



Unitarian Universalist
Society of Geneva



Pioneer Newsletter

August - September 2016

[UUSG Calendar](#)



From the Pulpit

the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates

Want to Know More?

[Board Minutes](#)

[Team Reports](#)

[Financial Reports](#)

[Annual Report](#)

Table of Contents

[From the Pulpit](#)

[Scott's REgards](#)

[boardblog](#)

[August Music](#)

"Let us pray...."

Some months ago, I asked you all, Do you pray? Not the "Oh #%*@ get me out of this!" exclamation when the car skids on an icy road sort of prayer (really, don't we all do that?). But the holding-in-your-heart, hoping for a good outcome, wishing for serenity and peace kind of prayer that forms in your thoughts when you hear of hardship or sorrow in the lives of others or in your own? Whether it's a pagan invoking of

[Homecoming Picnic](#)

['No' to Fossil Fuels](#)

[Lazarus House Dinners](#)

[Church School Registration](#)

[Lazarus House Volunteer Coordinator](#)

[Circles of Life](#)

[Friday Flick](#)

[New2U](#)

[Carnivale UUSG](#)

[Volunteer Appreciation](#)

[Teacher Recruitment](#)

Deity, a theistic cry to the Mystery, a Christian or Jewish appeal to G-d, a Buddhist wish that all may find peace, a humanist expression of caring, an intentional sending of Light or Love or Energy, almost everyone has a way of turning within to focus feelings of concern, hopes for healing, expressions of love and compassion, and then turning outward again to send those thoughts into the universe. We all have ways of relating to the Mystery; unfortunately, we're not always comfortable exploring those ways with others. But the spiritual path is often made smoother by our companions on the way. And so we are forming groups of companions.

The groups' covenant is pretty simple: We promise each other a place of safety, acceptance, gentle listening, confidentiality, and respect. Our individual spiritual paths are often quite idiosyncratic, and it takes deep trust to share those paths and the prayers that emerge from them. These are not groups for cynics or skeptics. These are for UUs who pray, and want to share prayers of joy and gratitude, comfort and concern, with others.

Enough people responded to the invitation to help start UUSG Prayer Circle gatherings that we're going ahead with

three monthly opportunities to gather with other UUSG folk, talk about prayer, and, more importantly, pray together, exploring different ways of praying in a Unitarian Universalist context. The groups will meet on the Second Sunday at 7 PM, the Second Monday at 7 PM, and the Fourth Tuesday at 1 in the afternoon. In September, that will be September 11, September 12, and September 27.

If you'd like to come and experience what we're doing and you're OK with those covenantal promises, we'd love to have you join us. Please let me know which of the three groups you'd like to attend.

Peace ~

Lindsay



Scott's REgards
the Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis

Sometimes people leave you
Halfway through the wood
Do not let it grieve you
No one leaves for good
You are not alone
No one is alone

Careful the things you say
Children will listen
Careful the things you do
Children will see
And learn
Guide them along the way
Children will glisten
Children will look to you
For which way to turn
To learn what to be

Careful before you say
"Listen to me"
Children will listen

I love these words by Stephen Sondheim, in his masterwork, *Into the Woods*. Hearing Meredith Vandre sing them to the children at our last child dedication service will stand out in my mind as one of the most moving parts of a worship service this year. The effort and caring we put into preparing our children for the outside world inestimable. So many things go into that preparation. Parents, family and home life are undoubtedly most important. Schools and sports play another essential role. But the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva (UUSG) is a powerful influence as well. We all influence our children and youth every Sunday. How we interact with them matters. Staying connected with them even though they are no longer your children and their friends still matters. We owe them something whether we are their parents or not. After all, we vote for school levies, don't we?

Those of you who participate as teachers, advisors and workers-behind-the-scenes, thank you again. We couldn't run our wonderful Religious Education program with you! In a church I previously served our Religious Education team offered a sign-up sheet to the congregation in an effort to have every adult member participate in Religious Education for at least one Sunday Morning. What do you think of that?

