



September 2017 Newsletter

Message from the President...

A Summer of Love, A Summer of Hate

As I opened my Sunday paper earlier this week, I was shocked, then mesmerized by the photo I saw: bodies of young people, black and white, male and female, being thrown in the air like so many bowling pins. I then turned to the preceding page and saw pictured a candlelight march through the UVA grounds. The marchers were all white males with grim, determined faces. The first thing that went through my mind was “Kristallnacht”. Just add a few swastikas and it’s 1930s Germany.

When RevAlex proclaimed this a “Summer of Love” and Tyler Coles began his excellent series of sermons, I was buoyed by the enthusiasm. Kerry’s mountain music added to more good vibrations. But just as the events of 1968 destroyed 1967’s Summer of Love, so has this week’s events in Charlottesville trampled our highest hopes. The hate, bigotry, and violence was right there in our faces, defiant of all our hopes and aspirations.

As I sat numbed, I thought that there must be something we can do. With the help of Bob Egbert, who had the same thought, we called for a brainstorming session after the church service. About a dozen members stayed and talked for over an hour. The consensus was that we have to act. It is the duty of Unitarian Universalists to, in fact, lead the discussion, and to recruit other churches to present a unified front.

Among the ideas presented were the following:

- Use our prominent location to proclaim our seven principles through banners and posters (we do, after all, own both sides of Grandin Road)
- Formally contact other churches and synagogues to join us in our plans and actions against hate

- Conduct seminars on non-violent protest, and guidance as to how to respond to hostile rhetoric
- Contact those politicians who represent us to demand more meaningful denunciation of violence and those who support it

As I opened our brainstorming session, I quoted a local hero of mine, Cabell Brand, the founder of T.A.P. and a ceaseless campaigner for human rights. When asked why he did what he did, he once wrote: “If not me, who?” “If not now, when?” I found myself thinking, “If not us, who?” “If not now, when?” Look at Sunday’s photographs and decide.

Spike Harrison
Board President

from the Rev...

Most ministers, even those who aren't UU, still think of church years running from Labor Day to Memorial Day. It's reflection of old "academic year" understanding. Concurrent with this thinking, most ministers pray for their congregations to experience new church year excitement, much as students do coming back to school.

The reality of church, however, is that most congregations settle into a same-old, same-old, rut that keeps the rhythms of congregation so unchanged that there's little for congregants to get excited about with the beginning of a new church year. Truth is, most congregants don't even think about it being a new church year.

Vibrant congregations, the few in all denominations, buck this larger tendency. Vibrant congregations shake things up each new church year towards bringing new opportunities to their members and friends. They do this because their leaders understand that the folk they serve need and desire new learning, new experience, and renewed spirits.

Ponder all this, if you would, as we begin our new '17-'18 church year. Check yourself to see if you're feeling any excitement for what goes on around you at UUCR. Ask yourself if there are things you, and your staff, could do for your congregation to make us more vibrant.

Old wisdom is that churches do one of two things - grow or die.
Here's to a New Year of UUCR growing!

Much heart, RevAlex

Fall RE News

Saturday, September 2nd; 9:30 am

Fall RE Teacher training will be held at UUCR on Saturday, September 2nd at 9:30 am. All teachers will be trained and certified prior to the beginning of Fall Semester on September 10th.

Sunday, September 10

Fall Semester begins! After the service the YRUU (high school youth group) will kickoff the Fall semester with a pizza party. Youth and parents are welcome to participate.

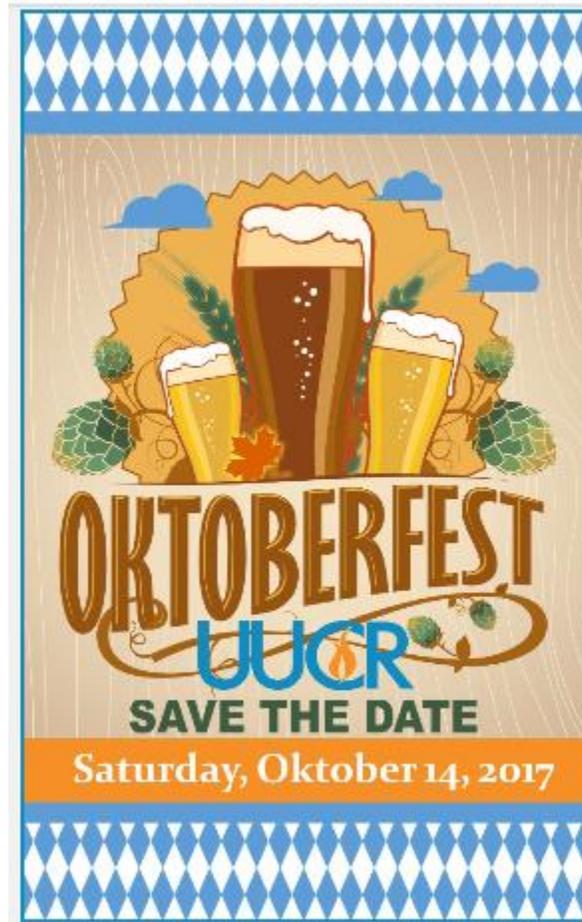
Registration is still open for Fall Children's Religious Education classes. Register children and youth for the Nursery, RE classes for PreK through grade 8, and YRUU online at <https://goo.gl/forms/zEwwzYtadSW1aNdE3>.

