January 2018

Intercom

Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills
Folks like a good story. Always have. Indeed, story is at the heart of some of the world’s oldest attempts to describe the human experience, starting with oral myths carved into cave walls, desert rocks and burial sites.

Early storytellers were often revered by a given tribe, seen along with the holy woman or man as necessary for maintaining the tribe’s identity, and steeping the young in the clan’s ways and values.

That tradition has continued across centuries and cultures, sometimes in the form of dark myths designed to convey profound suffering: war; famine; plague; flood; fire. And on other occasions, colorful tales meant to describe things of the spirit: deities; rituals; creation stories; nature.

Placed in the modern age, storytelling is key to the liberal religious experiment, Unitarian Universalism withstanding. When we say we find truth for living in Judeo-Christian, earth-centered or Eastern traditions, we’re testifying to the lasting power of narrative to convey what mere prose cannot.

Which brings us to Appreciative Inquiry (AI)....the story-based process designed to collect an organization’s positive stories itself. Starting later this month, cottage groups will gather to talk about the many strengths of the tribe known as the UU Church of the North Hills. (The schedules and details are listed in the Ministry Council’s article in this issue of the Intercom.)

The idea is to think of a time or two when UUCNH “shone”; or an occasion when something good, something important happened; or a person embodied the very best of what your church is all about; or maybe just a simple moment in time, when you were grateful to be part of so strong a community. (Note: This exercise is not just for long-timers or members. If you’re new, tell us about your positive experiences so far. Not a member? So long as you’re engaged in at least one faction of the church, no problem.)

In the end, AI is designed to do three things: 1. Provide an uplifting experience for all participants; 2. Uncover the essential strengths across UUNCH’s history; 3. Draw upon those stories and strengths as part of a long-range plan (to be begun with your new settled minister).

So please find the cottage (or church) meeting that best fits your location and schedule.  Spend a couple of hours with your fellow sojourners, taking up anew the art of telling a good yarn or two. Find out how good it feels to be part of a storied, wonderful tribe.

And Happy New Year,

Don

Rev. Don Rollins' Schedule - Office hours are 9 am - 1 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and by appointment. Please call 740-988-7834, text or email (minister@uucnh.org) before coming in – sometimes he has off-campus meetings. Mondays are his "weekend" and Fridays are reserved for writing.
UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

January 7, 2018
THEOLOGY SERIES: UU MYSTICISM
Rev. Don Rollins

For all the humanist and orthodox religious influences in liberal religion, there has always been a strong mystical bent, be it pagan, Wiccan, Native American, Eastern or a host of other influences. Don will offer a reminder that we’re a better movement for our UU mystics.

January 14, 2018
AN HOUR OF CALM: TAIZÉ MUSIC AND MEDITATION
Jay Poliziani

Join us for reflection and renewal through music and meditation in the Taizé style. Founded in France after World War II as a non-denominational community for children displaced by war, Taizé has grown to become both a retreat center and a worldwide movement. Jay Poliziani, a member of the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church and director of Northside Common Ministries, will guide us in a UU version of a Taizé service.

January 21, 2018
THEOLOGY SERIES: UU CHRISTIANITY
Rev. Don Rollins

Both strains of our blended religious family are rooted in the story of Jesus of Nazareth; yet many a UU is surprised to learn how much progressive Christianity has influenced our development, let alone appreciate the presence of UU Christians in our ranks. Don will challenge us to better understand and appreciate our modern day followers of Jesus.

January 28, 2018
THEOLOGY SERIES: UU HUMANISM
Rev. Don Rollins

There’s a whole lot more to humanism than some might think - including the strain practiced by younger humanists in a postmodern age. Don will suggest we are witnessing a changing-of- the-guard moment in the UU humanist tradition.
ROBYN’S RAMBLINGS

Well, 2018 is upon us. I have never thought much of the New Year. January 1st is just another day to me. My new year starts truly with my birthday each year. Different religions and cultures celebrate a different date for the New Year. The Jewish New Year is Rosh Hashanah in September. Some Pagans see new beginnings in the spring with the new growth after the cold winter. Others pagans place the New Year on the Winter Solstice when the days begin to grow longer again. The Chinese New Year is in February. In our congregation, a new year starts in September.

Wherever you choose to put your new year, it is often a time for new beginnings. Many people begin to reinvent themselves. It is the time where you leave the old behind and look to the new. It is rarely easy to work through these changes, and for our congregation it is no different. Our new “year” started in September with a new minister, new board, and new governance structure. Like individuals who use the New Year to change and reinvent parts of themselves, we have been doing something similar. We have made the resolution as a congregation to hold up a mirror and look at ourselves. We have made the resolution to start building this new governance. We have made the resolution to find better ways to move into the future.

One of the resolutions of the Board this year is to build a strategic plan for the next three to five years. We have started this process by trying to build more specific goals out of our mission statement. These are our end statements. Please take the time to read them when you get a chance. I think the Board and the Governance Task Force did some really great work with these statements. I believe they speak more specifically to the essence of who we are and who we want to be as a congregation.