With joy, love and gratitude,

Rev. Scott



boardblog

The boardblog will return next month! Questions or comments? Contact the [Board of Directors](#).



August Music

The last month of glorious music highlighted the rich talents of families in the congregation, beginning with the father-and-daughter duo of guitarist Tracey McFadden and vocalist and guitarist Kristin McFadden. Turning in shining performances were sisters Sophia Spiegel on cello and Elena Spiegel on violin, with Patricia Arzaga at the piano. In rhythm with Rio for the Olympics, flutist Ruth Cavanaugh created an irresistible program complete with a samba lesson. The quartet featured her daughter, Olivia Flanigan, sharing stunning vocals with Cynthia Spiegel, and nimble guitar accompaniment by Conor Mackey. And Dean Malambri dazzled at the piano in a collection of surprise-filled pieces.

Looking ahead, we'll be treated to the Montgomery Fam Jam and more piano fireworks by Lynn Fisher McCanne, Geoff Pynn and Patricia Arzaga. Homecoming Sunday promises a rousing musical start to the new year

thanks to the UUSG Homecoming Band, featuring Tracey McFadden, Andy Montgomery, Tracy Rosenkrans, John Rosenkrans and Liam Johnson.

Every weekend is a one-of-a-kind creation. Each of our musicians and groups carefully prepares music to fit the particular service, presenting a worship experience that we believe is unique to the area. To share your own special gift, offer suggestions, or express your appreciation of our work, please reach out to Music Director Tracy Rosenkrans at music@uusg.org.



Annual Homecoming Picnic

Join UUSG members and friends as we celebrate our 10th Annual UUSG Picnic, Sunday, Sept. 11, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at [Wheeler Park Pavilion](#). Fried chicken is provided. Bring your favorite covered dish along with a chair. Register to attend on the Common Room bulletin board or [online](#). The deadline for registration is Sept. 7. Questions? Contact Cindy Vacek at picnic@uusg.org.



UUSG Says 'No' to Fossil Fuel Investments

Effective this month, UUSG will no longer invest in any companies involved in the production or sale of fossil fuels which contribute to global warming. The move is an advancement in the church's socially responsible investing (SRI) strategy.

"The sustainable strategy aligns our church's investment criteria with the green values UUSG embraces," Robert Swanson, Treasurer of UUSG stated. "We would like our position to motivate others to evaluate their fossil fuel investments, and initiate more widespread change to green energy."

UUSG has been committed to SRI for about 10 years. The new initiative tightens UUSG's SRI screening to also exclude companies involved in the fossil fuels industry — gasoline, coal, natural gas, etc. An SRI approach considers both financial return and social responsibility to bring about positive change. Environmental care, consumer protection, human rights and diversity are encouraged, while alcohol, tobacco, gambling, weapons and other harmful products are avoided.



Lazarus House dinners for Sept. 3, 2016

We are still in need of volunteers for the Lazarus House dinner on September 3. We have UUSG funds available for buying prepared meals so you don't even have to cook! If you are going to be in town for the Labor Day weekend please help us out and sign on to make this a great holiday for our Lazarus House friends. [Sign up here](#) for September or future months.



Church School Registration

Church School Registration for the 2016-2017 year is now open! Cathi Plass, our Church School Coordinator, will be in the Common Room before and during service on August 28th and September 11th to assist with registration and answer questions. You may also [download a form here](#) or pick one up from the Literature Display outside the south Common Room entrance. Questions? Contact Cathi Plass at LRE@uusg.org or speak with her on either of the above dates. Thank you!



