



April 25, 2021

Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

UU Justice Revival - Taking a Collective Breath

Twenty-five Unitarian Universalist congregations in IL, the UU Advocacy network and UU Prison ministries are gathering to take a collective breath. As spring waits on the horizon, can we breathe? We can breathe as vaccines become available. We can breathe as we once again gather. We can breathe into a new administration, breaths of accountability, breaths of attention. We have work to do to create a just world where everyone can find their breath. It is time to breathe. Let us take a collective breath together.

Click here to join us via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HvNIIMCjDk4>

Join us @ 9:30 for a prelude concert featuring congregational talents.

Upcoming Services:

Sunday, May 2: Star Wars Day

Sunday, May 9: Mother's Day

Come as you are.

Today & This Week at UUSG

uusg.org/calendar

(All activities meet via Zoom. Contact your group leader for links.)

Sunday, April 25

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am Board Chat
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12
- 2:00 pm Dungeons & Dragons Group
- 2:00 pm Social Justice Meeting

Monday, April 26

- 9:00 am Pioneer Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, April 27

- 12:00 pm BYO Lunch with Rev. Scot (year-end final)
- 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 28

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:30 am The Luncheonettes
- 6:00 pm The Shared Pulpit – Sermon Seminar

Thursday, April 29

- 7:00 pm Communications Team Meeting

Friday, April 30

Saturday, May 1

- 1:00 pm Difficult Conversations with Ken Beare

Sunday, May 2

- 9:00 am RE Class K-2
- 9:00 am Styrofoam Sunday
- 10:00 am Online Worship Service
- 11:15 am RE Class 3-5
- 11:15 am RE Class 6-8
- 11:15 am RE Class 9-12

Announcements

The Bible, and other sacred texts, can be challenging. A solace for some and a weapon for others, these stories nevertheless underpin much of society and consciously and unconsciously inform our national debate. At the least, our familiarity can create flexibility and understanding; at the most, these texts can be deeply enriching, spiritual, and life-giving. As a UU, Rev. Scot's approach to scripture has always been one of curiosity – "I just kinda want to know what all the fuss is about." All are welcome. No previous exposure is required but would certainly be welcomed. Note: Yes, we are starting with the Bible, and starting completely from scratch! We'll be using the Massachusetts Bible Society's What is the Bible? as our study guide (purchase is not required). For a Bible, Rev. Scot recommends the "[Harper Collins Study Bible](#)" or the "[The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha](#)." **We will meet on the 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm, the next meeting is May 17.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88101593697?pwd=ZjJjWlIiSEEx3K1BTUjhtTUx4WVROZz09>. Meeting ID: 881 0159 3697, Passcode: 215873. To be added to our email list, send a note to office@uusg.org.

April "Beyond Our Walls" UUSG's membership in the Fox River Valley Initiative magnifies our social justice voice in the region while connecting us with like-minded congregations and nonprofits in our community to advocate for affordable housing, policies addressing needs of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system, and safe guns. <http://www.uusg.org/donate>.

Difficult Conversations: The Art and Science of Working Together Your boss. A rude neighbor. A challenging family member. A childhood friend. A parent, partner, child. Engaging, or staying engaged, with these important figures in our daily lives can be a challenge. And when the conversation gets tough, what then? Neuroscience tells us that difficult conversations are difficult because they activate our fight/flee/freeze survival drive. In this workshop, you'll learn about three research-based strategies that counteract this ancient survival instinct, helping us to stay present and creative in any conversation. This is a workshop for everyone, no-prerequisite required. We're bringing this to our community as part of our ongoing commitment to living better, together, and with more compassion and connection. All are welcome. This free workshop is split across 3 separate sessions: **May 1, 8, & 15, 1-3:30pm**. [Please sign up here](#).

Can't find something? Need a little more information? Check out our website at uusg.org and our calendar at uusg.org/calendar.

One Book One UUSG WOW invites you to join us for our third One Book One UUSG discussion group on Tuesday, May 25, at 7:00pm via Zoom. We will be discussing the book “A Place for Us,” by Fatima Farheen Mirza. The novel focuses on an Indian-Muslim family living in California, striving to find a balance between tradition and modernity. The family of five is left to search for home in a metaphorical and literal sense. The audience is given glimpses of the family life from their beginning to their three children later finding themselves stuck between living their own lives and the lives their parents and culture expect them to follow. **Please RSVP by May 18 to wow@uusg.org**. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to our meeting date. We look forward to a great discussion. We hope you can join us.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources #3 Perhaps you have read/viewed/watched some of the resources that have been suggested in prior newsletters. Perhaps you attended the “See Something, Say Something” workshop and are hungry to learn more. [Here are some antiracism resources that the DE&I team endorses](#). If you would like a copy of Resource Lists #1 and #2, please contact us at DEI@uusg.org.