As we move into this new calendar year, I hope you will join with us while we continue to work towards our “new year’s resolutions.” We will need your help and support. Sticking with our resolutions is always hard.

~ Robyn

SAVE THE DATE

The mid-year congregational meeting will be held on **January 21st** after the service in the West Room. Please join us while enact our congregational polity and do the good work of our church, Lunch and refreshments will be served.
“Education that is religious is clearly a transcendent activity. Its ultimate goal is to liberate persons to fulfill their potentialities for authenticity and creativity. It is guided by a vision that urges people to interpret their lives, to relate to others, and to engage with the world in ways that they perceive to be ultimate.”


OUR WHOLE LIVES

We are pleased to announce that OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) for children in 1st and 2nd grades is starting in February (Sunday mornings from 10:30 – 11:45am) for eight weeks at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. OWL is a lifespan sexuality education program which begins in our congregation in the 1st and 2nd grades. This program supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families.

Pam Weaver and Kip Ruefle will be the class leaders. Both are trained and experienced OWL teachers.

Following a Parent Meeting and Parent/Child Orientation, the 8 sessions engage children with stories, songs and activities and include a weekly HomeLink, a homework project for parents and children to do together to promote dialogue. Parents must attend the Information Session (unless you have attended one for this age level) and the Parent/Child Orientation Session. You may or contact Jennifer Halperin at uucnhdlfd@gmail.com with questions or to request childcare for the parent meeting.

SCHEDULE:

January 24: Parents Information session – 7:00 – 8:30 pm
January 28: Required Parent/ Child Orientation from 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Classes will be held on Sunday mornings, 10:30 to 11:45, from February 4th – March 18th with an Easter break on March 27.

In order to attend the program your child will need a signed permission slip, which we will give you on January 24. If you would like your child to participate but are unable to make the January 24 meeting, please contact Jennifer Halperin at uucnhdlfd@gmail.com. There is no fee for the course, although we may ask you to occasionally provide food.
MYSTERY PALS BEGINNING IN JANUARY

This popular multi-generational activity provides an opportunity for youth and adults in the congregation to get to know one another and form new relationships. Pals exchange clues about themselves via code names over six weeks and eventually reveal themselves at a fun party.

Do you have a CLUE? It’s Mystery Pal Sign-up Time!

Are you interested in getting to know a UUCNH member of a different generation?? Do you have a secret code name? Here is your chance to give clues to try to get someone to guess who you really are and try to figure out another's secret code name.

On January 21, children will sign up to participate in their classrooms. On January 28, there will be a table set up in Friendship Hall where adults can sign-up and where you’ll receive your secret pal’s code name. For the next 4 Sundays, turn in a letter to the mail folder (in the upstairs hallway) of your secret pal that gives clues to your (real) identity. On March 3, we will have our big reveal mystery pal party and Ice Cream Social, where you will exchange a small gift. Sound like fun? It is. Come join us!

CALENDAR

- January 7th – Regular am classes
- January 13th – Junior and Senior High Youth Group sleepover – 5:00 pm
- January 14th – Regular am classes
- January 21st – Regular am classes and Congregational meeting after Church
- January 28th – OWL 1st/2nd Parent Child Orientation – 12:00 – 2:00 pm

UU SERVICE COMMITTEE GUESTS AT YOUR TABLE PROGRAM

- A friendly reminder about UUSC’s Guest at Your Table fundraising program. http://connect.uusc.org/e/103112/elcome-to-guest-at-your-table-/g1y5k/60045282

The UU Service Committee is a human rights organization affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. By “inviting” a guest at your table you support the important work the UUSC does with local partners organizing relief work or advocacy efforts. This year’s theme is “Small Change is Big Change”

Boxes are at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Put one by your table and drop coins into it this month. You can bring the boxes back to church any time in January. Last day of collection will be January 28th.
ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The Adult Faith Development (AFD) team coordinates all adult Faith Development courses and discussion groups. Whether you are a newcomer or a long-time member, our goal is to meet the needs of UUCNH adults who wish to enrich their spiritual lives.

THIS YEAR AFD OFFERINGS

- **Affinity Groups:** Christian Perspectives, Humanist Discussion Group and Sisters in Spirit.

- **Classes and Events:** Jesus Discussion Group, PSI (Philosophical and Spiritual Insights) Group, Faith and Justice Wednesday’s Death Café Pittsburgh, Docent led visit to Carnegie Museum’s “20/20” Art Show, Articulating your UU Faith, UU Pamphlet series, Facilitator Training.

- **Spiritual Practice Groups:** Dance Jam, Meditation Group, Covenant Circles. Please check the printed Program Guide (at the Welcome table) for dates and times!