"Teachers needed." Check out these and other volunteer opportunities in our new churchwide online volunteer form: <https://goo.gl/forms/GAdgEXectCaTrPRN2>

YRUU News

YRUU youth continue to participate in the monthly Pack-a-Snack program by packing *100 bags* for two weeks each. The need continues to rise, which is why it is so important UUCR continue to donate *snack size nutritional* foods to this worthy cause. Thank you for all the continued support. YRUU Advisor, Bonnie Evans

UUCR Service Auction



If you regularly donate, we thank you so much, and hope that you will continue. If you've never donated before, we welcome you to start. If you are donating an event, include the date and time, and any description you want. This is the second-largest fundraiser of the church year, and we always want to top ourselves!

Auction donation forms are located outside the church office anytime or email Sheri Bernath at writerwoman48@yahoo.com with your donations or with questions. We're working on the brochure NOW. We've already got some exciting events lined up. The deadline for donating is September 24th.

As always, finger foods and our cash-donation bar will start off our Social hour at 5 pm on Saturday, October 14th. The Silent Auction will also begin at 5:00. Live auction begins promptly at 6 pm.

Your Auction committee



Happy Birthday from your Connection Team!!!

Susanne Sellars, Emma Harmon, James Rosar, Nancy Brattain, Corky Woerner, Lynn Yates,
Kim Duncan, Jim Broschart, Cy Dillon, Deborah Shealy, and Carol Ely

Action Advocates and The Connections Team

First Progressive Potluck Party and Phone Bank September 17th at 12:30

You are invited to the **First Progressive Potluck Party and Phone Bank** at UUCR. Bring a dish to share, your favorite inspirational beverage, **and your cell phone.** There will be good food and fellowship followed by a brief presentation on **citizen lobbying.** Then you will be invited to call up one or more of your elected Federal or State legislators to tell them what you think about the issues most important to you. We will provide the names and phone numbers. We will also have messages available to use if you wish. Please come even if you don't wish to make phone calls. You can support those that do and write letters instead.

It has been said that democracy is hard work. No one said that it couldn't also be fun! Contact person: Bob Egbert canyonlake76@gmail.com

The Green Team presents Earth Friendly Friday

Bird Safe and Bird Friendly

September 8, 2017

Social time at 6:30 pm (snacks welcome)

Program begins at 7:00 pm

We all enjoy birds when hiking, hanging out in our backyard, or just watching them from our windows, but are we propagating or destroying the proper environment for them to survive? Maureen Eiger will tell us how we can prevent window hits, cat attacks, and other bird killers. Can wind and solar power be bird-friendly? What is the right thing to do when you find a sick or injured bird? Learn how to create a better feeding station and how to save money on your bird food bill and still attract birds. If possible, please bring a roll of paper towels or donate a box of tissues to help save birds this fall.

Maureen Eiger is the Director of Help Wild Birds; Roanoke's only nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization that exclusively handles migratory birds. She receives hundreds of bird calls a year from people all over the country asking for advice to help solve their "bird problems" or answer bird-related questions. She is a State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber and contributing writer to the North American Bluebird Society Journal, the Roanoke Star newspaper, various Audubon and bird club newsletters and the blog *10,000 Birds*. She was previously the Vice President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and RVBC newsletter editor before she started her own nonprofit, Help Wild Birds. Go to www.helpwildbirds.org

Facebook page –Maureen Eiger wildbird rehabber or Help Wild Birds Email bird911@cox.net Phone number: 540-342-4890

Visit these websites for further information:

Sierra Club website <http://sites.google.com/site/roanokesierra/>

UUCR Green Team website <http://uuroanoke.org/main/green-team/>

All programs are free and open to the public.



