: How UUism Changed My Life - Rev. Ken Jones
 KUUUC Board - 12:15 pm

December 9
Our Lady of Guadalupe - Vivian Dunbar
 Worship Council - 12:15 pm

December 16
Choir and Festival of Lights
 Membership Council - 12:15 pm

December 23
Yule and Solstice - Coleen Renee
 Green Sanctuary/Social Justice - 12:15 pm

December 30
Potluck

KUUUC BOARD

- Co-Presidents:**
 Kristen Paton & Todd Schaefer
 copresident1@kvuu.org
 copresident2@kvuu.org
- Past Co-President:**
 Debbie Williams
 pastpresident@kvuu.org
- Secretary:**
 Vivian Dunbar
 secretary@kvuu.org
- Financial Secretary:**
 Jim Schwing
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- Treasurer:**
 Carol Gilliom
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- At Large:**
 Marilyn Gruber
 board_at_large@kvuu.org
- Staff**
- Minister:** Rev. Bill Graves
 minister@kvuu.org
- Director of Religious Education:** Maggie Patterson
 recoordinator@kvuu.org
- Music Director:** Jan Jaffe
 music@kvuu.org

KUUUC needs folks interested in outreach through our website Facebook, and newsletter, No prior knowledge is required—we'll provide the training.

Want to be a Worship Associate? The Worship Council is providing a Worship leader Training with Rev. Ken Jones as facilitator. We invite those who are interested in participating in this capacity to join us at KUUUC on Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 9:30 until noon.

Upcoming Special Events

- BOARD MEETING**
 Sun, Dec 2—12:30 p.m.
 KUUUC
- CHOIR PRACTICE**
 Thu, Dec 6—5:30 p.m.
 KUUUC
- OUR ENVIRONMENT**
 Tue, Dec 11—7:00 p.m.
 United Methodist Church
- WORSHIP COUNCIL**
 Sun, Dec 9 - 12:15 p.m.
 KUUUC
- MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL**
 Sun, Dec 16—12:15 p.m.
 KUUUC
- OUR ENVIRONMENT**
 Sat, Dec 22—10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 United Methodist Church

The theme for December is:
Mystery



Thoughts about Borders: A Rev. Ken Commentary

Many of us were shocked to learn that tear gas was recently fired at people seeking asylum on the southern US border.

We've been shocked before, such as when we learned that children were routinely being separated from their parents on the border, or when we saw pictures of innocent children in cages.

Each time we hear some shocking news like this, we rightfully feel as if we need to express our objection to it with elected officials and the public. So, we call our representatives and go to protests to insist that these kinds of tactics are uncalled for and extreme. Indeed, many of us believe that draconian tactics such as these should *never* be used in America.

I have to say that I agree with this sentiment and, like many of you, am appalled that the US Southern Border has become a place where we see this kind of thing happening on a regular basis – that is, if we choose to look.

I've also heard from some people that think what's going on, on the border, is regrettable, perhaps, but necessary; maybe even good. In this view, the enforcement of border security of the United States has long suffered due to political concerns; we are doing a good thing by finally enforcing the legal standards we have regarding migration.

These two views are, of course, contradictory – at least a little. If you're at all sympathetic with the latter view, how should we enforce our immigration laws in light of the eleven million undocumented people already living here, and the longstanding belief among many people in Latin American countries that the United States is a refuge that will accept as many as show up?

The question, as I see it, is not what tactics we should or should not be using at the border. I think the question has to do with the nature of borders and migration itself. To what extent is the United States a refuge? How much should we police our border? Should economics or politics be the determining factor? I think these questions get to the heart of what the United States is – *the nation of immigrants* that we're so often called. Is this who we still yearn to be? Are we at a point in which our identity is changing?