Please check the printed Program Guide (at the Welcome table) for dates and times! And we always encourage members and friends who are interested in sharing a spiritual practice or interest with others to fill out a proposal for a group/class or activity. For more information please contact Stephen Fuegi, Chair, at sdfuegi@gmail.com or Jennifer Halperin at dlfdjh@uucnh.org.
FAMILIES GROUP

UUCNH families are warmly invited to come to our monthly gatherings! We try to keep costs low, have fun and get to know one another, and include a service element. Please contact Families Group coordinator, Dawn Lindsay, for more information. Email her at northparkmom@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENT: Let's go ice skating at North Park ice rink!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 13th from 11 am – 1 pm. We can skate and eat lunch together. Sound like fun? For more information, please go to: http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/activities/winter-sports/ice-skating.aspx.

UUCNH Contact: Dawn Lindsay – northparkmom@gmail.com

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE FAMILIES GROUP

JANUARY – Ice Skating at North Park, January 13th @ 11 am
FEBRUARY – Bowling at Pines Plaza Bowling, February 10th @ 2 pm
MARCH – Mystery Pals Reveal Party and Ice Cream Social at UUCNH, March 3rd @ 2 pm
APRIL – Earth Day Hike at North Park, April 14th
MAY – Playground and Biking at North Park, May 12th
JUNE – Carnival at UUCNH Picnic, SUNDAY June 3rd
JULY – OFF (Family Camping Trip @ Allegheny National Forest, July 18th-22nd)
AUGUST – Picnic at North Park, Friday - August 24th
SEPTEMBER – TBD, September 22nd
OCTOBER – Halloween Party, October 27th
NOVEMBER – TBD, November 10th
NEW FOR 2018

YOGA

Amy Wilks will be offering yoga classes twice a month at UUCNH. These will be gentle flow classes suitable for all ability levels. Please dress in comfortable clothing and bring water and a yoga mat. Contact Amy with any questions at akwilks@gmail.com.

DATES:

January 9th (Tuesday) @ 12 – 1 pm  
January 22nd (Monday) @ 7 – 8pm  
February 13th (Tuesday) @ 12 – 1 pm  
February 26th (Monday) @ 7 – 8 pm  
March 13th (Tuesday) @ 12 – 1 pm  
March 26th (Monday) @ 7 – 8 pm

Amy has been practicing yoga for almost ten years. In August of 2016, she received her certification to teach children’s yoga through Yoga In Schools, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides yoga programming and teacher training in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. For the past three years, she has been involved in a weekly work exchange program at Salt Power Yoga in Cranberry, and in August 2017 she began teaching yoga at the Baierl Family YMCA. Amy has all of her clearances including criminal check, child abuse check, and FBI fingerprinting. She is also up to date on her First Aid/CPR training. In order to deepen her own practice and to further develop her personal teaching style, Amy will begin her 200-hour yoga teacher training program in the spring of 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUN!
Saturday, January 13, 2018 6:30 - 8:30 pm

DEEPENING OUR CONNECTIONS

A light-hearted evening brought to you by the Connections Team. Dessert, arts and crafts, dessert, games, dessert, one-to-one conversations. Did we say dessert? For folks new to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills as well those who have been here a while. A fun way to get to know others better and explore ways to more deeply engage in our loving religious community. Child care available on request. Questions? Tassi Bisers at tbisers@yahoo.com.
EXPLORING A PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

If you are considering membership at UUCNH, please join us for Exploring the Path to Membership on February 25th at noon. This four hour session is a time for participants to share their religious journey, share more about themselves with the group, and go deeper into the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism. You will learn more about this church and what membership means, with lots of time for questions! (We love questions.) Lunch will be provided and child care is available if requested. If you're interested in attending, please contact Cris Graham at cmg1@zoominternet.net.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE TEAM

FOR JANUARY

The Envelope Please...The results of the Congregational Action Survey are in, Gerrymandering is the clear winner. Systemic Change Team will develop a project, with clear goals and timeline around this topic. The congregation can approve the project (or not) at the January 21 congregational meeting.
We are better together...

Friendship Dinner

First Anniversary Celebration
Our Fears and Hopes*

Thursday, January 18, 2018
6-8 pm

Sponsored by N.O.R.T.H.
Neighboring Organizations Responding Together for Hope
*AAUW-North Hills Pittsburgh *Church of the Latter Days Saints; the Mormons,
Ebony Women, *Muslim Association of Pittsburgh *North Hills Anti-Racism Coalition
*North Hills Unitarian Universalist *St. Brenan’s Episcopal *St. Paul’s United Methodist
*Salem United Methodist

Please RSVP by January 16
www.stpaulsumc.com/events-2/registrations-2/
salad bar, rice pilaf, halal chicken, gluten free options;
Kosher meals available upon request by 1/16

at St. Paul’s Fellowship Hall
1965 Ferguson Road
Allison Park, PA 15101

*For anyone 12 years or older who is interested
in joining the conversations!
UUCNH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

OUR COMBINED RESPONSIBILITY FOR UUCNH

A new year is upon us and with it, a new chance to engage in the annual Stewardship drive. As members of this church, we agree to pledge donations to the church to pay for salaries, health insurance, lighting, lawn cutting, heating, and fund the activities of our various Religious Education groups, committees, and social initiatives.

Coming to UUCNH is a unique experience in which we feel and return the feeling of love to our fellows every time we see each other or set foot in our beloved community. While giving through annual pledges is a significant part of sustaining the community, coming to church frequently and involving ourselves in meaningful group pursuits are the breath of the congregation. Whether it’s enjoying the services presented by Reverend Rollins and the Sunday Services Team, or marching on City Hall to protest low wages, we are involved. Whether it is sharing carrots, cookies and coffee/tea after a service or helping to piece a quilt, we are involved. Whether it is helping to change light bulbs, paint walls or practice with the choir, we are involved. Whether it is teaching R.E. or learning to engage with new members on the Connections team, we are involved. Involve yourself and your family - that is how we thrive.

When we begin thinking about planning our pledges for next year, think about what this involvement means for you and how it enlivens you. This is what we get from being members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills. Remember the Mission Statement:

By building a loving religious community
that nourishes the spirit,
celebrates life,
and cherishes the connectedness of all things,
we will transform ourselves and our world.

Our spirit transforms the church into a living and breathing force. Our lives transform the church into a living and breathing force. Our pledges transform the church into a living and breathing force. Our involvement transforms the church into a living and breathing force. We, together, transform the church into a living and breathing force: our connectedness transforms the church into a living and breathing force. Our determination to be Unitarian Universalists transforms the church into a living and breathing force.

As we face the new year together, possibilities are unlimited. What we can accomplish alone, we can multiply by being together. Think about this each week, each month as you contribute to the plate or submit your pledge, as you involve yourself in activities, bring food for the food pantry donation, or call on a neighbor or fellow UUCNHer. Think on how together we can transform ourselves and our world.

(Note: Remember the new online methods of submitting donations or pledges – go to UUCNH.org and click the "Giving" menu link; download the "Give+" (GivePlus) app on your smartphone; or, text your contribution amount to 412-218-3380. You will need to register your personal information on your first text but once you are set up, it’s an easy and quick method for donations.)

Alex Landefeld
Chair, Stewardship Team
ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

UUCNH is announcing that you can now manage your giving online! It’s easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the internet. To get started visit our website www.UUCNH.org and click on the Giving tab. This will take you to a secure page to make your contributions with instructions on how to get started. You can make one-time gifts or you can create a profile to make recurring contributions. It allows for the following payments: pledge, share the plate, general fund, Memorial garden, memorials and Children’s Memorial fund. There is also an option to increase your contribution by 3% to help offset the online transaction costs to the church.

Another way to access our donation page is to download the GivePlus app. Once downloaded on your phone you can search for our church and make a donation through the app similar to our website. Remember you can also make one time and recurring contributions by using online banking. All banks allow you to set up online banking for your checking account. The advantage to this method is it is FREE for you and the church.

Text giving is also available for making contributions to the general fund. Text your contribution amount to 412-218-3380. You will need to register your personal information on your first text but once you are set up, it’s an easy and quick method for donations.

We will schedule sessions after church so people can ask questions and get additional information. Contact Tom Yeh (the most knowledge choice), Lindsay Scott or Mary Ellen Johnson with any questions.

The Finance Committee

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!

WHO – We need as many church members and friends to participate as possible
WHY – To help us on our way to finding the direction we need to go for our next steps as a congregation
WHEN – Beginning January 8th and continuing through the 18th with your choice of several evening and a few daytime meetings
WHERE – In various homes throughout our congregational area and a meeting on Sunday the 14th after church
WHAT – An opportunity to tell your story about your connections to Unitarian Universalism and UUCNH and hear others do the same (small groups).
HOW DO I GET TO PARTICIPATE – By signing up before or after church between Sunday 12/24 and Sunday 1/7 to secure the time and place that are best for you! Watch for sign-up sheets in Friendship Hall!

For those who wish to know more, Rev. Rollins offers this video!

Appreciative Inquiry by Jon Townsin
https://youtu.be/QzW22wwh1J4

More specific info will follow as we come to the New Year. Watch for it: A I!
UUCNH STARTS A COFFEEHOUSE!

Are you or someone you know an amateur poet, musician, storyteller or visual artist? Or just up for some good entertainment? Then join interim minister Don Rollins, as he hosts a monthly coffeehouse at UUCNH. The Coffeehouse is on the first Friday of each month (except for May), from 7:30 to 9:00ish pm. The format is open-mic and will be held in the West Room (Sanctuary). A $2 donation is requested to offset the costs of refreshments, but not required. Non-perishable food items will be collected for North Hills Community Outreach. Note: The coffeehouse is a substance-free environment.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY IS BACK!!

The first Wednesday of each month through June 2018, you're invited to join us for a potluck supper and some quiet time. The potluck starts at 6:00 pm, with the vespers led by Don at 6:45 pm. Help with the potluck setup/cleanup will be appreciated.

UU CLUSTER NEWS

Check out our local Cluster Website at www.uupittsburgh.org to see what is happening with other UU's in our area, and for UU events that are open to all.
LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Lay Pastoral Care Team members are available to provide support within an atmosphere of safety and compassion and are a visible reminder of UUCNH’s care, concern and connections. You are encouraged to contact any Team member, at the addresses or numbers below, if they might be of help or comfort with your pastoral care needs or those of another in our UUCNH community:

Kathy Cypher:  alkate@consolidated.net  
724-625-7912 H  
724-316-4694 C

Susan Powers:  susan-a-powers@comcast.net  
412-427-7300

Marsha Albright:  mkalbright@gmail.com  
412-487-4565

Mark Swihart:  mswihart@spang.com  
412-369-9321

Chris Hill:  chill613@comcast.net  
412-366-9553

Lynn Richards:  brich@consolidated.net  
724-776-4183 H

QUILT DISPLAY IN FEBRUARY

The Quilting Group that meets monthly in the East Room is planning a display of handmade quilts for the month of February. This is open to any member of the congregation. The last display was in October 2013 and included quilted clothing, and table linens as well as bed and wall quilts. If you have a quilt you would like to display, please request a registration form from Peggy Trevanion at 412-366-4348 or birdies4@comcast.net.

CANDLES TO PEBBLES?

The Pastoral Care and Sunday Services Teams would like to experiment with a new way of commemorating our loved ones and symbolizing our caring for each other. We’ve always used candles, and they do hold a special mystique and meaning for many of us. However, both teams are becoming increasingly concerned about the safety of the sandbox. There’s just too much fire in a small space so close to so many. Once the box did catch fire when a candle tipped over. Too often, we find ourselves catching our breath as a child, loose clothing or long hair sweeps by our ceremonial flames.

We suggest that, beginning in January, we try using decorative pebbles in a bowl of water to symbolize our caring feelings. Reverend Rollins, says that several congregations he’s served have tried this. Some have liked and adopted the practice; some haven’t. We think it’s worth a try. Using pebbles would be safer, greener, cheaper, and maybe better for those with environmental allergies (no smokiness).

It will be an experiment, of course. “We” are all of us, not just two teams. Let’s try it, talk about it, and then change or not, depending on what we think.
YOUR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM (LDT)

Your LDT consists of five Church members elected by the congregation on a rotating basis. Current members with their term expirations are Ed Rockman and Joe Meier (2018), Stacy Conlin and Chuck Berry (2019) and Sandy Faulkner (2020).

LDT’s duties, as laid out in Bylaws “shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- to nominate Trustees, and
- to nominate Leadership Development Team voting members.”

The Team has been further charged by the Church Board with “identifying and training potential lay leaders and providing support and further leadership development to current congregational lay leaders, i.e., board members and committee chairs/team leads for the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills (UUCNH).” The Board has also charged LDT with nominating members of the Ministry Council. To help identify, train and support Church leadership, LDT sponsors a number of events and training sessions. The Team works to identify potential leaders among the newer members of the Congregation, including an annual Invitation Gathering with potential leaders.

We recently met with our interim minister, Rev Don Rollins, who presented his ideas for a series of monthly sessions on leadership at UUCNH. Based on his recommendations, the Team enthusiastically embraced a Creative Leadership Series to kickoff January 24, 2018. Watch for more publicity on this exciting new series.

The bylaws require a call for nominations to LDT at least sixty days prior to the May annual meeting. It is also LDT’s practice to call for such nominations to the Board. If you would like to be considered for nomination to either the Board or LDT, or wish to suggest someone else for nomination, please notify any member of the Team or send an email to Ed Rockman, Team Chair, at erockman@verizon.net. Under the Bylaws, no one may be included on the nominations list without evidence of their consent.

Both the Bylaws and the Team’s Charge Authority and Responsibilities (CAR) document, as adopted by the Board, are available for your review under the Members tab at uucnh.org.

THE SUMMIT AGAINST RACISM

This is a one-day conference dedicated to examining the state of race relations in the U.S. and to building pathways to deeper understanding, healing and social action. The theme of this year’s conference, chosen by volunteer organizers, is The Struggle Continues: Healing Trauma, Building Community, and Inspiring Action. PIIN’s Transformational Justice TF will be hosting a returning citizen panel discussion at the Summit.

UPDATE ON SB 3

Thanks to the efforts of many, six western PA DEMOCRATIC state representatives who were anti-choice CHANGED their votes to pro-choice, including Rep. Readshaw. Now there are sufficient numbers to uphold Gov. Wolf’s veto of this bill which is characterized as one of the harshest in the nation.