We want to say THANK YOU to all our volunteers

September 3

Life Lines - [Beth Caruthers](#)

A/V - [Betsy Biesenbach](#)

Head Usher - [Jim Overholser](#)

Leader Greeter - [Nancy Brattain](#)

Coffee - [Ron and Robin Salzbach](#)

September 10

Life Lines - [Jane Harrison](#)

A/V - [Adam Honeycutt](#)

Head Usher - [Bruce/Barbara](#)

Lead Greeter - [Chris Yates](#)

Coffee - [Dennis McKim](#)

September 17

Life Lines - [Sally Garber](#)

A/V - [Bob Egbert](#)

Head Usher - [Ray Wurzberger](#)

Lead Greeter - [Emma Harman](#)

Coffee Team - [James Rosar](#)

September 24

Life Lines - [Judie Lallmang](#)

A/V - [Todd Hannabass](#)

Head Usher - [Alice Davis](#)

Lead Greeter - [Judy Robertson](#)

Coffee - [Pam Yates](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

RAM House Helpers

On Saturday August 26, the following UUCR members helped prepare and serve the noon meal at RAM House to 64 hungry men, women and children: Beth Caruthers, Kathy Ratliff, Christine Jordan, Alice Davis, and Dick Hawkins. If you would like to help with this local community service, contact Dick Hawkins at richhawk10@aol.com or 774-9137.

A/V Team

A backup A/V person is needed. If you are willing, your basic orientation and training can begin immediately. Don't let the equipment intimidate you; it is easy to learn. This is a fun volunteer position. Contact Bob Egbert at canyonlake76@gmail.com.

Greeters

Greeters are part of a team, usually three people, who come early on Sunday and welcome visitors and friends. This is a fun opportunity to connect to all members and friends, welcome visitors, and bring joy to our community. Contact Nancy Brattain or anyone on the Connections-Team.

Coffee-Committee

After service on Sunday, the Fellowship Coffee Team makes coffee and tea and helps serve those who wish to stay after services. We are looking for two or three volunteers to help or to fill in when needed. Contact Megan Brauch.



"When Lilacs Last Bloomed" - Walt Whitman

Lecture and Discussion of the
Assassination of Abraham Lincoln:
Good Friday: April 14, 1865

Gary Crawford

UUCR Sanctuary - September 22, 2017 at 7pm
More information to come in the UUCR Weekly E-News!



September Events at UUCR

Friday, September 1

1 pm Board reports due
All Day Kroger Plus cards - please enroll UUCR

Saturday, September 2

9-11:30 am Fall RE Training, Olin room

Sunday, September 3

11 am **Worship service, TBA**

Monday, September 4

Labor Day Office closed

Tuesday, September 5

6-7:30 pm Board Executive committee, Olin room
7-9 pm Caring Team meeting, Broker room

Wednesday, September 6

6-7 pm Tai Chi class, Fellowship Hall
7-9 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary
7-9 pm Fall RE Movie Series, Olin

Thursday, September 7

11:30 am-1:30 pm Women's group, Fellowship Hall
12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin room
7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families and Forums, Broker room

Friday, September 8

6:30-8:30 pm Earth Friendly Friday - "Bird Safe and Bird Friendly"

Sunday, September 10

9:15-10:45 am Living the Questions class, new series begins with a movie.
11 am **"Water Communion" with RevAlex**
12:30-2:30 pm Youth Fellowship, YRUU room
12:15-1:30 pm M&M Fund meeting, Olin room
2-4 pm Voices of Faith Open House - All are welcome, Sanctuary

Monday, September 11

7 pm Green Team committee, Olin room

Tuesday, September 12

6:30-8:30 pm Board meeting, Olin room

Wednesday, September 13

11 am-12 pm Staff meeting, Olin

12-1 pm Sunday Services meeting, Olin

6-7:30 pm Clogging class with Nancy Brattain, Fellowship Hall

7 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary

7-9 pm Fall RE movie series, Olin

Thursday, September 14

12:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin

6:30 pm Vipassna Meditation group (open to all), Olin

7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families & Forums, Broker room

Sunday, September 17

9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, A 4 week series begins with "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving, Olin

11 am **Service: "A Summer's Last Sunday" with RevAlex**

12:30-3:30 pm Action Advocates potluck lunch and phone bank, F.H.