Wine Down Thursday You are invited every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7pm, to Happy Hour. Next date is **May 13**. Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy the company of other UUs as we talk about anything and everything. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241796675> Meeting ID: 842 4179 6675.

Vaccinated? Let us know! In the spirit of optimism and hope in our community we are keeping a running tally of how many of our members and friends have received the COVID-19 vaccine. So far, **we have 86 members vaccinated**, we are so looking forward to being together again! Please let us know at admin.assistant@uusg.org.

Vaccine Angels Available to Help If you need assistance in finding and scheduling a Covid vaccine appointment, WOW would like to help. We will pair you with a Vaccine Angel (a member or UUSG friend) who will help you navigate the process. Contact WOW at wow@uusg.org for assistance.

The Board of Directors has extended our current stay-at-home practice including a continuation of virtual services, group meetings, and other functions until at least **May 31**. Please read the letter and learn more about UUSG's plan for the future: [Updated “Navigating the Year Ahead: Board Statement on UUSG’s COVID-19 Reopening Strategy.”](#)

The Inclusion Bookclub We have our first roster of books, and we're so excited to share them with you! Join Rev. Scot, Lisa Gades, and UUSG members and friends in a monthly exploration of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our meetings are on the **third Tuesday of every month at 7pm, the next one is May 18**. UUSG will have a limited number of copies of each book available. Please check with Christine to learn more or to sign up at office@uusg.org. Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87167167460?pwd=eStBK1cxNFpwWU9SaHcwMEVUbzNpZz09> Meeting ID: 871 6716 7460, Passcode: 428914

[Caste: The Origin of our Discontents](#) by Isabel Wilkerson

Wilkerson illuminates an unspoken caste system operating in America--one that cuts across race, class, and other factors. [Hear an interview with Wilkerson on NPR's Fresh Air](#).

[Redefining Realness: My Path To Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More](#)

by Janet Mock. Mock shares her experiences of growing up young, multiracial, poor, and trans. Her story encourages all of us to be more accepting and real.

[Rage Becomes Her](#) by Soraya Chemaly

Anger in women and girls has long been less acceptable than anger in men and boys. And yet, anger is also a powerful signal that something is wrong, and action needs to be taken. Chemaly's book is important for anyone raised to suppress their anger and who now seeks to use it as a catalyst for change. [See Chemaly's TED Talk here](#).

[An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Dunbar-Ortiz presents a history of the United States from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, highlighting our nation's colonialist policy. Not the history you learned in school.

[Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth](#) by Sarah Smarsh

By telling the story of her life, Smarsh brings America's class divide into sharp focus. She gives voice to the many hard-working people whose labor we take for granted and who deserve better.

If you visit uusg.org/calendar, and click on the event, the Zoom link will always be located there.

Chicago Area UU Council Spring Conference: Re-opening and Reimagining Church - A panel discussion on lessons from the pandemic. Saturday, May 8, 9:30-11:30am via Zoom. [More information and register here.](#)

BYOL (Lunch) with Rev. Scot: Final meeting before Summer sign-off is Tuesday, May 27, at Noon. Rev. Scot will be hosting an open meeting on Zoom. No agenda. No requirements. Join us in our virtual courtyard for an hour of conversation, connection, and community. Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5832903665>. Meeting ID: 583 290 3665.

Official Notice of the Annual Meeting: Slate of Candidates for the 2021-2022 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 12:30pm via Zoom. Registration details will be coming soon.

Proposed Slate of Candidates for 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Officers & Directors

President: Molly MacKay Zacker (1-year term)

Vice President 1: Nancy Christensen (1-year term)

Vice President 2: Jenny Montgomery (1-year term)

Secretary: Patricia Ward (1-year term)

Treasurer: Larry Escalona (1-year term)

Director: Jessica Littlefield (2-year term)

Director: Tom Lichtenheld (2-year term)

Directors Don Clements and Gail Tattersfield will be completing the 2nd year of their 2-year terms.

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair: David Tomell (1-year term)

Nominating Committee Member: David de Coriolis (1-year term)

Nominating Committee Member: Tracey McFadden (1-year term)

(Two remaining members of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the newly elected Board after July 1, 2021)

Additions to the slate may be made by petition of ten Voting Members and/or Student Members made to the Committee at least two weeks prior to the May 16 Annual Meeting. Any additions must be submitted to the Nominating Committee (nominating@uusg.org) by Sunday, May 2, and must include the required petition of ten Voting Members and/or Student Members.

Contact Information

Rev. Scot Hull, Minister

minister@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 103

Christine Imielski, Congregational Administrator

office@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 100

Lisa Rittenberry, Administrative Assistant

admin.assistant@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 101

Becky Hruby, Director of Religious Education

DRE@uusg.org; 630-232-2350, ext. 104

Molly MacKay Zacker, Board President

boardpresident@uusg.org

Cynthia Spiegel, Music Director

music@uusg.org

Jeff Stibal, Technical Director

techdirector@uusg.org