UUPLAN WELCOMES RICK WILLIAMS

He is welcomed as the new director, taking over for Anita Mentzer who retired. Please go to www.uuplan.com to catch up on its many team activities and learn how you can support them. UUPLAN has a $15,000 matching grant please become a member and donate!
JUBILEE ANTI-RACISM TRAINING
Helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. The workshop requires a weekend commitment; and it is worth every minute of that commitment.

WHEN: Friday, January 12th - 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm;
        Saturday, January 13th - 9:00 am to 9:00 pm;
        Sunday, January 14th - 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
WHERE: All Souls Church Unitarian, 1500 Harvard St NW, Washington DC 20009
FEE: $160 per participant (includes cost for trainers, meals and materials). Contributions in support of this work are welcome.

Enrollment is limited to 40 participants. Registration deadline is January 8, 2018.

GREEN SANCTUARY CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS!
In April and May of 2017 the UUCNH Green Sanctuary Team ran a congregational survey to better understand the environmental attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge of UUCNH members and friends. This survey informs the broader congregational assessment as part of Green Sanctuary application process. We thank the 47 members and friends of UUCNH (approximately one quarter of our members) who responded to our survey request. This update provides the highlights of the results of the survey.

Overall we find that UUCNH members and friends currently engage in a variety of environmentally friendly activities. Most of the respondents to the survey report that they often or always recycle (94%), with more than half of respondents also avoiding the purchase of certain products for environmental reasons and a similar number make a special effort to buy fruits and vegetables grown locally. Half of survey respondents reduce their use of energy or fuel at home. Less common among UUCNH members and friends are avoiding eating meat (30%), reducing water usage (20%) or avoiding driving a car (13%).

Beyond engaging in individually environmentally friendly behaviors, many UUCNH members and friends are involved in environmental organizations. Four out of five respondents have given money to an environmental organization and/or signed a petition for an environmental cause. In the last five years, the majority of members and friends (60%) have been members of a group whose main aim is to preserve or protect the environment. Most telling, over a quarter of respondents (28%) have attended an environmental protest, attesting to the existing levels environmental activism present in the church community

UUCNH members and friends agree that environmental justice is an issue of importance, but many lack information on how to act locally. Survey respondents overwhelmingly agree that lower income is associated with higher levels of pollution and exposure to toxics (89%), and that solving such issues of environmental justice is a pressing issue for our local community (89%). That being said, only 40% of respondents know of opportunities to work towards environmental justice in their local community, and over 40% agree that is hard to know if they way they live harms the environment more generally.

The Green Sanctuary team is thrilled to discover the amount of green friendly activities, both individually and activism based, existing among UUCNH members and friends. We plan to offer an environmental justice class in the early 2018 to help us identify places where we can actively promote environmental justice. Watch the Intercom and eNews for class details and dates! And thank you for all your efforts to make UUCNH a Green Sanctuary and to reduce our community’s contribution to climate change.
What the dickens is going on here?

Western societies are currently experiencing a virtual blizzard of allegations of sexual misconduct – mostly by men of power and influence – including men who have a commendable history of advocating for women’s rights. And, of course, we are all aware that in many parts of the world, women are still treated as chattel. Is there really a difference between these two realities? Are males, by virtue of our species’ hunter-gatherer roots, prone to these behaviors in the absence of enforced societal norms and universally accepted ethical ideals? Does the outrage now being expressed foretell a major societal change similar to that of the 1960’s? Given the appropriateness of distinguishing between monstrous and mere boorish behavior, does western society need a “truth and reconciliation” process similar to what happened in South Africa in the 1990’s?

On January 28th - 12:00-1:15, in the East Room, the Humanist Discussion Group will ponder these and related questions (which touch on our 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th Principles).

As always, if you are not on the email distribution list that gets additional information about upcoming meetings, please contact dmyers.rlm@gmail.com.
Facilitator: Tony Palermo  
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net  
When: January 21, 2018 @ 12:00 – 1:15 pm  
Where: Upstairs after the service (follow the yellow signs)

And so after the first three centuries of existence, the Christian church had declared their founder was not only the conduit but also the very essence of the Creator. But two millennia of homo sapiens have sculpted that image many individual feelings and viewpoints. What are yours? We’ll discuss this topic next time. See Tony Palermo for details. tpalermo@consolidated.net.

MEDITATION WITH FRIENDS

In January, we will meet on Tuesday the 9th and Tuesday the 23rd, our usual pattern of meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Meetings are from 7:00 to 8:30 in the sanctuary.

We welcome anyone interested in mindful meditation, whether you have little or no experience in meditation, or you have practiced for years. At each meeting we practice silent meditation, and usually walking or another form of movement meditation. Generally, a third to a half of each meeting deals with a different aspect or form of meditation which varies meeting to meeting. Three examples from recent meetings are: guided meditation, readings or talks from wise teachers, and sound meditation with crystal bowls.

I send updates and a reminder of each meeting to anyone on the meditation email list. To add your name to the list or if you have any questions, please contact Sue Luebbert at luebbert.unicorn@gmail.com or 412-366-9553.
PSI [PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS]

Facilitator: Tony Palermo
Contact: tpalermo@consolidated.net
When: On Hiatus till first Sunday in February
Where: Upstairs, follow the signs

On hiatus till first Sunday in February.

SISTERS-IN-SPRIT

Facilitators: Rachael Smart
Michelle Broge-Connor
Contacts: thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com
brogemm@gmail.com
When: January 10, 2018 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Where: East Room

Sisters in Spirit is an ongoing self-guided women’s group (all women are welcome regardless of sex assigned at birth). We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month. The group is focused on spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth as well as creating ties with other women. Group members take turns leading the monthly sessions, resulting in a wide variety of topics and styles of presentation. The group welcomes new members twice a year, in January and July. To learn more about the group, contact either Rachael Smart at thesmartfamily3@yahoo.com or Michelle Broge-Connor at brogemm@gmail.com.

UU CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

Co-Facilitators: Joe Meier
Edie Swihart
Contact: meierke@msn.com
When: January 14, 2018 @ 9:15 – 10:30 am
Where: Truth & Meaning (Youth) Room

Do you self-identify as Christian, but struggle with issues of doctrine? Or have you parted ways with the label, but still hold some aspects of the tradition dear? Come and share with us as we explore our feelings about the Christian faith and its role in shaping our spiritual lives. Longtime members and first-time UU visitors alike are welcome to drop in and join this ongoing, positive discussion!
Break Forth Ensemble

Facilitator: David Miles  
Contact: miles@ohiou.edu  
When: January 14 & 21, 2018 @ 9:00 am  
Where: Worth & Dignity Room

We play music of various sources. The present group includes folks who have been playing a year to those who haven't played for 30 years. For more information, please see David Miles or send a note to miles@ohiou.edu.

The Craft Group

Facilitator: Irene Dinning  
Contact: dinning1@comcast.net or call 412-741-6463  
When: Every Thursday, 10:00 am  
Where: East Room

We are a long-time UUCNH group that welcomes other crafters: those who want to learn needlework, perfect a craft, or just want to come and visit with interesting people. Come when you can or every week, but try us out!
THE UKE GROUP

Facilitator: Sandy Faulkner
Contact: sfaulk50@aol.com or 412-366-5973
When: January 15, 2018 @ 7:30 pm
Where: East Room

This month we will meet only on the third Monday of the month. Normally we meet the first and third Monday of the month. Beginners are very welcome. Come have fun. For more information, call Sandy Faulkner at 412-366-5973 or contact her by email: sfaulk50@aol.com.

UUCNH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Manuel Lombardero
Contact: manel_sl@yahoo.com
When: January 12, 2018 @ 7 – 9 pm
Where: UUCNH, East Room
Moderator: Jon Hamrahi
Title: Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future
Author: Martin Ford

They’re, intelligent, strong, fast, quick learners, and have seemingly unending energy. They are much more capable than many believe and getting better all the time. Some are already among us, and no border wall will keep others out. And, they are after our jobs...

In his book "Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future" New York Times bestselling author Martin Ford presents interesting evidence that points to a possible dystopian future for us humans as a result of the increased encroachment of technology and machines in our lives, and specifically, in our places of work.

One topic discussed is whether the displacement of human jobs by machines will have a large effect on the equitable distribution of income between the rich and less rich. A related topic asks the question: even if these displaced workers are paid an income without working, will there be challenges society will need to face? For example, will people find meaningful and fulfilling things to do with their newly-found extra time in a world where many or most human jobs are no longer available and necessary?

Whether Ford’s cautions and predictions will ultimately prove valid is a subject of much debate. However, what is certain is current technology has already impacted how both "blue collar", and increasingly, "white collar" work is being performed.

FUTURE TITLES:

February 9, 2018
The Orphan Master’s Son
Author: Adam Johnson; 2012
Carnegie Library has 35 copies
Book Moderator: Jane Purifoy

March 9, 2018
To The Lighthouse
Author: Virginia Woolf; 1927
Carnegie Library has 23 copies
Book Moderator: Gene Watson

April 13, 2018
The Known World
Author: Edward P. Jones
Carnegie Library has 22 copies
Book Moderator: Jane Dirks
NHCO FOOD PANTRY DONATION CUPBOARD

FOR JANUARY: Hot and Cold Cereals and Oatmeals

Please don't forget to contribute to the Donation Cupboard for the North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) Food Pantry located in Friendship Hall. The NHCO request for this month – Hot and Cold Cereals and Oatmeals -- to be brought to church.

Also consider bringing laundry detergent, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, bar soaps or other toiletries as they are always needed. And thank you to all who have contributed recently!

Plastic bags are always needed by NHCO: If you bring your extras to the church, please drop them off at the NHCO Donation Station where they can be used to sort food at the food pantry.

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Dec. 2017

SENIORS NEED VOLUNTEER SNOW SHOVELERS

Seniors in all neighborhoods in northern Allegheny County need volunteers to keep their yards and sidewalks safe by shoveling snow. This is a great project for teens, youth groups and families. Please contact Cathy at North Hills Community Outreach at 412-307-0069 x 3313 or clpschirer@nhco.org to register to volunteer.