The American Friends Service Committee is leading a delegation of religious leaders from across the United States – including many of my colleagues in UU Ministry – in a public action on the US/Mexico border in San Diego on December 10. There is a religious witness to be had in this complex situation, a witness that is guided by the religious principle that there are no actual borders between people – that is only a politically expedient tool. Our faith, along with many others, maintains that we are all one human family, bound to and responsible for our siblings on any side of the fence. I will be with my colleagues in spirit as they make this statement publicly on the border and will continue to strive to live by the principle that our humanity trumps borders.

Rev. Ken



What is Guest at Your Table?

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the “guests” in Guest at Your Table.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a 78-year-old human rights organization grounded in UU values and committed to advancing human rights, dismantling systems of oppression, and uplifting and affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Our eye-to-eye partnership model centers the experiences and wisdom of front-line communities, and we partner with grassroots groups around the globe to support those facing human rights abuses, humanitarian crises, and displacement due to climate change.

2018-19

***Reminder - This year's Guest at Your Table is
Justice Across Borders and is active now.***

For thousands of Central Americans making the dangerous journey north to escape gang violence, gender-based assault, and increased militarization, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Recognizing the difficulty and duration of this journey – and believing that human rights should be recognized before, during, and afterward – this year's **UUSC Guest at Your Table theme for 2018-19 is Justice Across Borders.**

Justice Across Borders

From the Northern Triangle of Central America, to deserts of Mexico and Arizona, to detention centers in the United States, the road away from danger is paved with injustices. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes, supports migrants in transit, and protects the right to seek asylum. Join with UUSC for Guest at Your Table to learn more about UUSC's and our nation's involvement in Central America – historically and presently – and our courageous Migrant Justice partners.



Guest at Your Table 2018-19 Sample Worship Service

JUSTICE ACROSS BORDERS

Our Faith at Work



THE UUA OPPOSES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S NEW RULES FOR CONTRACEPTIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE

From the UUA Website at UUA.org

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) opposes the Trump administration's [new rules that would deny contraceptive insurance coverage for millions of people who aren't cisgender men](#). Disguised as protecting "religious liberty," the new rules are just another effort by the Trump administration – notoriously hostile to reproductive choice – to undermine the Affordable Care Act's efforts to provide contraceptive coverage. In 2015, the UUA's governing body, General Assembly, [affirmed its commitment to reproductive justice](#), which envisions the liberation of people of all genders, sexual orientations, abilities, gender identities, ages, classes, and cultural and racial identities.

"I am proud to work for an organization and a faith community that is unequivocal in its support for women's health, reproductive justice and coverage for contraception," said UUA president, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. "The UUA promotes healthy, inclusive and comprehensive sex education."

Laws limiting access to health care disproportionately impact marginalized people. Our deeply held beliefs require us to advocate for an equitable world where people can receive the healthcare they need and make the choices that are best for them.

Employers shouldn't impose their religious beliefs on their employees. True religious liberty would allow people to decide whether or not to use contraception and would have their insurance cover the costs of contraception should they choose to use it.

The UUA firmly believes that reproductive justice is a human rights issue. The initial drafts of these new rules issued a year ago are already being contested in a number of court cases, and we are hopeful for rulings that will restore the Affordable Care Act's protection of reproductive rights for all.

For more information contact:

Marchaé Grair
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mgrair@uua.org



Circle Suppers are hosted potlucks. The host chooses a date and decides how many folks can be accommodated. Those who sign up are contacted and receive a general category of food to bring so that the meal will be reasonably balanced. The cozy setting of a home, the intimacy of sharing a meal, the extra time for conversation – Sign-up sheets are available on Sunday.

LOCAL NEWS

OUR ENVIRONMENT

NOTE: Our Environment meets on Dec. 11 at 7:00pm and Dec. 22 at 9:00am —at the United Methodist Church. All are invited.

The emphasis is on what we can do locally that will affect the future of our planet by being active in working with various organizations in our community to make changes that are essential— please join us!



To be religious today is to act on behalf of the planet. Such action articulates the true dimensions of the holy life in our time.

Elizabeth and David Dodson Gray

Why a Leaf? - I Have Been Asked

Not This



This

On Scott Nikolai's recommendation I purchased a 2015 Nissan Leaf this past March. Howard Lyman drove me over to Bellevue where I picked up the car at Trend Motors.

The dealer is 108 miles from Ellensburg, so we knew we were going to have to stop in North Bend and charge the battery. When we left, the battery was at 88%. In North Bend, the charge was free and while it charged we had lunch - about an hour. As you know, from North Bend to the Pass, the road is steep so the battery charge dropped quickly. At the pass, there was another charging station where I paid \$13 for a quick charge - a half hour or so. Downhill from the Pass to Ellensburg, the battery indicator varied from slight usage to charging on the down slopes.

I have had the Leaf for eight months now and have driven 7900 miles. At the 20 mpg of some prior cars and say \$3.25 per gallon cost for gas, I would have spent \$1300 total. Or with the Leaf should I say saved.

When I bought the Leaf, it was coming off a three year lease and had 27,327 miles. The car still had 12 bars on the battery (the maximum). The battery is a lizard battery with a quick charge plug-in capability as well as a 110 outlet plug-in. The battery had an eight year warrantee with five years remaining.

Generally speaking, I can get about 80 miles on a charge and it costs me about \$30 per month to charge.

- by Richard Gallagher

UUs in the NEWS

Amid fires' devastation, 'we are not in recovery mode at all'

California wildfires displace thousands, including Unitarian Universalists; UUA Disaster Relief Fund has already responded.

From UUWorld's Website By MICHAEL HART | 11/19/2018



I haven't really sat down and cried yet," said Tova Love.

Until the town was destroyed, Love, a second-year student at Starr King School for the Ministry, lived in Paradise, California, the epicenter of the Camp Fire, the worst brush fire in California history.

On November 8, with the fire a mere two houses away from hers, Love quickly packed her two dogs, a few personal possessions, and a couple of bottles of Gatorade into her car and headed down the hill toward Chico. Trapped almost immediately in a traffic jam created by others evacuating as well, she soon had to abandon her car.

Eventually, firefighters drove her and others down to Chico, a terrifying eight-hour odyssey through what Love described as a "tunnel of fire."

Love lost her home, her car, her cat, and all but her dogs and the possessions she could carry in her two hands.

The situation was no better a week later for other Unitarian Universalists who called Paradise home. The Rev. Bryan Plude, minister of the UU Fellowship in Chico, eight miles away, said six families or individuals in the congregation who were in the path of the fire had to evacuate.

"So far, one family has confirmed they lost their home," Plude said. "I haven't heard yet, but I would assume the others lost theirs, too."

The tragedies befalling UUs in Northern California were just a few of the stories being told regarding fires in the area. As of November 19, seventy-seven people have been confirmed dead and 991 are reported missing. The Camp Fire had chewed through 141,000 acres and destroyed nearly 12,000 structures. Fires in Southern California are also affecting UU congregations.

The Conejo Valley UU Fellowship in Newbury Park, near Thousand Oaks, was at virtually the geographic center of the Hill Fire. More than half of the congregation's 200 members were forced to evacuate their homes. "I don't know of anybody who lost their home," said Tom Wolf, congregation board president, "but for some it stopped right at their backyard."

UUs in the NEWS [cont.]

One congregation member who went to the church to assess the damage on Friday, November 9, found it intact but had to call authorities to put out a fire in the parking lot created by embers he found burning in a tree.

Fires in the Thousand Oaks area erupted only two days after the community was jolted by the shootings at the city's Borderline Bar and Grill that left twelve dead. The daughter of one Conejo Valley congregation member was at the scene, but escaped harm.

The Rev. Nica Eaton-Guinn, minister of the Conejo Valley fellowship, said, "The two events together, it has thrust everyone into a state of unexpected grief and anxiety."

By the time Sunday came around, Wolf said, "people really had a need to connect." But the church itself was still in a mandatory evacuation zone. "It wouldn't have been wise to try to get people there," Wolf said. Instead, Eaton-Guinn conducted the service via Zoom, with some technological help from UUA regional staff. Fifty-nine families and more than eighty individuals were able to gather virtually.

"It was very healing," Eaton-Guinn said. "People were able to share the trauma they had been through the last few days."

"There were so many faces on the screen," Wolf said. "Everybody got to relate a personal story." The fellowship [shared a screenshot](#) of the November 11 Zoom service on its Facebook page.

In Chico on November 11, "the Sunday service was well attended, considering how many people had been evacuated," Plude said. "We addressed the pain, the fear, and the loss caused by the fire."

The devastation and threats created by the fires are still not over. "We are not in recovery mode at all," Plude said.

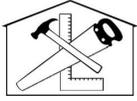
In Thousand Oaks, Wolf said, "It's like a no man's land. The fire is nowhere close to being contained." Zoom technology was not the only assistance UUs provided to the Chico and Conejo Valley fellowships. Religious professionals and neighboring congregations have offered their help, pastoral care, and resources. Both congregations have already received financial assistance from the UUA Disaster Relief Fund. "And we'll no doubt need more before it's over," Plude said.

Eaton-Guinn said, "I feel most grateful for the assistance of our UU community and the way they made us feel like we are not alone."

Donations to the [UUA Disaster Relief Fund](#) will not only assist UU congregations in fire-scarred areas but also support local partner organizations serving the community at large.

Starr King School for the Ministry, the Unitarian Universalist seminary in Berkeley, is also raising funds to help its student, Tova Love.

UU HELPERS - The people listed below have special skills you may need - remember shop locally!
If you have a skill/service you would like to advertise to our congregation, contact Jim at 509-929-3238.



DON GALLAGHER - Quality Carpentry - Remodeling, painting, roofing, plumbing and electrical repairs. Don Gallagher.
CONTACT: 509-306-0608.



RICHARD GALLAGHER - Experienced auto trouble-shooter. Services: repairs, carpooling, garden preparation, snow removal, unusables removed, needed items located. You have needs? Richard has solutions!!!
CONTACT: 509-306-9329.



BRUCE HAGEMEYER - Bruce Custom Remodeling - Licensed General Contractor
Building - Remodeling - Carpentry - Plans & Permits
CONTACT: 509-964-2086.



PAULA McMINN - Green Cleaning Service Housecleaning with earth friendly, non-toxic products. Experienced. Local references available. 509-859-1016 mmcminn18@gmail.com

JAN JAFFE — is now accepting adults for **music lessons!**



- Piano, guitar, voice
- Master of Music Education from CWU, 2009
- Flexible evening schedule for regular or special occasion lessons
- Experienced teacher
- Specializes in beginner & hobby adult lessons
- All music styles, songwriting, & theory

Also available as a performance coach for individuals, ensembles, bands, worship teams, etc. Improve skills and build confidence for talent shows, competitions, and workshops.



DEBBIE WILLIAMS - **Brick Road Books**. Used and new books. Turn your lightly used current reads into a donation to KVVUC - just tell Daniel or Debbie that the proceeds from selling your books should go to KVVUC. Family-owned and operated. Come in to 305 N. Main Street.
CONTACT: 509-925-1999.

COLENE RENEE — **Find Your Story, Your Path, Your Purpose.**



Colene Renee, CSH is a guide and teacher for helping you find what makes you vital, happy and living your beauty. Lena is available for Healing Sessions, Private Readings (in person/via phone), Inspirational Speaking & Classes. Call her at 509-312-0220. Visit her at CRhalenaRenee.com. Follow her blog!

Our web page: kvvuc.org

Our Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kittitas-Valley-Unitarian-Universalist-Congregation-KVVUC/121639554572008>

Or YOU CAN GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICK ON THE FACEBOOK ICON!