12:30-2:30 pm LFD Council committee, Broker

5-7 pm Youth Group, YRUU room

Wednesday, September 20

3 pm Newsletter deadline

6-7:30 pm Clogging class with Nancy Brattain, Fellowship Hall

7 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary

7-9 pm Fall RE movie series, Olin

Thursday, September 21

11:30 am-1:30 pm Women's group, Fellowship Hall

12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin

7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families and Forums, Broker

Friday, September 22

7 pm "When Lilacs Last Bloomed", an Evening with Lincoln performed by Gary Crawford

Saturday, September 23

3pm International Day of Peace with Plowshare, Sanctuary

Sunday, September 24

9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, Olin
11 am **Worship Service: "Our Deep Promise" with RevAlex**
12:30-2:30 pm Non-Theists group "Gandhi's Search for Truth" Amar Kumar
5-7 pm Youth Group, YRUU room

Tuesday, September 26

6:30 pm Shared Ministry Committee, Olin room

Wednesday, September 27

6-7 pm Clogging class with Nancy Brattain, Fellowship Hall
7 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary
7-9 pm Fall RE movie series, Olin

Thursday, September 28

12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin room
7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families and Forums, Broker room

Saturday, September 30

9 am Leadership training for UUCR Board and staff, Olin

Sunday, October 1

9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, Olin
11 am **Service: "Agreeing About Sin" with RevAlex**
12:15-1:30 pm M&M Fund meeting, Olin
12:30-2:30 pm LFD Council meeting, Broker
5-7 pm Youth Group, YRUU room

Tuesday, October 3

6-7:30 pm Board Executive committee, Olin
7-9 pm Caring committee, Broker

Wednesday, October 4

6-7:30 pm Clogging class with Nancy , Fellowship Hall
7 pm Choir

Thursday, October 5

11:30 am-1:30 pm Women's group, Fellowship Hall
12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin room
7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families and Forums, Broker room

Saturday, October 7

TBA Bill Ferguson, Celebration of Life

Caring Committee - Joys and Concerns

Contact Sally Garber with joys, concerns, or questions at jcssgarber@comcast.net.

Carrie Ferguson -

Bill Ferguson, beloved friend of UUCR, passed away on August 8th. Bill's daughters, Carrie (UUCR member) and Elizabeth who grew up attending UUCR, are planning a Celebration of Life Service for Bill to take place on Saturday, October 7. Bill loved a good church potluck, and asked that there be one at his memorial service. Carrie and Elizabeth hope many of us will attend and bring much good food for the potluck that will follow the service. Condolences can be sent to them at 3218 Woodland Drive, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015.

Dorothy Peters -

Dorothy, who lives in Salem, is interested in visiting UUCR for Sunday Worship Service and is seeking a ride. Please contact Sally Garber at 540-977-2215 if you can help.

Mary Beth Chaconas -

Mary's youngest son, Troy, left for Radford University on Friday. She and Todd are officially "empty" nesters.

Liz Stone -

Liz is continuing to recover from gall bladder surgery last week.



Living the Questions Class

Classes resume starting September 10th in the Olin room.

September 10; 9:15 am

We will begin our study of racism with the video "What Are White People to do?".

September 17; 9:30 am

This class will begin our four-week discussion of the book "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. Each participant is urged to purchase their own book.

Please join us, all are welcome. Contact Gene Edmunds with questions, gene.edmunds@gmail.com.



Social Media

To create an online presence that best represents UUCR to the Roanoke Valley, we plan to have a new, vastly improved, highly professional Facebook page revealed in the coming months after training in social media policies and procedures.

Visit the UUCR new website, your tool for what's happening at UUCR. UURoanoke.Org.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke

2015 Grandin Road, SW Roanoke, Virginia 24015
(540) 342-8888, UURoanoke.org

RevAlex Richardson

Email: ARichardson@UURoanoke.org | Mobile: (336) 471-5580
RevAlex would love to meet with you so stop by to say hello. Call for an appointment.

Alan Moore, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Email: AMoore@UURoanoke.org | Mobile: (540) 818-4964

Kerry Morgiewicz, Music Director

Email: KMorgiewicz@uuroanoke.org | Home: (540) 989-3190

Megan Brauch, Congregational Administrator

Email: MBrauch@UURoanoke.org | Office: (540) 342-8888
Office Hours: Mon-Thur. 9am – 2 pm and Fri. 9 am - noon

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	Claire English	540-343-7576	cenglish8@cox.net
	James Rosar	540-641-1519	raamster540@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Jessie McKeon	540-352-9683	jessielmckeon@gmail.com
Gary Crawford	540-362-1778	gary_crawford@cox.net

Ministry Team Leaders

Sunday Services	Bill Bestpitch	540-761-6566	william.bestpitch@outlook.com
Building & Grounds	Megan Brauch	540-342-8888	mbrauch@uuroanoke.org
Building Enhancement	Jane Haddad	540-774-7258	janehaddad@cox.net
Connections	Nancy Brattain	540-400-8283	nbrattain@cox.net
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OUUT/LGBTQ	Jessie McKeon	540-352-9683	jessielmckeon@gmail.com
Green Team	Bob Egbert	540-562-8527	canyonlake76@gmail.com