NHCO NOW OFFERS ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP SENIORS

North Hills Community Outreach now has an online registration process for those who wish to volunteer to help seniors through its In Service of Seniors: North Program. Visit http://nhco.org/volunteer-opportunities/volunteer-help-seniors/ and follow the easy step-by-step registration process. Volunteers are needed to help seniors get to doctor appointments, take them grocery shopping, do light yard work, drive shuttles and more. For more information, call Cathy at 412-307-0069 x 3313.

NHCO SEEKS FUNDS FOR SHARING WINTER WARMTH

Funds are urgently needed for North Hills Community Outreach’s Sharing Winter Warmth program so that families in need can receive one $50 credit toward a heat or light bill. To donate, please make checks payable to NHCO, write Sharing Projects on the memo line, and mail or deliver to NHCO, 1975 Ferguson Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101. For more information, please call 412-487-6316 opt 1.

EMPLOYMENT HELP IS AVAILABLE AT NHCO

North Hills Community Outreach offers multiple programs aimed at helping people attain self-sufficiency, including employment help. Those seeking help with career counseling, updating a resume, job search techniques and more can contact NHCO Resource Coordinator Jackie Boggs at jmboggs@nhco.org or 412-408-3830 x 3217.
A GIANT EAGLE GIFT CARD

YOUR PORTAL TO SHOPPING AT MANY PLACES

• Did you know that Giant Eagle gift cards can be used to buy gas at GetGo stations or to purchase gift cards to a wide variety of stores and restaurants? But, more importantly, did you know that buying gift cards at UUCNH benefits our church AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU? In other words, you pay $25 and you get a $25 gift card and UUCNH gets 5%!

• A Giant Eagle gift card can be used at the grocery store to buy a gift card for Kohl’s, Home Depot, Advance Auto Parts, Applebee’s restaurants and many other businesses.

• If, for example, you’re remodeling a room and you need to spend $1,000 at Home Depot, you can do that by buying $1,000 in Giant Eagle gift cards at UUCNH and then using the gift cards at Giant Eagle to buy $1,000 in Home Depot gift cards. You just raised $50 for UUCNH at no extra cost to you! Giant Eagle pays the $50.

• When you use a gift card to buy gas at GetGo, you still will receive any discount on the posted price of the gas that is due you.

• UUCNH uses the income from the sale of gift cards to help fund our budget.

• We also sell gift cards for Kuhn’s and Whole Foods. Look for us after the service each Sunday on the bench by the office window.

Gift cards: They’re not just for groceries anymore!

Thank you from The Gift Card Team

NOW YOU CAN SUPPORT UUCNH THROUGH AmazonSmile

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES. UUCNH BENEFITS.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support UUCNH every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as on Amazon.com. UUCNH has partnered with Bellwood Preschool to join AmazonSmile. The church and school will split the donations from AmazonSmile, which is 0.5% of all purchases made by everyone who has selected “Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills” as their designated charity.

Get started with these easy steps:

• Use AND BOOKMARK the UUCNH Link to AmazonSmile: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7429191

• Sign in. Simply use your existing Amazon credentials, and then start shopping. It’s that easy!

• Please remember to shop our smile.amazon.com link every time. Purchases on the main Amazon.com site do not support UUCNH. To help remember, BOOKMARK OUR LINK.

Spread the word! Once you’ve checked out, Amazon makes it easy to spread the news with your friends and family by giving you an option to share on Facebook and Twitter. Please be sure to let everyone know you’ve supported UUCNH.

Questions? Contact the AmazonSmile Administrator at uucnhoffice@uucnh.org.
FROM THE EDITOR:

The article submission Deadline for the February Intercom will be on **January 21**

Please get your articles into me by **January 21st** to be included in the **February Intercom** issue. If you need an extension on the deadline, please call or email me and we’ll work something out. Otherwise, if your material isn’t in by the deadline, it will NOT be included.

If you email your submissions (preferred), please do it **IN PLAIN TEXT ONLY**; please **do not format** the article in any way. If you have a formatting request, please contact me or include it with your submission. Please send your Intercom submissions to **Rowan@OctoberMorning.com**.

PUBLICATIONS DEADLINE REMINDERS

The good folks who manage UUCNH’s Intercom, E-NEWS and Order of Service Announcements are often swamped by last-minute requests. Here’s some ways to help lighten their various loads:

1. Treat the deadlines as firm: the Intercom is the 21st of each month, the E-NEWS and OOS Announcements are due Wednesdays by noon.
2. Both Dawn (Volunteer) and Sona (Office Manager) are good at what they do, but late submissions mean more work. Also, please submit a “lean” copy.
3. Space in the OOS Announcements is limited, so please be patient if your event doesn’t always get listed.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to our publications details!
Happy New Year 2018