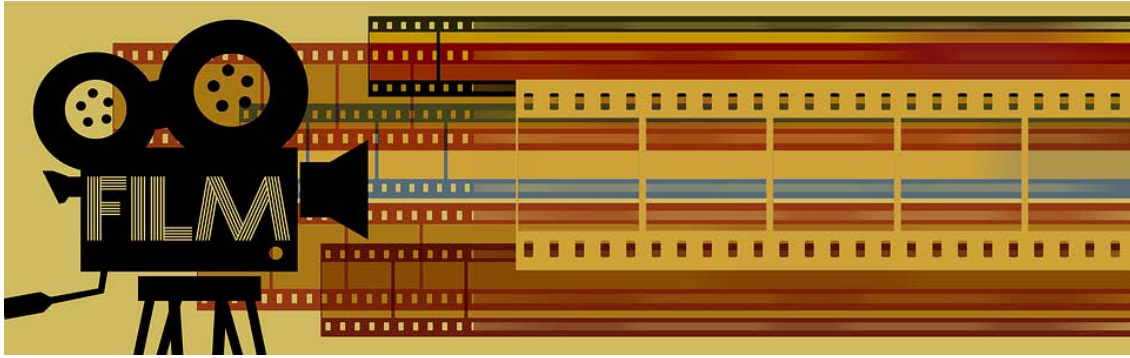
We Want You!

We need a Lazarus House Volunteer Coordinator to inspire, recruit and coordinate the volunteers who prepare the monthly lunch and dinner donated by UUSG. Our support of Lazarus is a long standing UUSG ministry. Let's get organized to continue to support them. If you are interested, please contact Bill Scown at socialjusticeleader@uusg.org.



Circles of Life

We send our deepest condolences to Shawn Thornton, and to Diane and Ryan, upon the recent death of Shawn's mother Nancy. The loss was not unexpected, but it's still very hard to say goodbye to someone who has always been with us.



Friday Flick: *Peace Officer*

This month's Friday Flick is *Peace Officer*, a documentary about the increasingly militarized state of American police as told through the story of 'Dub' Lawrence, a former sheriff who established and trained his rural state's first SWAT team only to see that same unit kill his son-in-law in a controversial standoff 30 years later. Please join us on Friday, August 26 at 7pm in the Common Room.



New2U - Pass It On!

New2U is raising funds for UUSG - and the more shoppers we have, the more we raise! So invite your family, friends and neighbors to shop the marketplace for some great deals on great stuff. We've got a Thule bike rack, a lighted curio cabinet, a pair of natural reed floor lamps, and much more. They can check out all the great offerings at uusg.org/new2u-shop.



CARNIVALE UUSG!

We are now accepting donations for the 2016 UUSG All-Church Auction, Carnivale UUSG! [Please click here](#) for a printable donation form or make a donation at togetherauction.com/uusg. Click on DONATE. Enter your phone number and use the last four digits of your phone number for your pin. Don't miss out on all the fun on November 5, 2016!



Volunteer Appreciation

We give our heartfelt thanks to the following people:

Greeters: Sandy Bottoms, Dan Bottoms, Pam Galligan, Adam Kuc, Martha Tabis, Gail Tattersfield, Bill Scown, Mark Alleman.

Counters: David de Coriolis, George Tattersfield, the Finance Team, Kevin Beyer, Jamie Carroll, Kevin O'Neill, Jim Carroll



Ongoing Teacher Recruitment

We are forming teacher teams for next year's LRE classes. Thank you to all who have signed up already!

We plan to offer 8 classes, most of which operate best with 4-teacher teams. The 4-teacher teams allow teachers to rotate weekends, exchange lead and assistant roles, and frees up schedules so teachers can rejuvenate by attending services or having an occasional Sunday off.

We provide curriculum, supplies, guidance, teacher meetings, a yearly recognition ceremony, and even an annual party!

You get to learn about who UUs are, what we believe in, and provide valuable lessons to our future UUs.

Interested? Need more information? Let us know by contacting [Rev. Scott](#) or [Cathi Plass](#).



Website



Podcast



Contact Us



Facebook

Copyright © 2016 Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from all UUSG MailChimp emails](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp

